

A Framework for Progress: Investing in Vermont's people, infrastructure, and good government



1 Make work pay and ensure that all Vermonters can meet basic needs.

A. Make work pay.

- Ensure that working families have a livable income by raising the minimum wage and expanding the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- Take concrete steps to reduce barriers to public benefits that discourage workers from seeking advancement or longer hours.
- Expand short-term compensation programs to help employers avoid layoffs.

B. Ensure family economic security.

- Meet the state's guidelines for funding the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.
- Promote state-administered retirement savings plans.
- Provide Reach Up benefits that are adequate to meet the immediate basic needs of eligible children.

C. Hold the line on health care.

2 Build for the future by making smart, evidence-based investments in programs and infrastructure.

A. Improve Vermont's education system.

- Make sure that all young children can take advantage of pre-K education.
- Improve adult education and workforce training.

B. Increase public investment in infrastructure, including roads, public transportation, clean water, telecommunications, and housing.

- Fund transportation in ways that are both financially and environmentally sustainable.
- Make needed repairs to Vermont's aging drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste systems.
- Fully fund the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and increase the Vermont Rental Subsidy Program.

3 Make state government more effective by increasing public engagement, fairness, and transparency.

A. Create an infrastructure for public engagement on the state budget.

B. Include long-range planning in the budget process to weather volatility.

- 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.

C. Fund state services equitably.

- Eliminate school property taxes on primary residences.
- Increase transparency by refining current services budgets to provide the fullest picture of Vermont's current obligations.

