VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION
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2026-2027 Academic Year
Rural Health Transformation Tuition Benefit Program

VTRHT **DEADLINE: 6/12/2026**

Any student	Undergrad or Graduate program	½ time
TYPE OF STUDENT	TYPE OF PROGRAM	MINIMUM ENROLLMENT

(Sponsored by the State of Vermont, Vermont Department of Health and Agency of Human Services)

This program was established by Vermont Department of Health, Agency of Human Services and VSAC to support individuals pursuing education in eligible health related fields who are committed to serving rural Vermont communities following degree completion.

Eligibility

- Commit to working in Vermont, as a healthcare professional in a healthcare setting, serving a rural population (minimum 32 hours per week), for a minimum of 5 years following completion of your degree and receipt of your license (if applicable) –
  - Travelling nurse/professionals are ineligible.
  - Telehealth work is not eligible.
  - Employment averaging fewer than 32 hours per week will not be credited toward the service obligation and will result in required repayment of the benefit received.
- Serving a rural community **is defined as working at a facility/office that is in**:
  - Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, or Windsor County **or**
  - One of the following zip codes in Chittenden County; 05445 (Charlotte), 05461(Hinesburg), 05462 (Huntington), 05465 (Jericho), 05466 (Jonesville), 05468 (Milton), 05477(Richmond), 05489 (Underhill), 05490 (Underhill Center), or 05494 (Westford) **or**
  - All Community Health Centers of Burlington locations, home health agencies or community mental health centers in Chittenden County, regardless of zip code.
- Must not be actively enrolled in a privately funded loan forgiveness program (like the Workforce Opportunity Loan Program) or be in repayment phase of a State of Vermont or privately funded loan forgiveness program.
- Have not received more than the equivalent of 4 years of funding from the Vermont Rural Health Transformation Tuition Benefit Program in your lifetime
- Seek an undergraduate or graduate degree (unless otherwise indicated) in one of the following programs:
  - Allied Health
    - Dental Hygiene
    - Radiology Technology
    - Respiratory Therapy
    - Occupational Therapy
  - Mental Health
    - Clinical Mental Health
    - Community Mental Health Counseling
    - Marriage and Family Therapy
    - Mental Health Counseling
    - Social Work
    - Psychology

- Nursing
  - LPN
  - Associate degree
  - Bachelor's Degree
  - Graduate or higher (APRN, MSN, DSN)
- Emergency Medical Services/Paramedicine (must be a degree program, not a certificate program)
- Dentistry (graduate level or higher only)

- Enroll at least half-time
- Maintain good standing at your school (minimum 2.50 GPA)
- Complete and sign a Tuition Benefit Agreement agreeing to reimburse VSAC for the full amount received in tuition benefit funds if the employment commitment is not met
- Priority given to Vermont residents, however, non-Vermont residents who commit to working in Vermont for 5 years (minimum 32 hours per week) following graduation and licensure (if applicable) may apply and will be considered if funding is available
- Attend an accredited school approved for federal Title IV funding (Pell grants, federal Direct loans)

Required Documents:

Unified Scholarship Application, FAFSA, essay #1 (general essay), transcript and tuition benefit agreement (***to be sent after selection and awarding***) acknowledging commitment to work as a healthcare professional serving a rural population for a minimum of 5 years (minimum 32 hours per week) following completion of program and licensure (if applicable)

Award Amount:

- The maximum award is UVM's in-state tuition, or the tuition of a higher-cost Vermont State University (VTSU) program if you are enrolled in one.
- The amount disbursed will be your actual tuition charges as verified by your school at the time of disbursement, up to your award amount. This means the amount disbursed to your school may be lower than your award.

If your tuition is fully covered by other tuition-specific financial aid, this award may be applied toward room, board, books, and supplies. However, the award amount may not exceed VTSU or UVM's in-state tuition cost for your program.

Funding is limited and will be awarded on a first come first served basis. Those who apply by the postmark deadline will be considered first.

Conditions

The total tuition benefit will be forgiven upon completion of 5 years (minimum 32 hours per week) of employment as a healthcare professional in a Vermont healthcare setting, serving a rural community.

Note: You will be financially responsible for reimbursing VSAC for the full amount received from the tuition benefit program, if you do not:

- complete the degree program (or receive your license) for which you received the funds, or
- work for five years in a Vermont rural healthcare setting
  - If you work a portion of the 5 years, the portion you will be responsible for repaying will be prorated according to the fraction of the service obligation not completed, as determined by VSAC.

Selection: Applications will be funded on a first come first serve basis until the funding allocation for the program area is exhausted. Priority given to Vermont residents.

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See the next page for application instructions.

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How to Apply

Step 1: Complete the Unified Scholarship Application (USA)

If you have…	Then…
Already applied for VTDENTIST, VTDHYGIENE, VTNURSE2	Since the funding for this program is considered on a rolling basis until funds are depleted, we*'ve added the* **Rural Health Transformation Workforce Tuition Support Program** to your application for consideration. ○ Please review the required documents and ensure your MyVSAC Work with Scholarships and Forgivable Loans account reflects them as received. ▪ If you have already submitted these documents, no further action is needed. If you have not yet submitted them, you must do so by **June 12, 2026**.
Already submitted a USA, **but did not apply** for other health related forgivable loans	By **June 12, 2026:** • Log into your MyVSAC Work with Scholarships and Forgivable loans account at www.vsac.org • Click on Scholarships in the menu on the left-hand side • Click on the ***Add Rural Health Transformation Tuition Support Program*** button
Not already submitted the USA	By **June 12, 2026:** • Log into your MyVSAC Work with Scholarships and Forgivable loans account at www.vsac.org • Click on Submit 2026-2027 Unified Scholarship Application under 'Submit Application' and follow the instructions.

Step 2: Submit all Required Documents by June 12 2026:

- To complete your application, you must submit the following required documents (***if you haven't already***):
  - FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
  - Essay # 1 (General essay),
  - Transcript

For more information and instruction about these documents, refer to pages 1-4 of the Scholarships and Forgivable Loans for Vermonters booklet:
https://www.vsac.org/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf_resources/Scholarships_Booklet.pdf

If you have any questions, email scholarships@vsac.org

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