



## FY22 Appropriations Request

### Testimony to Senate Committee on Education

### 4-16-20

As your committee considers its recommendations to the Senate Committee on Appropriations regarding the FY22 budget bill, thank you for hearing Advance Vermont's request.

[Advance Vermont](#) is requesting a \$350,000 appropriation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for FY22 to assist in pandemic workforce recovery and to increase postsecondary attainment in the state. VSAC, which is the fiscal agent for Advance Vermont, is fully supportive of this request.

Advance Vermont is the sole organization in the state dedicated to meeting the state's goal that 70 percent of Vermonters hold a credential of value by 2025. Its work is focused on helping Vermonters with significant barriers to post-high school education and training aspire to and attain the skills necessary to land a well-paying stable job, while supporting the needs of employers for a more skilled workforce. Advance Vermont is dedicated to closing equity gaps for those who are low income, first-generation students, BIPOC, people with a disability, and other historically disadvantaged populations.

ARPA funds will support Advance Vermont's unique body of work. This includes [MyFutureVT.org](#), Vermont's only comprehensive resource connecting job and education seekers with career information, in-state post-high school education and training programs, and direct services to support their career and education pursuits. These funds also will ensure the completion of a related effort to create a first-of-its-kind statewide postsecondary [credential registry](#), and other aligned projects. This recovery-focused work benefits individuals impacted by the pandemic, job and education seekers, higher education and training providers, employers, and the State.

Among others, Advance Vermont's partners include AOE, ACCD, VDOL, VocRehab, VSCS, UVM, private colleges in Vermont, the Vermont Association of CTE Directors, the Vermont Association of Adult CTE Directors, the Vermont Principal's Association, many business organizations, Vermont Adult Learning, and Vermont Works for Women.

ARPA funding will go a long way to ensuring Advance Vermont has the resources required to make the deepest possible impact at a time when Vermonters are most need.

*Submitted by Tom Cheney, Executive Director of Advance Vermont*