



**Northern Border
Regional Commission
Economic & Infrastructure
Development**

VERMONT

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)



The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is a Federal-State partnership for economic and community development created by Congress in 2008, with the active leadership and support of Vermont's Congressional Delegation.

It has been Federally funded since 2010.

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)



The NBRC partnership is led by the governors of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York as well as a Federal Co-chair, who is appointed by the President.

Governor Scott's NBRC Delegate is ACCD Deputy Secretary Ted Brady

Vermont Overview: 2010-2019



- 2010: 2 Projects \$375,110
- 2011: 2 Projects \$206,690
- 2012: 2 Projects \$373,447
- 2013: 2 Projects \$355,100
- 2014: 5 Projects \$1,091,679
- 2015: 6 Projects \$1,221,259
- 2016: 14 Projects \$1,824,000
- 2017: 10 Projects \$2,228,801
- 2018: 14 Projects \$2,881,700
- 2019: 12 Projects \$3,386,118

**Total Investments to Date:
69 Projects: \$13,943,944**

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)



Local oversight is provided through multi-county Local Development Districts (LDD). Vermont's has 3 LDD's:

Northern Vermont Economic Development District

NBRC Coverage Area: Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orleans and Washington counties

c/o Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Contact: Greta Brunswick, Senior Planner

(802)524-5958 or gbrunswick@nrpcvt.com

Windham Regional Commission

NBRC Coverage Area: Windham and Bennington Counties (As well as Weston, VT)

Contact: Chris Company, Executive Director

(802)257-4547 or ccampany@windhamregional.org

East Central Vermont Economic Development District

NBRC Coverage Area: Addison, Orange, Rutland and Windsor Counties

Contact: Peter Gregory, Executive Director

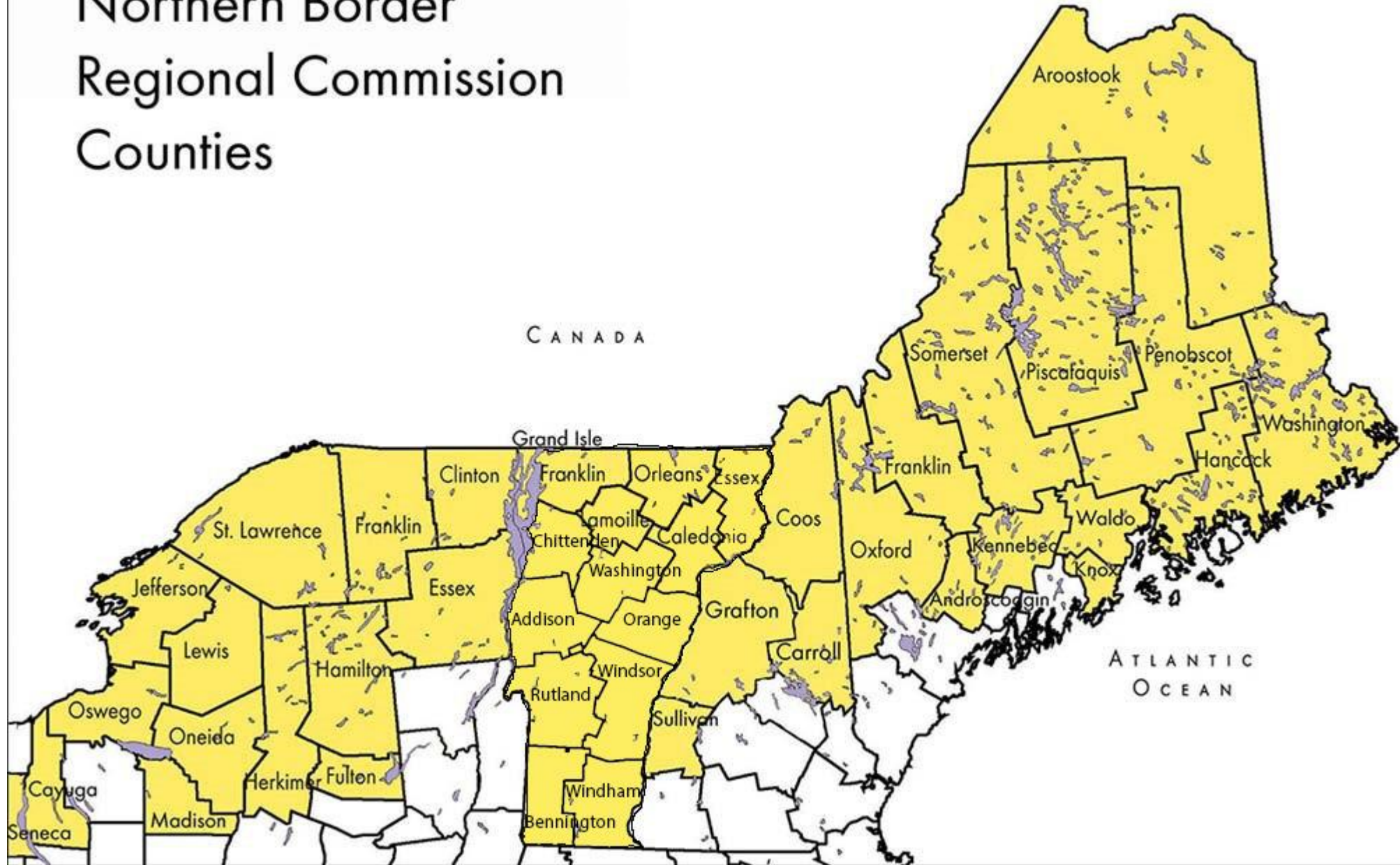
(802)457-3188 or pgregory@trorc.org

NBRC - Eligible Applicants



- **Public bodies** including Municipalities, State Agencies (Excluding ACCD) or State Departments.
- **Political Subdivisions of the State**, including Regional Planning Commissions
- **Non-profit organizations - 501C**, including Regional Development Corporations
- **Native American tribes**

Northern Border Regional Commission Counties



2020 NBRC – EID Program Highlights



Funding

- Approximately \$4.5 million in funding available in VT for 2020 investments.
- \$1,000,000 maximum grant for critical infrastructure construction projects (Up from \$500,000 in the last EID round).
- \$350,000 maximum grant amount for all other projects (Up from \$250,000 in the last EID round).

2020 NBRC – EID Program Highlights



Match & Reimbursement

- Up to 80% match in Caledonia, Essex, Orleans, Orange, and Rutland counties.
- Up to 50% match in remainder of State.
- Up to 35% match for projects with blended counties.
- All investments are in the form of reimbursements for previously paid and eligible expenses following the notice to proceed.

2020 NBRC – Distressed v. Transition



8. Assessment of Distress in Vermont for FY 2020

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%
Caledonia, Essex, Orange, Orleans, and Rutland

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Washington, Windham and Windsor

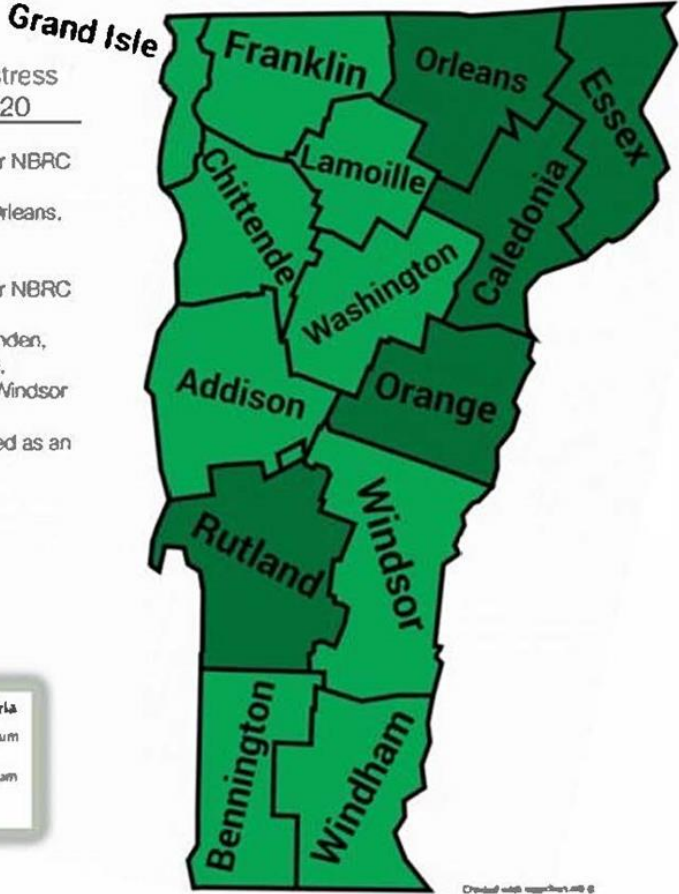
Attainment Counties

Not eligible, unless designated as an Isolated Area of Distress
None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)

Vermont Distress Criteria

-  "Distressed" 20% Minimum Match Required
-  "Transition" 50% Minimum Match Required



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Infrastructure changed to Construction



Defined as “Construction, alteration, or repair (including dredging, excavating, and painting) of buildings, structures, or other real property.

For purposes of this definition, the terms “buildings, structures, or other real property” include, but are not limited to, improvements of all types, such as bridges, dams, plants, highways, parkways, streets, subways, tunnels, sewers, mains, power lines, cemeteries, pumping stations, railways, airport facilities, terminals, docks, piers, wharves, ways, lighthouses, buoys, jetties, breakwaters, levees, canals, and channels.

A project that includes planning and engineering when part of a larger construction implementation will be considered ‘construction’; a project solely made up of planning and/or engineering will not be considered ‘construction’.”

Examples of Eligible Investment Projects



- Transportation, telecommunication, broadband, and basic public infrastructure (Water/Wastewater)
- Job skills and employment-related education
- Entrepreneurship, technology and business development
- Resource conservation, tourism, outdoor recreation, community development and preservation of open spaces
- Promotion of the development of renewable energy sources
- Basic health care and other public services

Vermont Scoring and Review Process



- Interdepartmental core review team with 7 members from within ACCD (representing DED, VDTM, DHCD, and Admin) independently reviews and scores each application, in addition to a stable of 8-10 category experts who review applications in specific categories.
- VT Review team meets to deliberate on each application, share key rationale for/against funding, discuss applicant responses, and make consensus recommendation to VT ACCD leadership and the Governor re: which projects to put forward to NBRC for investment.
- Agency Leadership, with review team, makes final recommendation to the Governor. Governor signs a letter with our selections.

Scoring Criteria - NBRC



Applications will be scored in the following areas:

Section A: The Degree to which the project aligns with and advances the 8 "Steps to Success" identified in Vermont's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)

- Makes financing available
- Educates a great workforce
- Builds for the future (infrastructure)
- Helps businesses flourish
- Preserves Vermont's working landscape
- Cultivates innovation
- Project readiness
- Plans for resilience

Scoring Criteria - NBRC



Section B: Broad State Priorities

- Is the project located within or does it directly benefit a state designated downtown, opportunity zone or village center?
- Degree to which the project aligns with and advances the Governor's three guiding strategic priorities:
 - Strengthen Vermont's Economy
 - Make Vermont more affordable
 - Protect the most vulnerable Vermonters

Scoring Criteria - NBRC



Section C: Financial Need

- Extent to which NBRC funding is necessary for the project to proceed or succeed

Scoring Criteria – NBRC & State Strategic Plan






STRATEGIC OUTCOME

GROW THE ECONOMY

We will grow Vermont's economy by expanding existing businesses, recruiting new employers and expanding our labor force (workers age 25 to 64), resulting in increased economic opportunity, more jobs, higher K-12 school enrollment and growth in state revenues.

Breakthrough Indicators

- ▶ Size of Workforce: Percent of Population; Statewide and by County
- ▶ Employee Growth Rate: Total and Size by Employee Count
- ▶ Wage Growth by Region



STRATEGIC OUTCOME

MAKE VERMONT MORE AFFORDABLE

We will make Vermont a more affordable place for families and businesses by advancing policies that support both economic expansion and affordability; working to prevent state spending and regulated costs, like electric rates and healthcare spending, from rising faster than wages; and building capacity in state government through innovation, improvement and efficiencies.

Breakthrough Indicators

- ▶ Average Percent of House Hold Income Spent on:
 - » Healthcare
 - » Housing (including utilities and heating costs)
 - » Taxes and Fees



STRATEGIC OUTCOME

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

We will protect the most vulnerable by providing services and benefits aimed at lifting more Vermonters out of poverty, ensuring the greatest degree of participation and independence, protecting children, and improving overall health and wellness of our communities.

Breakthrough Indicators

- ▶ Percent of Population Living at or Below 200% FPL
- ▶ Rate of Homelessness/Housing Stability
- ▶ Kindergarten Readiness
- ▶ Percent of Population with Access to Comprehensive Healthcare (includes preventative, primary and mental health, substance use disorder treatment and recovery)



STRATEGIC OUTCOME

MODERNIZE AND IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT

We will nurture and institutionalize a culture of continuous improvement by integrating the Governor's vision with employee-driven reforms to improve processes and modernize state government's systems, providing more efficient and effective services and improving customer service in all areas of state government.

Breakthrough Indicators

- ▶ Employees Trained In Continuous Improvement
- ▶ Employees Trained in Continuous Improvement by Cabinet and Non-Cabinet Units
- ▶ Number of On-Line Transactions

Scoring Criteria – NBRC & State Strategic Plan



**STRATEGIC
OUTCOME**

GROW THE ECONOMY

We will grow Vermont’s economy by expanding existing businesses, recruiting new employers and expanding our labor force (workers age 25 to 64), resulting in increased economic opportunity, more jobs, higher K-12 school enrollment and growth in state revenues.

**Breakthrough
Indicators**

- ▶ Size of Workforce: Percent of Population; Statewide and by County
- ▶ Employee Growth Rate: Total and Size by Employee Count
- ▶ Wage Growth by Region



GROW THE ECONOMY

We will grow Vermont's economy, by focusing on attracting new industries, expanding existing businesses, and increasing our workforce-aged population (age 25 to 64), resulting in increased economic opportunity, more jobs and higher K-12 public school enrollment.



STATE STRATEGIC PLAN 2018–2023 (FY2019–FY2023) VISION

Vermont's economy is growing faster than the costs of living; our state is measurably more affordable each year for families and businesses; and we are meeting our obligation to protect the most vulnerable.

GOAL: Targeted Out-of-State Marketing



ECONOMY

ACCD

ANNUALLY, increase the revenue generated from rooms and meals taxes through targeted marketing and promotions to out-of-state visitors to generate more tax revenues and additional growth in the tourism economy.

Key Indicators

- ▶ INCREASE ROOMS AND MEALS TAX RECEIPT REVENUE by \$5M/year.
- ▶ INCREASE AVERAGE LENGTH OF VISITOR STAY FROM 2.4 NIGHTS TO 2.5 NIGHTS by 2019.
- ▶ ATTRACT 1,000 GUESTS IN "STAY-TO-STAY" WEEKEND PROMOTION by the end of 2018.

GOAL: Western Rail Corridor Passenger Capacity



ECONOMY

AOT

CONTINUOUSLY WORK TO increase passenger rail capacity and usage in the Western Corridor.

Key Indicators

- ▶ EXTEND THE AMTRAK ETHAN ALLEN EXPRESS FROM RUTLAND TO BURLINGTON by 2022.
- ▶ EXTEND THE AMTRAK VERMONTNER TO MONTREAL two years after all legislative and operating agreements and infrastructure improvements are in place in Canada.
- ▶ INCREASE RIDERSHIP ON THE ETHAN ALLEN EXPRESS by 3% per year over 2017 baseline levels.
- ▶ INCREASE RIDERSHIP ON THE VERMONTNER by 3% per year over 2017 baseline levels.

GOAL: Tax Administration Cost/Benefit Analysis



ECONOMY

AOA

BY JANUARY 15, 2018, measure the cost to administer each tax type and benefit program in relation to the revenue it generates or the number of Vermonters served to provide policy makers with better information to aid them in making decisions most appropriate for Vermont. (TAX)

Key Indicators

- ▶ QUANTIFIED COST PER REVENUE GENERATED.
- ▶ KNOWN NUMBER OF VERMONTERS served by each major credit or benefit program.

GOAL: Industry Preferred Domicile



ECONOMY

DFR

BY FALL 2018, complete a feasibility study exploring the potential for increasing revenue and providing additional industry jobs by making Vermont a preferred domicile for insurance-linked securities (ILS) special purpose vehicles. If necessary, propose necessary enabling and/or regulatory legislation in FY 2019.

Key Indicators

- ▶ COMPLETE FEASIBILITY STUDY by Fall 2018.
- ▶ INTRODUCTION OF NECESSARY LEGISLATION in FY 2019.

GOAL: Agriculture as an Occupation



AAFM

BY FY2021, substantially increase promotion of agriculture and related industry as viable occupations.

Key Indicators

- ▶ INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS GOING INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL /AGRICULTURAL STUDIES by 5% at the secondary/high school level.
- ▶ AGENCY TO VISIT FIVE VERMONT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION/AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS EACH FISCAL YEAR to discuss agriculture as a career.
- ▶ ATTEND FOUR JOB FAIRS PER YEAR to recruit students to college level agricultural programs and to promote VT-based agricultural careers.

GOAL: Increase Agriculture Workforce



AAFM

BY 2021, increase the total agriculture workforce as a means of expanding the workforce, diversifying the state's population and increasing taxable income.

Key Indicators

- ▶ BY 2018 DEVELOP A PLAN FOR EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT.
- ▶ IN 2019 IMPLEMENT PLAN and welcome first round of 10# workers.
- ▶ IN 2020 INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM by 2% total workers and by 5% of farms.

GOAL: Technology Commercialization in Businesses



ACCD

BY 2021, support the growth of existing VT businesses, and recruit or help create new businesses in VT (or VT based) via technology commercialization.

Key Indicators

- ▶ INCREASE IN THE VALUE AND NUMBER OF CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN AT LEAST 200 EXISTING BUSINESSES by 2021.
- ▶ INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF BUSINESS CREATED / RECRUITED AS REPORTED THROUGH VEGI, RDC NETWORKS AND OTHER FUNDED PARTNERS by a minimum of 20.
- ▶ IMPLEMENT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARKETING PLAN.
 - ▶ LAUNCH OF THINK VERMONT CAMPAIGN AND THINKVERMONT.COM.
 - ▶ INCREASE THINKVERMONT.COM IMPRESSIONS, UNIQUE VISITORS AND CLICK THROUGH RATES by (percentage to be determined after baseline is established) per quarter during calendar years 2018–22.

GOAL: Outdoor Recreation Expansion



ANR

BY 2022, expand opportunities for exceptional outdoor recreation experiences and expand the outdoor recreation economy through the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC). (This goal is related to ACCD SPG #5.)

Key Indicators

- ▶ BY 2020, COMPLETE comprehensive recreation asset maps.
- ▶ INCREASE CONSUMER SPENDING related to outdoor recreation activities in Vermont by 10% over 2017 levels.
- ▶ INCREASE OUTDOOR RECREATION-CENTRIC JOBS by 5%.
- ▶ INCREASE NEW VERMONTERS who respond to survey saying they come to Vermont for the outdoor recreation lifestyle by 10%.
- ▶ 9% INCREASE IN WOMEN'S SHARE OF HUNTING AND FISHING PARTICIPATION.
- ▶ 1.25% INCREASE IN ANGLER PARTICIPATION (license sales and outreach events).

GOAL: Forest Management Workforce



ANR

BY 2022, increase the number of jobs in forest management and protection in Vermont. (This goal is related to ACCD SPG #4 and VDOL SPG #2.)

Key Indicators

- ▶ INCREASE SALES OF EFFICIENT WOOD AND PELLET HEATING SYSTEMS in homes and smaller institutional buildings by 20% 5,400 pellet stoves and 845 pellet
- ▶ BY 2020, GROW THE NUMBER OF WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURED FOREST ECONOMY EMPLOYERS by 50% (100 to 150).
- ▶ MAINTAIN CURRENT JOBS IN VALUE ADDED WOOD PRODUCT EMPLOYMENT in response to looming pressures that could significantly decrease these jobs.

GOAL: Increase Timely and Accurate Enrollment



VULNERABLE

AHS

BY 2019, improve eligibility and enrollment processes to reduce duration of process time and increase eligibility and enrollment accuracy.

Key Indicators

- ▶ INCREASE TIMELINESS OF ENROLLMENT PROCESS in selected programs by 1%–5%.
- ▶ REDUCE ERROR RATES IN ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION in selected programs by 1%–5%.

GOAL: Increase Vermont Workforce Numbers



VULNERABLE

ACCD

BY JULY 1, 2020, eliminate, and by 2024 reverse, the decline in VT's labor force participation by reengaging and assisting discouraged and/or under-trained workers, targeting outreach to disenfranchised youth, bolstering employment services to individuals exiting the correctional system, minimizing barriers to employment for individuals on public assistance, and investing in career awareness resources for young Vermonters. (Supporting VDOL goal)

Key Indicators

- ▶ BY THE END OF 2018 ACHIEVE FULL EXECUTIVE BRANCH AWARENESS OF, AND SUPPORT FOR, THE CRITICAL IMPERATIVE OF EXPANDING THE STATE'S WORKFORCE AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION.
- ▶ THE NUMBER OF WIOA PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCING AN INCREASE IN WAGES WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF UNSUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT WILL INCREASE from an average of \$13.00 per hour in PY2016, to \$14.50 per hour by PY2018.
- ▶ THE NUMBER OF WIOA PARTICIPANTS REMAINING IN UNSUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT 6 MONTHS AFTER HIRE, WILL INCREASE from 59% in federal Program Year (PY) 2016 to 65% in PY2019, and 75% by 2022.
- ▶ BY JULY 1, 2020, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENTERING THE LABOR FORCE WILL EQUAL THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LEAVING THE LABOR FORCE; BY 2024 THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENTERING THE LABOR FORCE WILL EXCEED THE NUMBER LEAVING THE LABOR FORCE. (This objective is dependent upon participation by multiple state agencies/departments).

GOAL: Labor Force Participation Rate



VULNERABLE

VDOL

BY JULY 1, 2020, eliminate, and by 2024 reverse, the decline in VT's labor force participation by reengaging and assisting discouraged and/or under-trained workers, targeting outreach to disenfranchised youth, bolstering employment services to individuals exiting the correctional system, minimizing barriers to employment for individuals on public assistance, and investing in career awareness resources for young Vermonters. (See Labor Force Participation Plan Appendix for details.)

Key Indicators

- ▶ BY 2018 ACHIEVE FULL EXECUTIVE BRANCH AWARENESS OF, AND SUPPORT FOR, THE CRITICAL IMPERATIVE OF EXPANDING THE STATE'S WORKFORCE AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION.
- ▶ THE NUMBER OF WIOA PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCING AN INCREASE IN WAGES WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF UNSUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT WILL INCREASE from an average of \$13.00 per hour in PY2016, to \$14.50 per hour by PY2018.
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- ▶ BY JULY 1, 2020, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENTERING THE LABOR FORCE WILL EQUAL THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LEAVING THE LABOR FORCE; BY 2024 THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENTERING THE LABOR FORCE WILL EXCEED THE NUMBER LEAVING THE LABOR FORCE. (This objective is dependent upon participation by multiple state agencies/departments).

GOAL: Increasing Opportunity for Vulnerable Populations



VULNERABLE

AOE

BY 2020, Vermont will have reduced inequities between students in our Historically Marginalized Group (FRL, IEP, Migrant, ELL, Foster, Ethnic Minority) and those without these characteristics for all measures described in Goal #1.

Key Indicators

- ▶ REDUCE EQUITY GAP in the percentage of students with Personalized Learning Plans.
- ▶ REDUCE EQUITY GAP in the percent of students completing two non-traditional learning opportunities by 5%.
- ▶ REDUCE EQUITY GAP in the percent of graduating seniors meeting one or more career/college ready assessments by 5%.
- ▶ REDUCE EQUITY GAP in participation in dual enrollment, early college and other state programs by 5%.
- ▶ REDUCE EQUITY GAP in the average scale score of students on English, Math, and Science assessments in all grades. See Appendix for specific goals.
- ▶ REDUCE EQUITY GAP in the 4-year and 6-year graduation rate. See Appendix for specific goals.
- ▶ IMPLEMENT TWO STATEWIDE STRATEGIES from the DLM report to better serve students with learning needs.
- ▶ INCREASE PERCENT OF FRL STUDENTS accessing PreK/or increasing their dosage of PreK by 5%.

See equity goals in Appendix

Scoring Criteria - NBRC



- The 2019 NBRC – EID round brought 60 applications - we anticipate that this round will be an equally rigorous competition!
- The most competitive applications will clearly document the economic impacts of the project. **REMEMBER** you will be up against projects with impressive regional and/or statewide impact!
- Applications that align with the **Grow the Economy** strategic goals will be most highly scored. The full strategic plan can be viewed here: <https://strategicplan.vermont.gov/strategic-plan>.
- Consult the 2020 NBRC Application Manual and the notes, FAQ's and other guidance provided on the NBRC website!

NBRC – EID Application Timeline



March 2: Application materials available on NBRC website.

March 31: Letters of notification due.

April 6: Application portal live on NBRC website.

May 15 (5pm EST): Application deadline.

June 30: Previous awardees must have completed 75% of projects to be eligible for 2020 award.

August 10 – August 14: NBRC notification of awards & notice to unsuccessful applicants.

August 17 – September 11: NBRC grant agreement preparation & distribution.

Early October: Mandatory grant recipient workshop.

Application Submission Contacts:



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