



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

To: House and Senate Standing Committees
From: Rep. Maida Townsend and Sen. Brian Collamore, Co-Chairs,
Government Accountability Committee
Date: January 3, 2018
Subject: Request for review of indicator data in your committee's jurisdiction

Pursuant to [2 V.S.A. § 970\(a\)\(9\)](#) and [3 V.S.A. § 2311\(c\)](#), the joint legislative Government Accountability Committee (GAC) has the authority to revise the indicators reported annually in the State Outcomes Report.¹ The indicators are data that measure the State's progress in reaching the 10 population-level outcomes (goals) the General Assembly has established for the State in [3 V.S.A. § 2311\(b\)](#). For example, "median household income" is an indicator for Outcome #1, entitled "Vermont has a prosperous economy."

In order to provide in the State Outcomes Report a general, yet easily-comprehensible idea of how well the State is performing in reaching each outcome, GAC recommends having a *maximum of three to five indicators per outcome*. GAC has been taking testimony from Executive Branch employees with subject-matter expertise in the outcomes and in performance accountability in order to develop the list of indicators you will find attached to this memo. These indicators are supposed to represent the best available data the State collects to measure its progress in reaching each outcome.²

Please note that just because indicator data may not be included in the State Outcomes Report, *that does not mean the Executive Branch is not otherwise collecting that data*. You should still be able to obtain data from the relevant Executive Branch department in the form in which it is available.

GAC is seeking your committee's feedback on the indicators for the outcomes within your committee's jurisdiction. By Friday, February 2, 2018, please alert us if you think there are better data available that should be a substitute for the indicators currently in the list. After that deadline, GAC will review any committee feedback — and may ask for additional testimony from your committee and relevant Executive Branch departments — in order to make a final determination on the indicators that will be included in the 2018 State Outcomes Report.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to further discuss. We thank you for your review and feedback.

¹ A link to the 2017 State Outcomes Report can be found [here](#).

² For more information on how this indicator data can help inform legislative decisions, see [GAC's 2018 report](#).

CURRENT OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS³

(1) Vermont has a prosperous economy.

- (A) percent or rate per 1,000 jobs of nonpublic sector employment;
- (B) median household income;
- (C) percent of population living at or below 185% of the federal poverty level;
- (D) gross domestic product;
- (E) net new jobs; and
- (F) net new business establishments.

(2) Vermonters are healthy.

- (A) percent of adults 20 years of age and older who are obese;
- (B) percent of adults who smoke cigarettes;
- (C) percent of Vermonters age 18 and older who binge drank in last month;
- (D) number of persons who are homeless (adults and children);
- (E) rate of suicide per 100,000 Vermonters;
- (F) fall-related deaths per 100,000 adults age 65 and older; and
- (G) percent of adults with any mental health condition receiving treatment.

(3) Vermont's environment is clean and sustainable.

- (A) percent of public drinking water supplies in compliance with health-based standards;
- (B) total greenhouse gas emissions per capita, in units of annual metric tons of equivalent carbon dioxide per capita;
- (C) percent of Vermont's rivers and lakes (excluding Lake Champlain) that meet State water quality standards for fishing and for swimming;
- (D) changes in total phosphorus loading to Lake Champlain from Vermont sources in metric tons per year;
- (E) number of days air quality in Vermont posed a moderate or greater risk to sensitive populations; and
- (F) disposal rate of municipal solid waste in pounds per person per day.

(4) Vermont is a safe place to live.

- (A) rate of petitions granted for relief from domestic abuse per 1,000 residents;
- (B) rate of violent crime per 1,000 crimes;
- (C) rate of sexual assault committed against residents per 1,000 residents;
- (D) recidivism rate;
- (E) incarceration rate per 100,000 residents; and
- (F) number of first-time entrants into the corrections system.

³ **Yellow highlighting** on a **numbered outcome** represents GAC's *tentative* approval of all the indicators under that outcome. **Yellow highlighting** on a **lettered indicator** represents GAC's *tentative* approval for that individual indicator. GAC has already made a final determination on the indicators not highlighted in such manners.

- (5) **Vermont’s families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.**
- (A) rate of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children;
 - (B) rate of children and youths in out-of-home care per 1,000 children and youths;
 - (C) rate of reports of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of vulnerable adults recommended for substantiation per 1,000 vulnerable adults;
 - (D) percent of residents spending less than 30% of income on housing; and
 - (E) percent of Vermont households with food insecurity [*placeholder*].
- (6) **Vermont’s children and young people achieve their potential.**
- (A) percent of women who receive first trimester prenatal care;
 - (B) percent of children ready for school in all four domains of healthy development;
 - (C) percent of children below the basic level of fourth grade reading achievement under State standards;
 - (D) percent of high school seniors with plans for education, vocational training, or employment;
 - (E) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 using marijuana within the last 30 days; and
 - (F) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 who had a suicide plan.
- (7) **Vermont’s elders live with dignity and in settings they prefer.**
- (A) AARP State ranking on long-term services and supports for older adults, people with physical disabilities, and family caregivers; and
 - (B) hospice enrollment: percent of chronically ill Medicare decedents age 65 and older who were enrolled in hospice during the last six months of life.
- (8) **Vermonters with disabilities live with dignity and in settings they prefer.**
- (A) estimated employment rate of Vermonters ages 21–64 with all disabilities.
- (9) **Vermont has open, effective, and inclusive government.**
- (A) percent of eligible and registered voters voting in the general election;
 - (B) percent of State contracts and grants awarded that include performance measures;
 - (C) number or percent of departments that are able to accept online payments;
 - (D) number or percent of agencies or departments using an up-to-date website template; and
 - (E) number of agencies and departments that have a policy regarding response time.
- (10) **Vermont’s State infrastructure meets the needs of Vermonters, the economy, and the environment.**
- (A) percent of Vermont covered by state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure;
 - (B) percent of structurally-deficient bridges, as defined by the Agency of Transportation; and
 - (C) percent of Vermont retail electric sales from renewable energy.