



FY21 Appropriations Request

February 2020

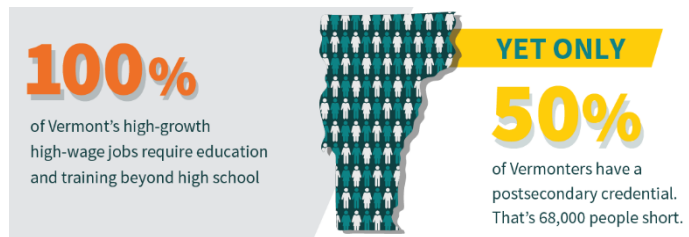
Ask:

\$250,000 to create a partnership with Advance Vermont, which serves as the statewide backbone organization to spur cross-sector, systems-level action to increase postsecondary attainment in Vermont.

Skills gap: the importance of increased education and training of Vermont’s workforce

The J. Warren & Lois McClure Foundation predicts that by 2028, 100 percent of Vermont’s high-growth, high-wage jobs in will require education and training after high school.

Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce estimates that 65 percent of all jobs in Vermont require a postsecondary credential. The Vermont Business Roundtable Workforce Conditions Survey consistently reports that CEOs indicate difficulty hiring skilled workers.

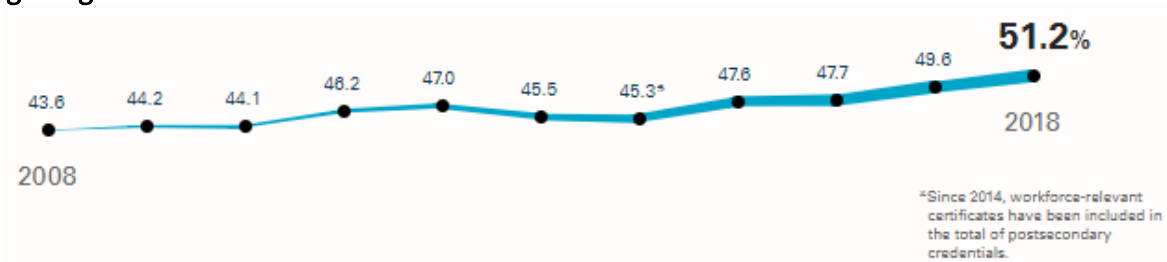


Source: McClure Foundation and Vermont Department of Labor

In addition to the economic benefits of a skilled workforce, according to a recent analysis of the Public Assets Institute, the state can expect an estimated \$26 million of increased income tax revenue should it meet its attainment goal (detailed below). Furthermore, individuals with education and training after high school are more likely to be financially secure and less reliant on government programs, have healthy families, vote, and be active within their communities.

Vermont’s attainment goal

To meet the state’s economic, civic, and workforce demands, Act 80 of 2019 set a goal that 70 percent of working-age Vermonters will hold a credential of value by 2025. Today, Vermont is 68,000 credentials short of meeting this goal.



Source: Lumina Foundation

Vermont currently has a 51.2 percent attainment rate. This represents an increase of 7.6 percent since 2008, an average of .75 percent each year. At that pace, Vermont will not reach its attainment goal until the year 2045. Given the economic and demographic challenges facing our state, urgent action is required.

How Advance Vermont can make a difference

In Vermont, silos belong on farms and farms alone. Advance Vermont was created to spur cross-sector, systems-level action to increase attainment. Advance Vermont recognizes that a collective impact approach is needed to meet Vermont's attainment goal. Its work over the last three years has laid a strong foundation for future progress. Advance Vermont focuses its work in four areas:



CHANGE THE NARRATIVE

Build awareness of the importance of postsecondary education and training, and the diversity of education and career pathways.



ADVOCATE

Promote equitable policy and programming that expands access to and the completion of postsecondary education and training for students of all ages and backgrounds.



CONVENE

Mobilize stakeholders to achieve systems-level change by increasing communication, coordination, and sharing of knowledge and best practices.



MEASURE

Track progress toward Vermont's postsecondary attainment goal, identify where equity-related gaps exist, and share state- and national-level, data, research, and trends.

State support: creating a public-private partnership to increase attainment

Leaders in business, education, government, non-profits, and philanthropy have long identified the importance of education after high school to Vermont's economic and civic vitality. There have been numerous efforts in the last 20 years to increase the level of education of Vermonters, yet unlike other states, there is no one state agency charged with catalyzing cross-sector action to meet Vermont's attainment goal.

The state faced a similar challenge a decade ago with early childhood policy and turned to a public-private model. Established by Act 104 of 2010, Building Bright Futures (BBF) has established a successful public-private partnership to “**monitor** the state's early care, health and education systems and to **advise** the Administration and Legislature on early childhood policy. BBF serves as a **statewide backbone organization**, bringing early childhood stakeholders together to **work collectively** toward a coordinated, collaborative, and integrated early childhood system” (emphasis ours).

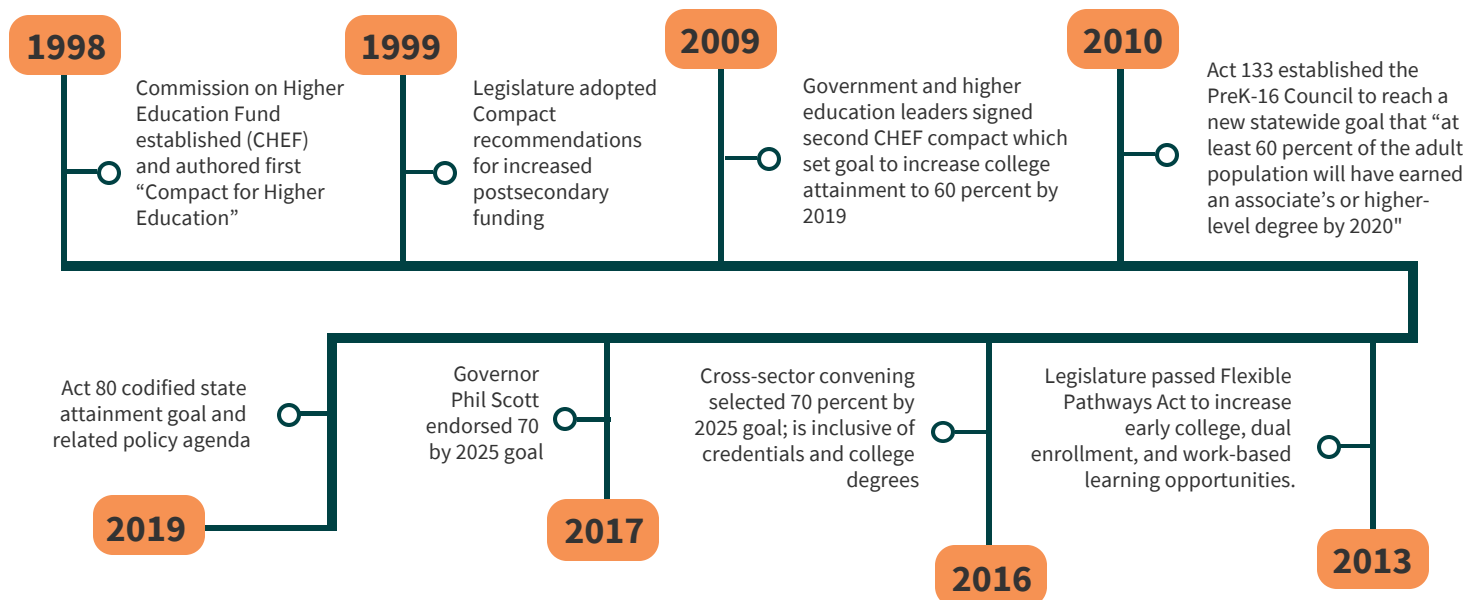
Advance Vermont's work mirrors that of BBF on the postsecondary end of the education and training continuum. An appropriation of \$250,000 would help further Advance Vermont's reach and impact as the state's backbone organization leading cross-sector action that results in increased postsecondary attainment, which is essential to the economic strength and civic vitality of our state.

Without better coordination and bold new innovations, investments, and partnerships, the state will reach its attainment goal 20 years late with potentially devastating consequences for its residents, communities, and economy.

Educational Attainment: A Consistent Priority with Insufficient Progress

Leaders in business, education, government, non-profits, and philanthropy have long identified the importance of education after high school to Vermont’s economic and civic vitality. There have been numerous efforts over the last two decades to increase the level of education and training of Vermonters. Despite these steps, Vermont currently has a 51.2 percent attainment rate. This represents an increase of 7.6 percent since 2008, an average of .75 percent each year. At that pace, Vermont will not reach its goal of 70 percent attainment of credentials of value until the year 2045. **Given the economic and demographic challenges facing our state, urgent, systems-level action is required.**

A 20-Year History



Renewed Focus: Act 80 of 2019

Recognizing the need for action, Act 80 of 2019 codified a new, more inclusive state attainment goal.

“It shall be the goal of the State of Vermont that not less than 70 percent of working-age Vermonters will hold a credential of value, as defined by the State Workforce Development Board, by the year 2025.”

Act 80 further established that it is the policy of the State of Vermont to:

- ▶ **Promote awareness** of career pathways and the value of postsecondary education and training
- ▶ **Expand access** to postsecondary education and training to students of all ages
- ▶ **Increase completion** of postsecondary education and training programs by ensuring that Vermonters have the supports they need to succeed
- ▶ **Maximize partnerships** across and within sectors to achieve State workforce development and education goals

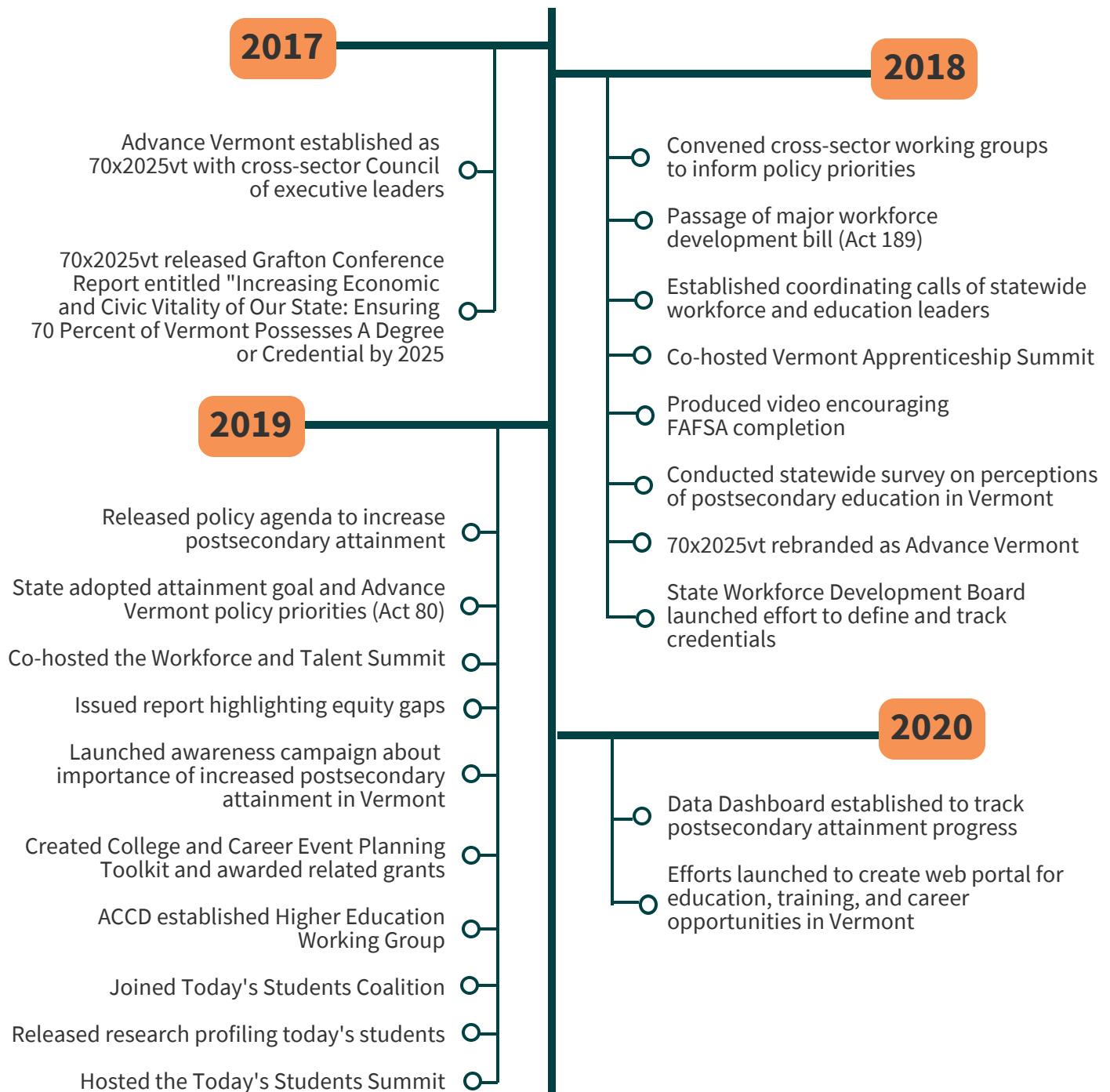


Our priority is to propel the state to meet its goal that **70%** of working-age Vermonters have a postsecondary credential of value by **2025**.



Momentum to Increase Attainment

Since 2017, Advance Vermont has been driving action among business, education, government, nonprofit, and philanthropy to increase educational attainment in Vermont.



For more information, visit
ADVANCEVERMONT.ORG

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Vermont's prosperity depends on Vermonters' abilities to access, afford, and attain postsecondary education and training after high school.



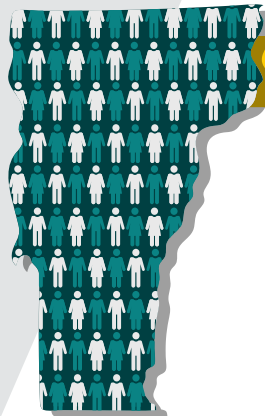
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The status quo isn't working.

100%

of Vermont's high-growth high-wage jobs require education and training beyond high school



YET ONLY

50%

of Vermonters have a postsecondary credential. That's 68,000 people short.

A postsecondary credential is a win-win-win.

1 **Individuals** can pursue a higher quality of life and attain more skills:

63%

of Vermont adults without a postsecondary credential are interested in pursuing one.

2 **Employers** can bridge the workforce supply gap:

2/3

of employers express negative outlooks about ease of hiring for available positions.

3 **Communities** benefit from engaged residents, increased tax revenue, and a strong state economy:

\$26M

in estimated increased income tax revenue from higher postsecondary attainment is on the table.

Advancing Vermont toward its postsecondary attainment goal



About

For the benefit of our residents, communities, and economies, Advance Vermont is a statewide initiative driving action among business, education, government, nonprofit, and philanthropy to increase educational attainment in Vermont.

Mission

Our mission is to advance the civic and economic vitality of Vermont by growing the number of Vermonters with education and training after high school, increasing equity in educational attainment, and strengthening connections between education, training, and employment.



Work

To help realize the state's goal that 70% of working-age Vermonters attain a postsecondary credential of value by 2025, we are working hard to:



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MEASURE

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Let's join forces
and together,
Advance Vermont.

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