



FY 20 Testimony before House Commerce & Economic Development

February, 26, 2019

Marilyn Cargill, Vice President of Financial Aid Services, Research, and Marketing

Tom Little, General Counsel and Vice President

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

Vermont nondegree grant program: a brief history

1982: The Vermont General Assembly creates the first nondegree grant program in the country; applicants needed to be receiving unemployment benefits to receive a grant.

1984: The program is expanded to include under-employed Vermonters, opening up the program to applicants who are working but not receiving a livable wage and to applicants from families receiving state assistance.

2018: More than 38,600 nondegree grants awarded since the inception of the program. The nondegree grant has nearly doubled the numbers of awards over the last decade.



Nondegree grant: purpose

An accredited training program that increases employability

CDL licenses

Certification as childcare providers

Training that gains entry into health professions such as LNA, dental assistants and medical transcription

Training to enter the trades, as construction workers, linemen, etc.

Driver's education programs

For low-income adult students to complete the driver's education they need to acquire a Vermont driver's license. Vermont's lack of widespread public transportation is a significant barrier to employment in most areas of the state of Vermont outside of Chittenden County

Nondegree courses at colleges and universities

For applicants who are trying to decide if they are capable of successfully tackling college-level work

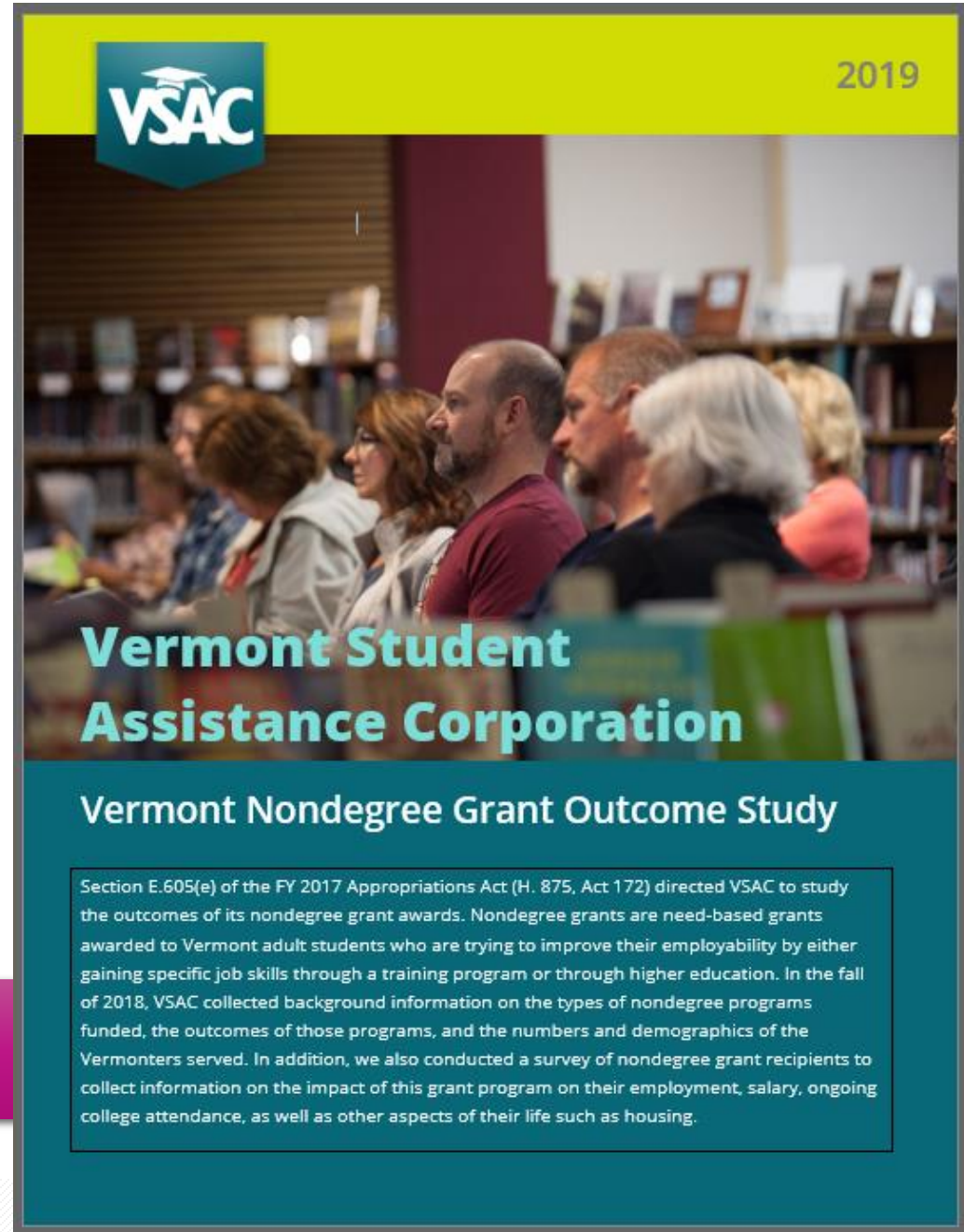
Applicants who have prerequisites that they need to take before they can be admitted to a college

Opening doors for adult students

Vermont Nondegree Grant Outcome Study (2019)

Findings from the latest survey of Nondegree grant recipients awarded for academic year 2017-2018

NEW Report

The cover of the report features a photograph of a diverse group of adult students in a library or classroom setting. The VSAC logo is in the top left, and the year '2019' is in the top right. The title 'Vermont Student Assistance Corporation' is in large teal letters, and the subtitle 'Vermont Nondegree Grant Outcome Study' is below it. A text box at the bottom provides details about the study's mandate and findings.

2019

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

Vermont Nondegree Grant Outcome Study

Section E.605(e) of the FY 2017 Appropriations Act (H. 875, Act 172) directed VSAC to study the outcomes of its nondegree grant awards. Nondegree grants are need-based grants awarded to Vermont adult students who are trying to improve their employability by either gaining specific job skills through a training program or through higher education. In the fall of 2018, VSAC collected background information on the types of nondegree programs funded, the outcomes of those programs, and the numbers and demographics of the Vermonters served. In addition, we also conducted a survey of nondegree grant recipients to collect information on the impact of this grant program on their employment, salary, ongoing college attendance, as well as other aspects of their life such as housing.

What Could Be the Impact of a \$1 Million Increase in Nondegree Grants?

- Allow an extension of the cutoff date
- Increase the number of adult students served
- Allow training providers to continue training programs into the spring semester
- Increase the maximum award

Nondegree History of Cutoff Dates

Fiscal Year	Cutoff Date	Number of Unfunded Applicants
FY 14	1/29/2014	132
FY 15	3/27/2015	90
FY 16	4/30/2016	28
FY 17	1/14/2017	207
FY 18	3/9/2018	66

Nondegree Programs with Costs that Exceed the Maximum \$3,000 Grant

Type	Cost	School
CDL Class A & B	\$2,800 - \$9,900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community College of VT • Giroux General Transport • Northeast Driver Training • Precision Driver Training School • Pro Driver Training • Vermont Technical Center
Teacher Apprenticeship Program (TAP)	\$5,950 - \$11,900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champlain College
Dental & Dental Assisting	\$4,800 - \$4,900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Technology Essex
Pilot License, Certificate, Aviation & Aerospace Technology	\$8,100 - \$22,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vermont Flight Academy • Burlington Technical Center

VSAC's FY20 request

- Level funding of Base Appropriation for its grant program: \$19,414,588
- \$1 Million to expand the Nondegree program which assists adult learners who seek to improve their education and training
- \$494,500 for the Next Generation Scholarship
- \$200,000 to expand the Aspirations Project, and serve up to four high schools in regions throughout the state.
- Add \$13,000 for dual enrollment stipend for books and travel, for a total of \$85,000.



Appendix A

VSAC Services

VSAC's initiatives

- Advance Vermont
- Scam Relief
- Senior Survey research
- Career & Education Wellness
- FAFSA Completion Initiative
- McClure support DE/EC Pilot
- Expanding "Aspirations" projects



VSAC's student outreach:

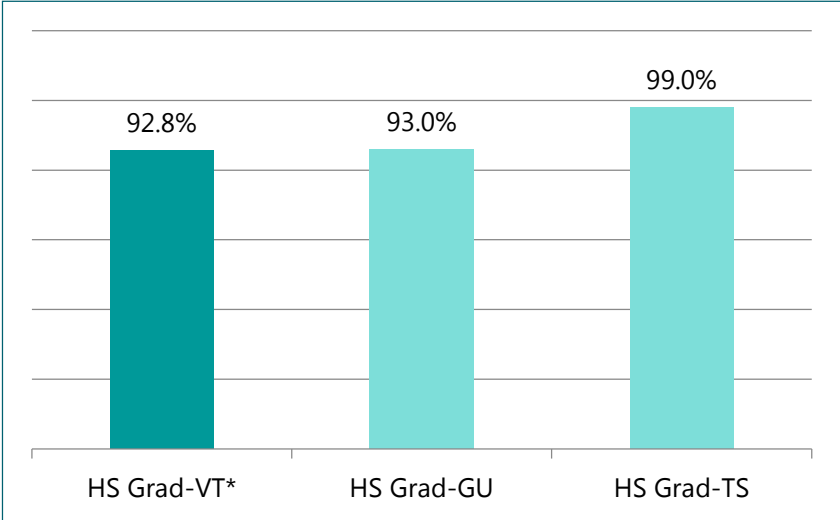
Talent Search & GEAR UP

Serving (AY16-17):

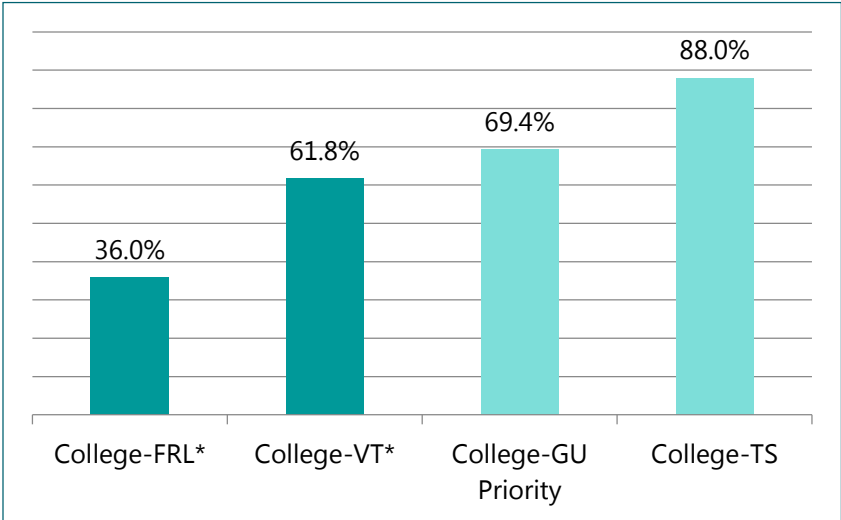
- 96 Vermont schools
- 4,660 middle school and high school students

Demonstrating results:

2017 12th grade completion rates



Fall 2017 enrollment rates at 2- and 4-year institutions



Source VSAC Career and Education Outreach
Note: Talent Search (TS) and GEAR UP (GU) are federally-funded grant programs.
. Most recent data available

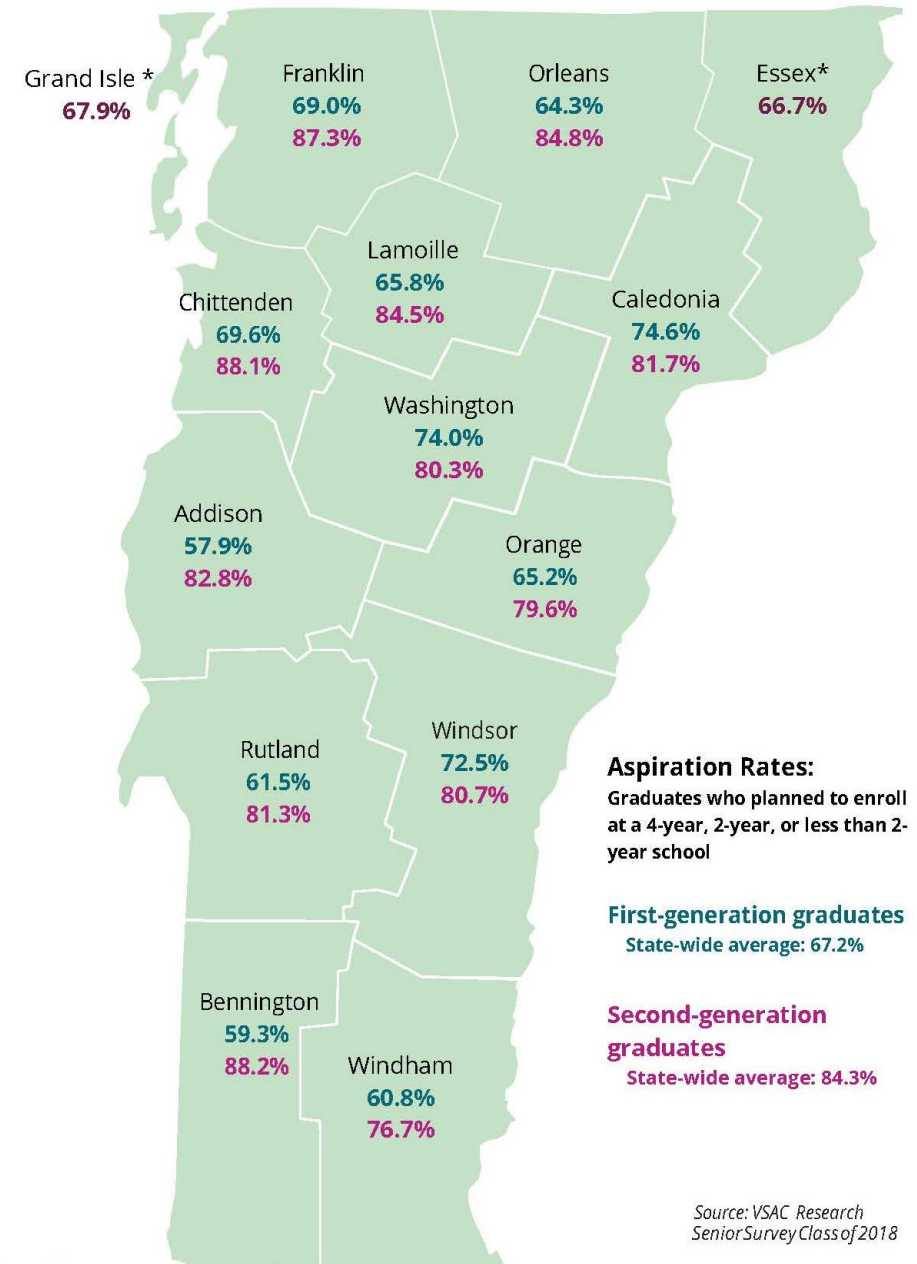
Aspirations Initiatives

The Aspiration Project aims to increase postsecondary aspiration and continuation rates.

In FY18, over 2,000 middle and high school students were served by the project at the following schools:

- Bellows Falls Union High School
- Hazen Union High School
- Twinfield Union School
- Spaulding High School
- Central Vermont Career Center

Spaulding and CVCC were added to the program in Fall 2018.



*Small sample size

Source: VSAC Research
Senior Survey Class of 2018

Saving for the future generation

The **Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan** seeks to help families begin to save early and reduce their need for borrowing when the time comes to pursue postsecondary education or training.

It is also one way grandparents can help ensure a lasting legacy.

As of July 30, 2018 VHEIP had nearly 21,000 active accounts and \$372.6 million in assets.

Since its inception, VHEIP families have withdrawn more than \$166.5 million to help more than 6,850 students pay for college.



After college: help is a phone call away

- **Vermont Advantage Loan Coach:** free, in-depth personalized education debt counseling.
- VSAC's **Customer Relations team** works closely with borrowers to help them understand all the repayment options available to them.



"I can't thank you all enough for the help and patience over the years. I still have a loan for my daughter, but VSAC helped my son become a VT State police officer. Nothing but kudos to all of you there!"

~Susan