

VBSR

Vermont Businesses
for Social Responsibility

vermont
MAIN STREET
alliance

The logo graphic for the Vermont Main Street Alliance consists of a stylized green leaf or fan shape with five segments, positioned to the right of the text.

COVID-19 Economic Recovery for Vermont's Small Businesses



Small Business VOICES
Small Business VALUES

vermont
MAIN STREET
alliance



MISSION: MSA-VT's mission is to elevate the voices of small business owners on important public policy issues in Vermont. We are committed to bringing business owners to the table to engage in and develop policies that reflect the interconnected nature of small businesses, their workforces, and the communities they serve.



WHO IS MSA-VT

- **700+ small businesses from throughout Vermont**
- **What is “small”?**
- **Range of sectors: Retail, Food and Beverage, Hospitality, Events, Real Estate, Outdoor Recreation, Manufacturing, Tech, etc**

the
MAIN STREET
alliance



→ **COVID-19 Economic Relief
for Small Business**

→ **Family and Medical Leave**

→ **Child Care**

→ **Democracy**

2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



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About VBSR

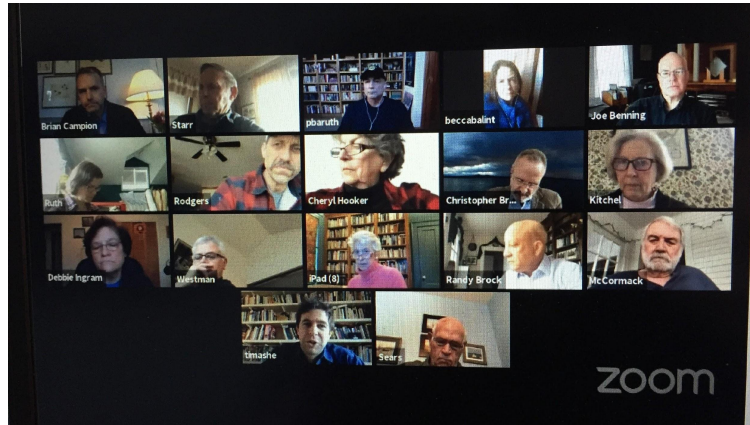


People
Planet
Prosperity

VBSR

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Connecting & Learning Virtually



We hosted 50 educational workshops, webinars, trainings, and networking events reaching 2,900 individuals from 685 institutions across Vermont and beyond, over half of whom were *not members*, broadening our reach.

Our 30th Annual VBSR Conference, held virtually, drew a record 450 people from a variety of industries and geographies to discuss Anti-Racism, Business Resiliency in the Era of COVID, and the Climate Crisis; 65% of those who attending were attending a VBSR Conference for this first time.

Vermont Changemakers Table



Gretchen Boswell
Peacham, VT



Hailey Blanchard
Georgia, VT



Hana Saydek
Cavendish, VT

Vermont Changemakers Table is a program for young Vermonters seeking to collaborate, build relationships, and address issues that bring positive change to Vermont and its communities.



THE
Vermont
Community
Foundation

VBSR



HIGH MEADOWS
FUND

VBSR Small Business Resiliency Fund

- To complement the critical response and recovery efforts being carried out across the state, VBSR has developed a new fund to support small business resilience.
- Applicants applied in one or more of the following categories:
 - Downtown Vitality
 - Green Economy
 - Health & Wellness
 - Local Food System
 - Social Change
- Grantees received cash awards of \$10,000 and referrals to VBSR partner organizations offering financial and technical assistance, including business planning, working capital, impact assessment, marketing, e-commerce, and supply chain management.



Awardees: Perky Planet Café, Miss Weinerz, Stow Street Café, and Waste Free Earth



VBSR's 2021 Policy Priorities

- Climate Change
- Health Care Reform
- COVID-19 Response
- Racial Justice and Equity
- Universal Accessible High-Quality Childcare
- Health Care Rights
- Student Debt Crisis
- Broadband

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Lookback: 2020 COVID-19 Response

VBSR and MSA-VT acted as advocates, educators, and conveners for businesses and employees adversely impacted by this crisis.

Supporting initiatives such as:

- Women and Minority Owned Business Grant Program
- Frontline Employees Hazard Pay Grant Program
- Coronavirus Economic Stimulus Equity Program
- Everyone Eats!
- Emergency Economic Recovery Grant Program



Principles for COVID-19 Response

- Equity and sustainability
- Employee-first workplaces
- Investment in Local Economies



Shared Priorities for 2021 Legislative Session

- Continued Economic Relief Grants for Vermont Businesses
- Stronger investment in technical assistance
- Comprehensive, inclusive, and coordinated outreach
- Targeted economic relief to historically underserved groups .
- Long term economic empowerment for BIPOC businesses
- Addressing gaps in existing relief programs--new businesses, microbusinesses, solopreneurs, etc
- Affordable, accessible child care
- Paid Family Leave