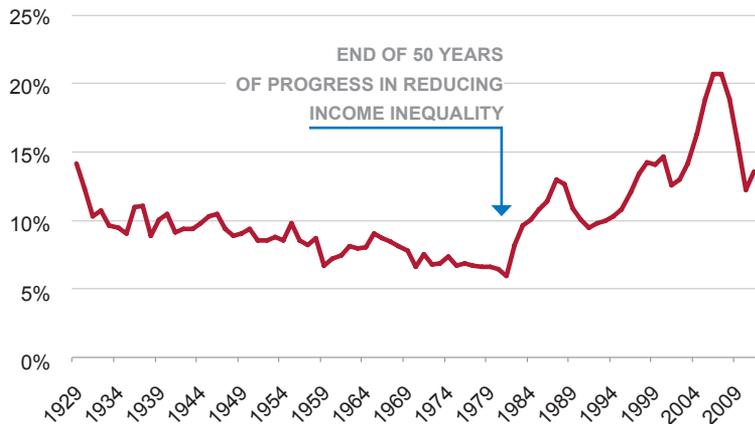


## Income for the Top 1% Reached New Heights in the 2000s

Share of income received by the top 1% of Vermont taxpayers, 1929-2011

For 50 years after the Great Depression, Vermont's gap between rich and poor shrank. The share of total income going to the top 1 percent declined from 14 percent in 1929 to 6 percent in 1981. But since then, we've wiped out our progress toward income equality. The share going to the wealthiest 1 percent peaked at over 20 percent in 2006.



Data source: Mark W. Frank, Professor of Economics, Sam Houston State University  
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## Let's Build a Moral Economy for Vermont

### Step One: Develop a Current Services Budget

*A Current Services Budget is a projection of the real cost of the public services that elected officials have committed the state to provide.*

It would close the gap between Montpelier's approach to budget making and Vermonters' real needs. That would increase transparency and make meaningful public participation and progress possible.

Vermont projects the cost of maintaining roads and bridges and other transportation needs. We can do the same for human services, education, public protection, and other essential state services. A Current Services Budget invites an honest conversation about a moral economy where all Vermonters can prosper.



[www.publicassets.org](http://www.publicassets.org)

802-223-6677 [sarah@publicassets.org](mailto:sarah@publicassets.org)



[www.viavt.org](http://www.viavt.org)

802-310-4625 [debbie@viavt.org](mailto:debbie@viavt.org)