

Complete College Vermont

Supporting the enrollment and graduation of low income and first generation Vermonters from the University of Vermont and Vermont State Colleges.

Why? Vermont, like other states, has not had success in narrowing the opportunity gap between low and high income citizens. One of the most powerful means to narrow this gap would be to help more Vermonters to attain a college degree, particularly those who are low income or who are the first in their families to go to college. Nationally, college completion rates have soared for affluent students but barely budged for low income students. 77% of adults from families in the top income quartile earn at least a bachelor's degree, up from 40% in 1970, but only 9% of people from the lowest income quartile do that, up only from 6% in 1970. In Vermont, 36% of economically disadvantaged students enroll in college, compared to 62% for non-economically disadvantaged students. The truth is, it is more expensive and risky for colleges to build in the support systems that allow low income and first generation students to succeed in college.

Proposal: This funding will make it more affordable for first generation and low income Vermonters to get a college education and will allow UVM and the VSC to improve their recruitment and support systems for low income and first generation college goers, with the goal of graduating more at-risk Vermonters, narrowing the inequality gap, reducing social service costs over time, and expanding the State's workforce.

Based on a three-year rolling average of degrees conferred, public colleges or universities in Vermont will be eligible annually for a \$2,000 support payment for every bachelor's degree and \$1,500 for every associate's degree conferred to a low income or first generation Vermonter. Half of the funds will be used for additional financial aid for first generation and low income students and half will be used to build in the support systems that allow these students to graduate from college in a timely fashion.

Cost: Estimated annual cost: ~ \$2.9 million

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Institution	Total Associate's Degrees Conferred to Pell and/or First-Generation Vermonters	Total Bachelor's Degrees Conferred to Pell and/or First-Generation Vermonters	Total Support: \$2000 per bachelor's degree, \$1500 per associate's degree
Castleton University	45	185	\$437,500
Community College of VT	403	0	\$604,500
Johnson State College	3	226	\$456,500
Lyndon State College	7	81	\$172,500
University of Vermont	0	380	\$760,100
Vermont Technical College	178	91	\$449,000
<i>Total first-generation/low-income Vermont graduates</i>	636	963	
		TOTAL	\$2,880,100