### 1. Ensure that work pays and families meet their basic needs.

#### Make work pay.

- **Increase the state minimum wage and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) so that working families have a livable income.**
  - Bills introduced in both houses to increase the minimum wage to $15/hour by 2020, 2022, or 2026. Hearings were held but no further action was taken.
- **Eliminate public benefits barriers that reduce incomes when earnings increase.**
  - Act 29 of 2017 raised the asset limit for Reach Up recipients, and excluded education savings from eligibility for child care subsidies.
- **Expand short-term compensation programs to help employers avoid layoffs.**

#### Ensure family economic security.

- **Make high quality, affordable early care and education available to all who need it.**
  - The budget increased the child care financial assistance program (CCFAP) by $2.5 million, but the program still falls short of federal guidelines.
- **Open state-administered retirement plans to everyone.**
  - Act 69 of 2017 established the Green Mountain Secure Retirement Plan, so private employees without access to plans can participate in a state-administered plan.
- **Ensure that Reach Up fulfills its statutory purpose to serve the "well-being of children by providing for their immediate basic needs, including food, housing, and clothing."**
  - The asset limits for Reach Up eligibility were raised. See above.

#### Advance cost containment and public funding of health care.

- **Advance cost containment and public funding of health care.**
  - The budget included funding for more competitive wages for mental health care workers, which should reduce turnover and improve access to care and decrease the need for emergency treatment.

### 2. Make smart, evidence-based investments.

#### Improve Vermont’s education system.

- **Add two years to public education.**
- **Improve adult education and workforce training.**
  - Act 69 of 2017 establishes a workforce working group to recommend improvements to current workforce training and preparedness. The new Career Pathways Coordinator will work with Career Technical Education to improve the current system.

#### Increase public investment in infrastructure.

- **Fund transportation in ways that are both financially and environmentally sustainable.**
  - Four proposals for a carbon pollution tax were introduced in the House (H. 528, 531, 532, 533). Each would reduce a different tax to lessen the burden on low and moderate income Vermonters. No hearings were held.
- **Ensure that state investment in high-speed Internet benefits the public.**
- **Repair Vermont’s aging drinking water, waste water, and solid waste systems.**
  - Additional capital funding was included for clean water initiatives but $1 million was cut from the Clean Water Fund for the housing bond described below.
- **Invest in long-term improvements in affordable housing.**
  - The budget diverted $1 million from Lake Champlain cleanup funds for a $35 million housing bond for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to increase affordable housing.

### 3. Restore public confidence in state government.

#### Restore government’s capacity to do its job.

- **Strengthen performance measurement and results-based accountability throughout state government.**
  - Governor Scott issued two executive orders to improve government efficiency and effectiveness. Executive Order 3-17 established the Government Management and Efficiency Team (GMET) to assess efficiency throughout state government and recommend improvements. Executive Order 4-17 created the Program to Improve Vermont Outcomes Together to implement GMET’s recommendations.
- **Restore policy and planning staff.**

#### Include long-range planning in the budget process.

- **Provide clear estimates of spending now and at least five years into the future, as is done with revenue.**
- **Increase rainy day funds and make them easier to use.**

#### Fund state services equitably.

- **Replace school property taxes on primary residences with an income-based tax.**
  - Bills were introduced in both houses to expand the current income-based system and the Senate Committee on Education held hearings on S. 58. No further action was taken.
- **Avoid business tax incentive gimmicks.**