



## FY26 Budget Request

Advance Vermont seeks a base appropriation in the FY26 budget of \$350,000 to sustain and expand [MyFutureVT.org](https://myfuturevt.org) and enhance its statewide reach and impact.

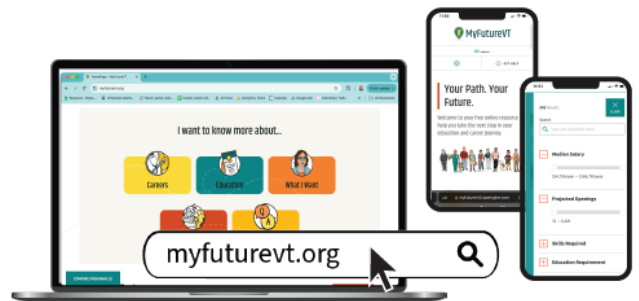
State support will enable MyFutureVT to:

- ▶ Remain a free, accessible resource for career and education seekers statewide
- ▶ Expand content, functionality, and resources, prioritizing underserved communities
- ▶ Increase awareness and usage through training, workshops, and student-focused events

### What is MyFutureVT?

**MyFutureVT is a free online hub for career and education exploration and planning that empowers Vermonters to make informed decisions about their future.** MyFutureVT has become a go-to tool for career and education seekers of all ages and those who guide them, enabling users to explore Vermont careers, education and training programs, and information to help them meet their goals. MyFutureVT is designed to:

- ▶ Meet the needs of all Vermonters, and particularly those who are rural, low-income, first-generation postsecondary students, and historically underserved populations
- ▶ Meet accessibility standards
- ▶ Be mobile-optimized
- ▶ Present content in the top eight languages spoken in Vermont and at an 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level



### Why is MyFutureVT Needed?

Vermont faces a workforce crisis with nearly 3 open jobs for every job seeker, many of which are well-paying and require post-high school education or training.

Declining postsecondary aspirations and enrollment rates indicate that the system supporting career and education planning is broken. To build a vibrant future for Vermont's next generation, we must invest in strategies that inspire youth, broaden their horizons, and expose them to clear, accessible career pathways.

**MyFutureVT addresses the gap in future planning by providing the necessary information for Vermonters to make informed decisions.** Research from Advance Vermont shows career and education websites, like MyFutureVT, are key resources for both youth and adults, ranking second in usage after friends and ahead of parents and teachers. This highlights MyFutureVT's importance in supporting career and education seekers and the need to equip mentors with relevant information for guidance they provide.

## Impact & Reach of MyFutureVT

Since its May 2021 launch, MyFutureVT has attracted nearly 120,000 unique users. Each year, Advance Vermont reaches 1,000 career and education seekers, plus 500 navigators, through events and trainings showcasing MyFutureVT.

A recent evaluation highlights the site's success in focusing on Vermont-specific resources and engaging key groups, including young adults, mid-career professionals, and historically marginalized communities.

- ▶ **User Satisfaction:** 94% rated the site good or better, with two-thirds rating it very good or excellent.
- ▶ **Valuable Information:** 90% found the information easy to locate and understand.
- ▶ **Outcomes:** 90% reported positive changes in their education and career planning, including solidified plans, new enrollments, or job applications.

I don't have any hesitation about sharing this site with students from many different backgrounds.

- Jessica, education program navigator

"I've used similar platforms that were different in the way things were set up. This is more user friendly and have a more student-friendly feel."

Zeynep, 20s, recent student

## A History of State Support

Past legislatures have recognized the important role of MyFutureVT as a critical source of information for both career and education seekers and those who support them. Advance Vermont received \$350k in FY22 and FY24, and \$150k in FY23. It works collaboratively with various state agencies, including the Department of Labor, Agency of Education, and HireAbility Vermont.

## About Advance Vermont

**Advance Vermont is a nonprofit organization committed to fostering a highly educated and financially secure citizenry that supports a prosperous state economy and engaged communities.** Its mission is to ensure that every Vermonter can see and is able to pursue a career and education pathway that helps them meet their goals.

Meaningful career and education navigation is critical to reversing the sharp decline in aspirations in the state's youth and bridging socioeconomic gaps for Vermonters. Advance Vermont works to support this need. Through its programs, Advance Vermont:

- ▶ Ensures that career and education seekers and those who support them have the information and tools they need to make informed choices.
- ▶ Elevates the importance of non-degree education options in building a strong workforce.

