

EARLY CARE & LEARNING

STRATEGY: Make the necessary investments to ensure that every child 0-5 in Vermont has access to high-quality, affordable care and education.

The Foundation will support efforts/programs that:

- Expand the availability of early care and education in local communities
- Increase the quality of available early care and education
- Decrease the cost of early care and education, based on family need

The **Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children**, a supporting organization of the Community Foundation, lends subject matter expertise and philanthropic leadership to this strategic focus area. Learn more about their work at permanentfund.org.

COLLEGE & CAREER TRAINING

STRATEGY: Make the necessary investments to ensure that 70% of working age Vermonters have a postsecondary degree or credential of value.

The Foundation will support efforts/programs that:

- Identify and eliminate barriers to postsecondary access and success for low-income and first-generation youth and adults
- Strengthen the pathways from education and training to employment
- Change the narrative to ensure public recognition of college and career training as a shared value

The **J. Warren & Lois McClure Foundation**, a supporting organization of the Community Foundation, lends subject matter expertise and philanthropic leadership to this strategic focus area. Learn more about their work at mclurevt.org.

SUPPORT FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

STRATEGY: Make the necessary investments that allow families to offer a safe, stable, enriching environment for their children. Wherever possible, look for opportunities to support whole-family and multi-generation programming.

Our target populations include: single-parent households led by women; children who have experienced adverse childhood events, including family violence; children of incarcerated parents or those with a parent in substance abuse or medical treatment, including those in foster care.

The Foundation will support efforts/programs that:

- Expand and strengthen out-of-school learning opportunities (after-school and summer programs) that serve our target population
- Support substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery
- Enhance programs that promote mental health
- Expand programs that connect families to the full spectrum of emergency, transitional, and affordable housing
- Support programs that lower the financial barriers to basic needs beyond housing, including food security, transportation and health care
- Improve financial literacy
- Help employers support employees who are facing financial or life stresses
- Expand and strengthen mentoring programs

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC VITALITY

STRATEGY: Make the necessary investments to ensure that communities have the resources to realize their potential as places where children, youth, and their families want to live, work, and play. Focus on the places where commerce, community, and culture intersect.

Wherever possible, invest in opportunities that are designed to: attract/retain young people; and build meaningful cross-cultural and cross-socioeconomic connections.

The Foundation will support efforts/programs that:

- Encourage civic engagement
- Spur job creation, entrepreneurship and the growth of local economies, in both urban and farm- and forest-based communities
- Encourage land use that protects and enhances vibrant downtowns and village centers, the working landscape and access to outdoor recreation
- Support efforts that help youth feel connected to – and engaged in – their communities
- Ensure that communities are safe, respectful, and inclusive
- Promote healthy ecosystems - clean water, clean air, fertile soil, and diverse wildlife
- Support efforts to build preparedness in the face of more frequent and severe storms and other impacts of climate change
- Develop local infrastructure that improves economic opportunity and quality of life (e.g. broadband, clean energy, and public or bike/pedestrian transportation)
- Expand access to arts and multi-cultural opportunities for all residents