Opportunity: 11 Critical Paths for Philanthropy in Vermont

You will find a list of citations for each of the opportunities in the report below.

Help Working Families Thrive (pages 10-11)

1. “An estimated 46,000 working families....”
   

2. “Vermont’s cost of living is the 9th most expensive....”
   

3. “46,000 working families (nearly 1 in 4) in Vermont are not earning enough...”
   
   Ibid. “American Community Survey.”

4. “More than one in five renting households in Vermont spends over 50% of its paycheck on rent.”
   

5. “The average Vermont family with two kinds spends between $15,000 and $20,000 a year on child care.”
   

6. “ Forty percent of all Vermont families rely in some measure on the food bank/food support system.”
   
   Hunger Free Vermont Website: https://www.hungerfreevt.org/

7. “The hunger rate among Vermont seniors increased 60% between 2012 and 2014.”
   
Improve Access to Mental Health Care (pages 12-13)

1. “In certain geographic pockets of the state, some residents have virtually no access to mental health services.”


2. “5.8%: the percentage of Vermont adults who had a serious mental illness…”


3. “24,000: the number of Vermont adults who had serious thoughts about suicide…”


4. “Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Vermonters ages 15-34.”


5. “One year: the approximate length of time patients spend on the waitlist for the pediatric psychiatry clinic at the University of Vermont Medical Center.”


6. “43%: the percentage of Vermonters with depression who are not treated.”

Bring Quality Education to All Residents (pages 14-15)

1. “Vermont has among the lowest rates in the country for children from low-income families attending academic and enrichment programs outside of school.”


   Vermont Afterschool Alliance Blog, January 2015.

2. “Vermont has one of the lowest rates in the country for children from low-income families...”


3. “While Vermont ranks well in high school graduation rates, our pipeline...”

   Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, “Senior Survey Vermont High School Class of 2012.”

4. “62%: the percentage of low-income three- and four-year-olds who do not attend preschool. “


5. “Vermont ranks last in the nation for the percentage of low income children who participate in academic and enrichment programs outside of school time.”

   Ibid. “Every Hour Counts Report.”

6. “Vermont high school students who are the first-generation of their family to consider college have aspirations that range from 20% to 26% lower than non-first-generation students.”

Clean up Our Rivers and Lakes (pages 18-19)

1. “The Green Mountain State is the largest contributor of pollution to Lake Champlain…”

   U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “Phosphorus TMDLs for Vermont Segments of Lake Champlain.” August 2015.

2. “The problem extends beyond the state’s most iconic water body to the many state lakes, rivers, and streams that do not meet national water quality standards.”


3. “A recent resident-requested tax reassessment in the lakeside town of Georgia…”


4. “36%: the amount by which Vermont needs to cut phosphorous run-off into Lake Champlain…”

   Herrick, John, “State looks beyond shoreline effort to clean up Lake Champlain,” Vermont Digger, February 2014.

5. “82%: the percentage of Vermont lakeshore lands in ‘poor’ or ‘fair’ condition because of excessive clearing.”


6. “In the first nine months of 2015, more than 2.4 million gallons of untreated sewage and effluent have flowed into Vermont waterways.”


Benefit More Consumers and Producers (pages 20-21)

1. “Farm Incomes today are lower than they were in 1970.”
Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Vermont Farm to Plate, “Vermont Farm to Plate Strategic Plan,” July 2013.

2. “In fact, only about half of farmers list farming as their primary income.”
   

3. “While the number of farms in Vermont increased between 2007 and 2012, 58% of farms reported net losses in 2012.”
   

4. “34,320: the number of Vermont households that lack reliable access to sufficient, affordable, nutritious food.”
   

5. “4,189: the number of new food related jobs added in Vermont between 2009 and 2013.”
   


6. “Only two of the top 20 occupations in food production in Vermont had higher than average wages.”


Confront the Realities of an Aging Population (pages 22-23)
1. “By 2030 the state estimates that…”


2. “Vermont’s population of residents aged 65 and older is…”


3. “8000: the projected shortage of affordable housing units for seniors by 2020.”

Ibid. “Vermont Housing Needs Assessment.”

4. “50%: the percentage of hospitalized Vermont seniors who suffer from malnutrition severe enough to either cause illness or impede recovery.”


5. “Vermont ranks #1 in the nation for the number of residents 65 years and older who receive personal and home care and ranks sixth for those receiving home-delivered meals.”


**Expand Affordable Housing (pages 24-25)**

1. “The state’s Housing Gap is projected to increase over the next five years for both rental housing and homeownership.” “The state’s pool of affordable housing is one of the worst in the country, and low vacancy rates across the state only tighten the squeeze.”

Ibid. “Vermont Housing Needs Assessment.” Executive Summary p. 3.

2. “Homelessness in Vermont shot up nearly 30% over the last five years.”

3. “An estimated three-quarters of adults with severe mental illness are homeless.”

4. “Some prisoners in the state corrections system remain behind bars solely because…”

5. “Victims of domestic violence find themselves…”


7. “1%: the vacancy rate for Vermont’s affordable housing units. Four to six percent is considered a healthy market.”

8. “In 2013, nearly three out of five Vermonters spent more than 30% of their income on housing.”

9. “Vermont’s housing stock is the second-oldest in the country, resulting in…”

Tackle Substance Abuse (pages 28-29)

1. “Vermont’s rate of illicit drug use ranks high nationally, especially for teens”
   Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration “Results from the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings,” 2014.
2. “Drug related crimes are on the rise, up 46% since 2009.”


3. “...up to 80% of incarcerated individuals can trace their arrest back to drugs”


4. “Vermont ranks 3rd in the nation for the percentage of 12-17 year olds who report using an illicit drug in the past 30 days.”

Ibid. “Results from the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings.”

5. “80%: the percentage of children under the age of 3 taken into state custody for neglect and abuse who come from families with opiate addiction issues.”


6. “Some Vermont youth services agencies report that as many as 40% of the at-risk youth they serve are addicted to opiates.”

Nilsen, Colleen. Personal interview. 2015.

Match Workforce Skills to Employer Needs (pages 30-31)

1. “Three hundred plumbers. More than two thousand nurses. Six hundred construction managers. Nearly eight hundred elementary school teachers. These are the kind and numbers of jobs expected to open in Vermont in the next twenty years.”


2. “In five very short years, between 60% and 65% of job openings will require some sort of post-secondary training...”
3. “Nationally, between 60% and 65% of all job openings will require a 2- or 4-year degree ...”
   
   Ibid. Center on Education and the Workforce.

4. “It’s estimated that fewer than 27% of Vermont 9th graders will complete college.”
   
   Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. “Senior Survey Vermont High School Class of 2012.”

5. “In a recent study, Vermont was ranked 46th out of 50 states”
   

Limit Forest Fragmentation (pages 32-33)

1. “Vermonters consume land at a rate that outpaces...”
   

2. “The costs of owning an acre of forestland shot up 73% between 2003 and 2009...”
   

3. “80%: the percentage of Vermont forests that are privately owned.”
   
   Snyder, Michael. Personal Interview. 2015.


4. “...more than half of that land is owned by senior Vermonters”
5. “$1.5 Billion: the amount of revenue that Vermont’s forest products industry generates annually.”


 Keep the Arts Vibrant (pages 34-35)

1. “Some studies show that arts education creates critical thinkers, builds resilience, and teaches students tolerance and empathy. Other research suggests that young people who are engaged in the arts are more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, participate in math and science fairs, and win awards for school attendance.”

Evans, Karin, Greater Good Science Center, University of California, Berkeley, “Arts and Smarts,” December 2008.


2. “Windham County arts nonprofits participated....”

Americans for the Arts, “Arts and Economic Prosperity IV,” 2012

3. “National studies reveal that federal, state and local tax revenues generated by the arts community through direct and indirect sales return an average of $7 for every $1 invested by government in the arts.”


4. “Multiple independent national studies have shown increased years of enrollment in arts courses are positively correlated with higher SAT verbal and math scores.”