



"Before your class, I was constantly stressing about my finances, 'how am I gonna pay this bill or that?' Didn't think I'd ever be able to save anything... Was clueless on how to turn things around. But, in your class I learned how to pay attention to each bit that I spend. I started paying off my smaller bills first (which I now understand makes you feel so much better when you are first starting out, plus the encouragement and self-satisfaction of accomplishing those first goals)." ~ Damaris

Financial Capability Program

Working with low and moderate income Vermonters to build greater financial self-sufficiency

EDUCATION * COACHING * CREDIT BUILDING * SAVINGS

OVERVIEW

Most Vermonters can agree that between paying for housing, childcare, transportation, food, loan obligations and utilities, there's often not a lot of income left over for saving.

That's where Vermont's Community Action Network can help. With our comprehensive financial education and financial coaching services, which vary by agency, our staff work directly with low and moderate income Vermonters to help them assess their financial situations, determine their options, and create financial goals.

Our statewide staff, made up of Vermont Matched Savings program coordinators, financial coaches, and accredited financial counselors, are trained to provide appropriate and meaningful personal finance guidance with a holistic approach to Vermonters who are having difficulties paying down debt, saving money, or managing their transportation or housing costs.

By assessing the situation and meeting the client where they are financially, our staff work with individuals and families to help them build economic opportunity and a better financial future.

FY 2022 REQUEST

The Vermont CAA Network is requesting \$500,000 to support 5 full time Nationally Accredited Financial Coaches at CVOEO, Capstone, NEKCA, SEVCA, and BROCC

SPOTLIGHT ON CAR COACHING

Transportation expenses should be no more than 15-20% of a family's budget, but for many Vermonters, car payments, maintenance and gas cost more than their monthly rent. Coupled with poor or no credit and low incomes, a car purchase can be the financial ruin for many who need a car to get to their job, transport their kids to school, or simply have the freedom of mobility in rural areas.

The statewide CAA Vermont Matched Savings Program Coordinators provide training and guidance to help Vermonters make informed decisions about their next car purchase. From researching the MPG and reliability ratings to comparing the cost of a loan with varying credit scores, our team ensures that people are armed with the knowledge to get the best deal for their budget before they step into the dealership.

The five Community Action Agencies provide several programs that help low income Vermonters save money on their vehicle purchases: The Vermont Matched Savings where savings and match of \$2000 can be used to purchase or repair a vehicle necessary to get to work, and the MileageSmart program which offers 25% off the purchase of a used high MPG car, up to \$5000 off the sales price.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Budgeting support
- Debt reduction planning
- Savings strategies
- Credit Building services
- 5-week Financial education classes
- Car Coaching
- Student Loan repayment counseling
- COVID-19 resources

Why Your Credit Score Matters



2016 Toyota Prius, Sales Price \$17,000 (inc. tax, fees)

<p>Credit Score 780</p> <p>Price: \$17,000 Money Down: \$0 Loan Amount: \$17,000 Interest Rate: 4.5% Term: 5 years Monthly Payment: \$317 Interest paid: \$2016.00</p> <p>Insurance: \$80/month</p>	<p>Credit Score 620</p> <p>Price: \$17,000 Money Down: \$0 Loan Amount: \$17,000 Interest Rate: 17% Term: 7 years Monthly Payment: \$347 Interest paid: \$12,182.00</p> <p>Insurance: \$125/mo</p>	<p>Credit Score 620 with 25% MileageSmart discount</p> <p>Price: \$17,000 MS Discount: -\$4250 Loan Amount: \$12,750.00 Interest Rate: 12% (max) Term: 5 years Monthly Payment: \$284 Interest paid: \$4267</p> <p>Insurance \$125/mo</p>
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