

FY27 Budget Request

Advance Vermont has become an essential part of the state’s career navigation ecosystem, providing critical access to career and education information for both Vermonters in transition and those who support them. **Advance Vermont seeks a base appropriation of \$600,000 in the FY27 budget to fill critical gaps in the system, by sustaining and expanding two key initiatives: [MyFutureVT.org](https://myfuturevt.org) and Graduate with a Plan.** Together, these programs help ensure that every Vermonter has the information, tools, and support needed to make informed decisions about their future.

Need

A core promise of Vermont’s PK–12 system is simple: when students walk across the graduation stage, they should have a clear plan for what comes next. Yet only about half of Vermont’s students do.

Vermont’s current approach to career and education planning was designed in the mid-20th century. It depends on a fragmented system—which places most of the responsibility on overburdened school counselors. Today’s economy is far more complex and volatile, requiring young people to navigate an overwhelming array of education and career options with uneven risks and returns.

Vermont is in the midst of significant education and workforce transformation efforts. We are rethinking how we prepare students for a changing economy and how we meet the needs of employers across industries. If we are serious about those goals, we must also be serious about the infrastructure that connects young people—and adults in transition—to opportunity.

Advance Vermont is leading the effort to build a 21st century career navigation system—one that bridges high school to postsecondary education, training, and work, and supports not just students but also the adults who guide them.

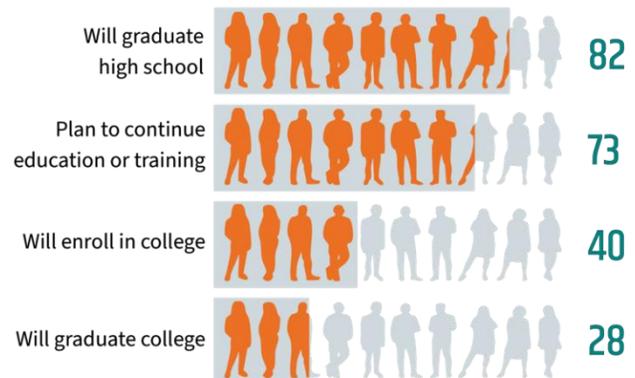
Partnering with the State to Fill Critical Gaps

Advance Vermont has been a state partner since its founding in 2017. Since 2021, Advance Vermont has received four budget appropriations to build and expand MyFutureVT and support its broader efforts to work with the state and its partners to help build a more skilled workforce.

Ensure all Vermonters can make informed career and education choices

Support would sustain and increase access to [MyFutureVT.org](https://myfuturevt.org), a free, trusted online hub for career and education for Vermonters and those who support them. It is the only platform in the state that connects users to validated, up-to-date information about high-demand jobs, in-state education and training programs, and

Of Every 100 Vermont High School Students



Sources: New England Secondary Schools Consortium; VSAC

support services that help them reach their goals. Over 90% of users report that the platform meets their needs and helps them take a meaningful step toward their goals. Continued funding will enable Advance Vermont to support Act 65 implementation by maintaining comprehensive repositories of Vermont education and training programs and support services, and:

- ▶ Maintain and enhance the platform, ensuring current data, expanded tools, and increased statewide engagement.
- ▶ Expand content on industry needs and non-degree pathways, including the trades and military.
- ▶ Align MyFutureVT with VDOL’s JobLink replacement CRM and broader workforce priorities.

Create a 21st century career navigation system

Funding would allow Advance Vermont to continue its innovative Graduate with a Plan (GAP) program which works to ensure that every student leaves high school with a clear, actionable postsecondary plan—supported by adults equipped to guide them. Core partners in this work include the Agency of Education, VDOL, HireAbility Vermont, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, the Vermont State Colleges, and the University of Vermont.

GAP provides **professional learning** to “navigators” (teachers, counselors, mentors, employers) to better support future planning with the youth they serve, and by developing a **statewide career and education planning framework** that aligns policy, builds local capacity, increases equity, and establishes the competencies students need to graduate with a plan. State investment will scale and strengthen this work. In FY27, Advance Vermont will:

- ▶ Partner with AOE to advance PK–12 and CTE transformation, solidify Vermont’s career navigation system, and implement a career and education planning framework statewide.
- ▶ Train 300 navigators, impacting at least 1,500 students annually with higher-quality career guidance.
- ▶ Launch a statewide navigator network to connect and upskill student-serving adults.

- 75% of students, parents, and educators rate their school or organization’s career and education planning activities as only *somewhat effective* or less.

- 95% of “navigators” report wanting to increase their knowledge about non-college options.

- Trained mentors with the skills and knowledge to guide students through this complex new job market have shown to increase overall wages by 28% and produce greater life satisfaction overall.

About Advance Vermont

Advance Vermont is an independent nonprofit organization that believes that every Vermonter should be able to pursue and navigate a career and education path that meets their goals.

Advance Vermont works to ensure students, jobseekers, and the those who support them have clear, reliable information to make informed decisions about education and careers. It promotes the value of all post-high school pathways, helps schools and community organizations provide consistent and equitable career guidance, and brings together public, nonprofit, and private partners to work toward a more cohesive statewide career navigation system.



Should you have any questions, please contact Tom Cheney, Executive Director of Advance Vermont, at cheney@advancevermont.org or 802-404-1775.



FY27 Proposed Appropriation
7/1/26 to 6/30/27

Total Request \$600,000 in base funding

Budget		
Compensation (salaries & benefits)	\$445,000	2 FTE to support MyFutureVT activities, including MyFutureVT content creation and project management, marketing and outreach to targeted groups, align and support state efforts, postsecondary credential data collection and updates; 2 FTE to support GAP, including to implement navigator training program, pilot and disseminate career and education planning framework, create and manage navigator network, engage with public and private partners
Website Development	\$40,000	MyFutureVT hosting and maintenance fees; web development
Marketing	\$50,000	Advertising fees
Program Evaluation	\$30,000	Cost of evaluation for MyFutureVT and GAP
Consulting fees	\$17,500	To support the development of the framework, and with execution of navigator trainings
Collateral Development	\$10,500	Creation of graphics, videos, and print resources to be used for GAP and MyFutureVT, and in promotion and outreach activities
Travel & Events	\$5,000	Mileage, meals, conference fees
Promotional and Event Materials	\$2,000	Printing; event supplies
Total Expenses	\$600,000	