



The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation is unique in its scope and role. Created by the Legislature in 1965 as a public nonprofit agency, we advocate for students and their families to ensure that they have the information, the counseling and the financial aid to achieve their education goals.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

**GRANTS**  
**\$19.4**  
**MILLION**

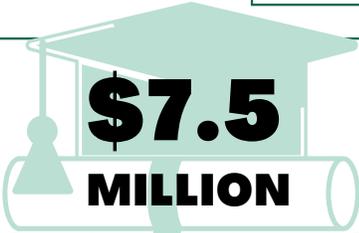
Awarded 11,551 need-based grants to Vermont students

6,972 full-time students received \$14,855,229

2,693 part-time students received \$1,770,788

1,408 non-degree students received \$2,676,421

478 microgrants awarded in the amount of \$136,421



**\$7.5**  
**MILLION**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Administers 145 public and private scholarships through 5,834 awards.

**New and noteworthy Vermont scholarships:**

**VT Nursing Workforce Incentive Loan Program (interest-free and forgivable).** Established by the Legislature for students committed to working as nurses in Vermont.



**CTE Adult Training Scholarship.**

Created to provide funds to eligible students enrolled in Career Technical Education courses to enhance employability.

**Let's Grow Kids Scholarship for Aspiring Early Educators.**

Created to increase the quality and availability of teachers working in infant/toddler and Pre-K programs in Vermont.



**VERMONT HIGHER EDUCATION INVESTMENT PLAN (VT529)**

**SAVING**

The value of 25,642 accounts as of 6/30/21

\$36 million from VT529 accounts used by students to pay for qualified education expenses in FY21.



**VT ADVANTAGE STUDENT LOANS**

VSAC administers \$36.1 Million in Vermont Advantage Loans

\$580,000 saved by VSAC borrowers in FY21 through the borrower benefit program and \$181.8 million since 1995.

VSAC services \$610 million in federal and private loans.



The 802 Opportunity Program offers Vermonters from families making less than \$50K a year the opportunity to attend the Community College of Vermont (CCV) tuition free by combining Vermont and federal grant programs. So far this year over 1,740 students have taken advantage of this opportunity. This program will continue this spring semester and for the 2022-2023 school year. Students who started full-time this fall could earn their Associates Degree by next spring without ever paying tuition!



## GRADUATION ASPIRATIONS

VSAC Aspirations Project received **\$300,000** in funding from the Legislature. The project, available to high schools across the state, supports creating a path for all students to graduate with a plan for future education and career opportunities.

**Isabel Cobb,**  
Springfield

*"Before starting the VSAC program, I thought that I might want to go to college, but I didn't know how to get there. VSAC is a life-saver!"*



**Cassandra Bittner,**  
St. Albans

*"College is amazing, and I am very thankful for VSAC for helping me get here, VSAC is very close to my heart."*

Learn more about programs & partners at (800) 642-3177, [info@vsac.org](mailto:info@vsac.org), or [vsac.org](http://vsac.org)

## OPENING DOORS FOR VERMONT STUDENTS

The State of Vermont, Vermont State Colleges System, and VSAC launched the **Green Mountain Grad** program allowing every 2020 and 2021 Vermont high school graduate to take one tuition-free course at any Vermont State College.



Hosted hundreds of online and Zoom webinars and **Virtual College Fairs**, taking the place of group information sessions and in-person meetings. More than 1,000 parents and students attended free "Paying for College" sessions online, and 412 people tuned into **College & Career Pathways** virtual workshops. Recordings and webinars have received over 1,500 video views on YouTube.

## EDUCATING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE



The **Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)** was founded in 1991, and has helped more than 60,000 adult Vermonters get the workforce training that is vital to Vermont's economy and growth. The EOC counselors work with some 1,600 Vermonters who do not have bachelor's degrees and wish to continue their education to get a degree or certificate.

Federally funded TRIO programs like Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers and GEAR Up increased the number of adults and high school graduates who continued their education.

VSAC outreach staff counseled more than 6,365 low-income and/or first-generation, college-bound Vermont students of all ages.

## TALENT SEARCH STUDENTS

The federally-funded **Talent Search** program, which has made great strides connecting modest income Vermont high school students with opportunities for college and training, works in 46 middle and high schools across the state.

VSAC Talent Search counselors work with approximately 1,000 Vermont students, supporting them in areas such as study skills, career exploration, the college research and application processes, and selection of high school courses that will best prepare them for their post-secondary track.