

GOVERNOR SCOTT'S PRIORITY INITIATIVES:

EXPANDING & STRENGTHENING VERMONT'S WORKFORCE

Making Workforce a Top Priority

After years of consistent declines in the number of Vermonters in our workforce, Governor Scott stated it should be the top priority of all elected officials to expand and strengthen Vermont's workforce.

- To lead a dynamic, coordinated and cross-agency workforce expansion effort, the Governor appointed a team of two former legislators from both sides of the political aisle.
- Developed a labor force expansion plan with strategic efforts across agencies, sectors and industries,

Relocation, Recruitment, and Retention

- Proposed and secured \$1.2 million to recruit and relocate workers under the New Worker Relocation Incentive Program.
- Added \$225,000 in the FY20 budget to help recruit new workers and families at local and regional levels through regional partnership grants. This initiative is focused on expanding the workforce in regional economic centers statewide.
- Improved coordination between the Department of Labor and key workforce development partners to support training opportunities that will help Vermonters grow in their careers or gain new skills for better-paying jobs.
- Creating an easier path for military members and New Americans to enter the workforce through expanded recruitment, simplified processes and improved collaboration.

Fostering Training Opportunities

- Proposed and passed a \$400,000 investment to purchase training equipment, fit up new space, and expand adult career and technical education training opportunities at career and technical education centers (CTEs) across Vermont.
- Building on this success, invested \$275,000 in the FY20 budget to expand apprenticeships, training and post secondary career and technical education for Vermont workers.
- Proposed and passed a new initiative to examine how to deliver associate degree programs at CTE centers in order to provide an affordable and convenient option for a high-skilled, high-demand and industry-specific degree.

Modernized Licensing Requirements & Processes to Expand Workforce

- Working with the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), the Governor proposed and passed Act 119 of 2018, making it easier for servicemen and women to transition into the civilian workforce in Vermont.
- Working with OPR, providers and industry stakeholders, reformed administrative rules governing licensed treatment professionals. These reforms allow for growth in the number of professionals in the mental health and substance use disorder treatment fields.

Small Business-Based Recruitment

- Proposed and passed legislation to expand the Department of Labor's role in, and ability to fund, small business workforce recruiting efforts.

Mature Workers & Returnships

- Proposed and secured an additional \$100,000 in funding to implement a statewide Vermont Returnship Program for individuals returning to the workforce after an extended absence or seeking a limited duration job.

BROAD WORKFORCE GOAL OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

GOAL: Increase the number and skill level of available workers in Vermont.

Three key strategies:

1. Increase the Labor Participation Rate of Vermonters
2. Recruit and Relocate More Workers to Vermont
3. Assist Employers in Accessing and Retaining Qualified Workers