

# A Framework for Progress: Investing in Vermont's people, infrastructure, and good government



## 1. Ensure that work pays and families meet their basic needs.

### A. Make work pay.

- Increase the state minimum wage and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) so that working families have a livable income.
- Eliminate public benefits barriers that reduce incomes when earnings increase.
- Expand short-term compensation programs to help employers avoid layoffs.

### B. Ensure family economic security.

- Make high quality, affordable early care and education available to all who need it.
- Open state-administered retirement plans to everyone.
- Ensure that Reach Up fulfills its statutory purpose to serve the “well-being of children by providing for their immediate basic needs, including food, housing, and clothing.”

### C. Advance cost containment and public funding of health care.

## 2. Make smart, evidence- based investments.

### A. Improve Vermont's education system.

- Add two years to public education.
- Improve adult education and workforce training.

### B. Increase public investment in infrastructure.

- Fund transportation in ways that are both financially and environmentally sustainable.
- Ensure that state investment in high-speed Internet benefits the public.
- Repair Vermont's aging drinking water, waste water, and solid waste systems.
- Invest in long-term improvements in affordable housing.

View full report at:  
[publicassets.org](http://publicassets.org)



## 3. Restore public confidence in state government.

### A. Restore government's capacity to do its job.

- Strengthen performance measurement and results-based accountability throughout state government.
- Restore policy and planning staff.

### B. Include long-range planning in the budget process.

- Provide clear estimates of spending now and at least five years into the future, as is done with revenue.
- Increase rainy day funds and make them easier to use.

### C. Fund state services equitably.

- Replace school property taxes on primary residences with an income based tax.
- Avoid business tax incentive gimmicks.