



FY21 Appropriations Request

February 2020

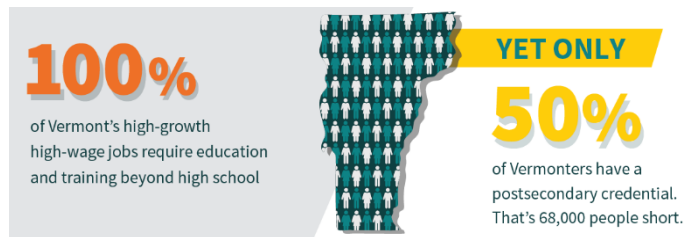
Ask:

\$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.

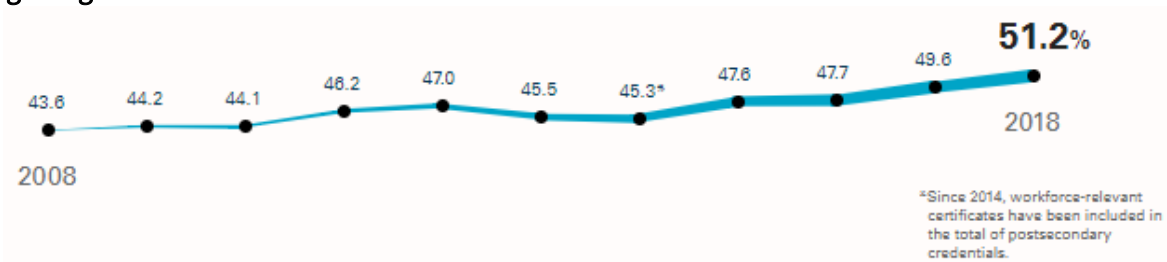


Source: McClure Foundation and Vermont Department of Labor

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.