



VERMONT COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP (VCAP)

Annual Report 2021





"We were there to respond to the global pandemic as it impacted Vermonters, and we'll be there to respond to the next disaster, whether it's a massive economic, natural, or health disaster, or a localized crisis that befalls an individual household or community. The thousands and thousands of people we've helped over the last half century know that we will, because they know from firsthand experience that **community action speaks louder than words.**"

STEVE GELLER, Executive Director, SEVCA
With over 40 years of commitment to Community Action

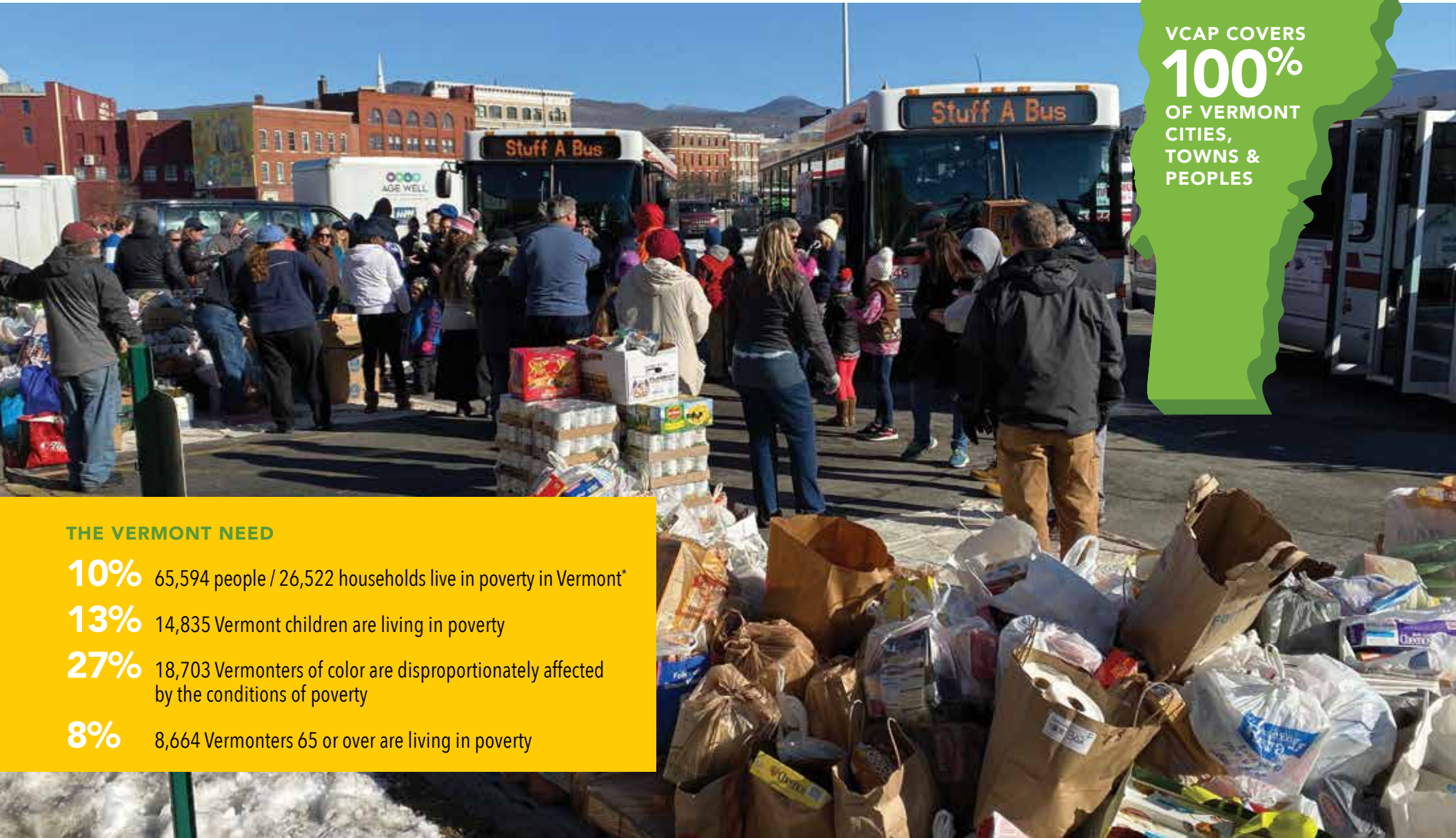
VERMONT COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIPS PROVIDED SERVICES TO

37,311	18,907	973	1,301	3,691	9,476	7,058	2,576
Vermonters with low income	Vermont households	Vermont Veterans	Vermonters experiencing homelessness	Vermonters of color	Vermont seniors	Vermonters with disabilities	Vermonters employed full time

VCAP COVERS
100%
OF VERMONT
CITIES,
TOWNS &
PEOPLES

THE VERMONT NEED

- 10%** 65,594 people / 26,522 households live in poverty in Vermont*
- 13%** 14,835 Vermont children are living in poverty
- 27%** 18,703 Vermonters of color are disproportionately affected by the conditions of poverty
- 8%** 8,664 Vermonters 65 or over are living in poverty





"It was somebody right there with me, walking beside me, to guide me through...I have now owned my business for 11 years."

PARTICIPANT

Vermont Community Action agencies help thousands of individuals and families improve their economic stability. During 2021 we stemmed the tide of distressed microbusinesses, provided direct business counseling, offered educational workshops and helped Vermonters hold on to and grow their savings accounts. We provided essential assistance with tax preparation through refundable Child Tax Credits and ensuring access to stimulus funds.

THE VERMONT NEED

22.6%

of Vermonters have income volatility

20%

of Vermonters have low financial well-being

21%

of Vermonters are employed by micro-businesses

3.5%

of Vermonters are unemployed

\$61,973

is the median income for Vermonters

VCAP REACH

1,727 individuals received coaching to build assets and increase financial skills

751 enrolled in financial capability classes

3,919 Vermonters received tax assistance

Vermont micro businesses received help from the EMBRACE Program through the BROCC Community Action leadership with Federal funding

VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT

163 Vermonters increased their savings

558 micro-business and development start-up classes were held

\$5,564,686 in tax refunds were returned to the Vermont economy through the VITA Program

54 New Americans participated in financial coaching, house parties and classes

\$2,100,000 was distributed through EMBRACE to over **436** micro-businesses in the midst of a pandemic when business was faltering and low income entrepreneurs were struggling



Head Start, Early Head Start and **Parent Child Centers** promote early learning of children ages birth to 5 for families with low-income even in a pandemic. Programs support development of the whole child. Services include health, dental, education for pregnant women and family services. Children with disabilities are welcomed.

THE VERMONT NEED

5,279

of Vermont children between the ages of 0-4 live in poverty

12%

of children of color live in poverty

30,445

Vermont children are eligible for free and reduced lunch

VCAP REACH

1,267 Vermont children were served

1,243 home visits were made

590 children received dental assessments

655 children received physicals

VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT

590 Vermont families attended parenting classes addressing barriers to stability

824 parents improved family functioning skills

848 children became ready for kindergarten

“To know that someone believes in you and somebody cares, that can be the thing that really gives you that motivation to keep going.”

PARTICIPANT





"Thank you so much for your support, encouragement and this opportunity to step forward in my life and gain more confidence for my future."

PARTICIPANT

COMMUNITY BUILDING

VCAP agencies touch specific populations through programs like **Community Ambassadors, Fair Housing, Vermont Tenants, Mobile Home, Community Justice** and **thrift stores**. Community Action staff advocate for our vulnerable neighbors. They ensure that the voiceless and oppressed receive justice through community justice programs, relief from discrimination in housing and safety from domestic and sexual violence.

THE VERMONT NEED

7.3%

Vermont adults do not have high school diplomas

1,870

youth ages 16–19 are not working or in school

13.8%

Vermonters have poor or fair health status

27,121

Vermonters are uninsured

7.7%

Vermonters forgo Doctor's visits due to the cost

VCAP REACH

962 Vermonters attended Fair Housing workshops to learn about housing discrimination

413 Vermonters were helped with low or no-cost clothing, furniture and household items by NEKCA, SEVCA and BROCC

300 Vermonters were helped through training in the BROCC Community Action's Community Justice Program

VCAP agencies engaged in the effort to make our climate and world safer and more sustainable under the leadership of Capstone Community Action through the work of the VT Climate Council.

VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT

184 Vermonters avoided evictions

330 individuals improved their leadership skills through community engagement

534 Vermonters improved self-employment skills to provide for themselves and their families

395 Vermonters found safety in domestic and sexual assault intervention programs at CVOEO

507 hours of hotline support was provided to New American community members for help accessing vital resources



VCAP agencies were some of the first on the scene to address the ever growing food insecurity brought on by Covid-19. The agencies were able to do this through **food shelves**, **Community Kitchen Academy**, **Everyone Eats** and **Covid relief**. We have more than 50 years of experience of feeding the hungry and promoting nutrition and the well-being of Vermonters with low income. We are the front line.

THE VERMONT NEED

74,520

Vermonters are food insecure

18,560

children are food insecure

29,382

households are receiving SNAP benefits

VCAP REACH

1.68 million meals were prepared and distributed through Vermont Everyone Eats (VEE) under the leadership of SEVCA. VEE distributed over \$25 million worth of emergency food relief, injecting \$20 million directly into Vermont's restaurant and food producing economy

260 participating restaurants are on track to purchase \$1.8 million worth of food from more than 300 Vermont farms and food producers

27% of the ingredients for VEE meals are being sourced from Vermont

Community Kitchen Academy employed graduates to feed the hungry during the pandemic

5,627 individuals were assisted in applying for SNAP benefits

VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT

59,948 hot meals were made and distributed to those who are food insecure

48,779 boxes/bags of groceries were distributed

"Whether it is a food shelf, or the cooking class or the help with the taxes, there's hope"

PARTICIPANT





HOUSING ASSISTANCE

With an incredibly low vacancy rate in housing units in the midst of a pandemic, shelters needed to reduce beds for the safety of all staff and residents. VCAP agencies expanded services to help Vermonters both get and keep housing and to provide services onsite at hotels and motels accepting state emergency housing vouchers. Shelter was provided to Vermonters – including victims of domestic and sexual assault victims. Federal funding, the support of the Vermont Legislature and the leadership of the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity made this possible

THE VERMONT NEED

1.4%

vacancy rate for housing

1,481

unsafe and unsanitary occupied
Vermont housing units

80,373

renter occupied households in
Vermont

46.7%

of renters have a housing
cost burden

VCAP REACH

VCAP agencies provided services to the homeless in hotel settings. CVOEO has a Street Outreach Team and is operating a Community Resource Center

VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT

743 Vermonters experiencing homelessness were provided temporary housing

1,301 individuals experienced homelessness and were helped to find permanent housing

1,584 Vermonters obtained safe, affordable and permanent housing

1,675 Vermonters received support to find housing

599 Vermonters received security deposits

671 Vermonters received rental assistance

“They made us feel as though we weren’t worthless, that we did have potential, that every little step was something to celebrate.” PARTICIPANT





"Weatherization raised me and my family's quality of life by improving our comfort levels in our own home."

PARTICIPANT

Weatherization, Emergency Home Heating, Crisis Fuel, Warmth and Home Heating & Utility Assistance give Vermonters with low income, especially older Vermonters, people with disabilities and families with children the ability to save fuel and money by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. Vermonters are warmer, healthier and have more of an ability to face the ravages of a pandemic in the midst of job loss, increased isolation and cold. We are addressing climate change through Weatherization by saving one home at a time.

THE VERMONT NEED

16%

of annual income spent on energy costs by Vermonters with low income

Vermont has some of the oldest housing stock in the nation

15.4%

of adult Vermonters suffer from asthma

VCAP REACH

727 units/homes were weatherized by VCAP Agencies

\$903,090 was spent on labor, materials and replacement systems through the Emergency Heating Repair and Replacement program

\$746,269 was raised in the heating season for the Warmth Program, which is sustained entirely by donations

VCAP ANNUAL IMPACT

2,225 Vermonters are safer, healthier and warmer because of the work of weatherization

3,414 Vermonters were served through the Crisis fuel program for short term emergency assistance

2,270 Vermont households have improved energy efficiency and energy burden reduction



VCAP LEADERSHIP



BROCC Community Action

TOM DONAHUE

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Serving Rutland and Bennington Counties



Capstone Community Action

SUE MINTER

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Serving Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties; Granville and Hancock in Addison County; Pittsfield in Rutland County; Barnard, Bethel, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon and Stockbridge in Windsor County



Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

PAUL DRAGON

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Serving Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle and Addison Counties except for the towns of Granville and Hancock



Northeast Kingdom Community Action

JENNA O'FARRELL

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Serving Orleans, Essex and Caledonia Counties

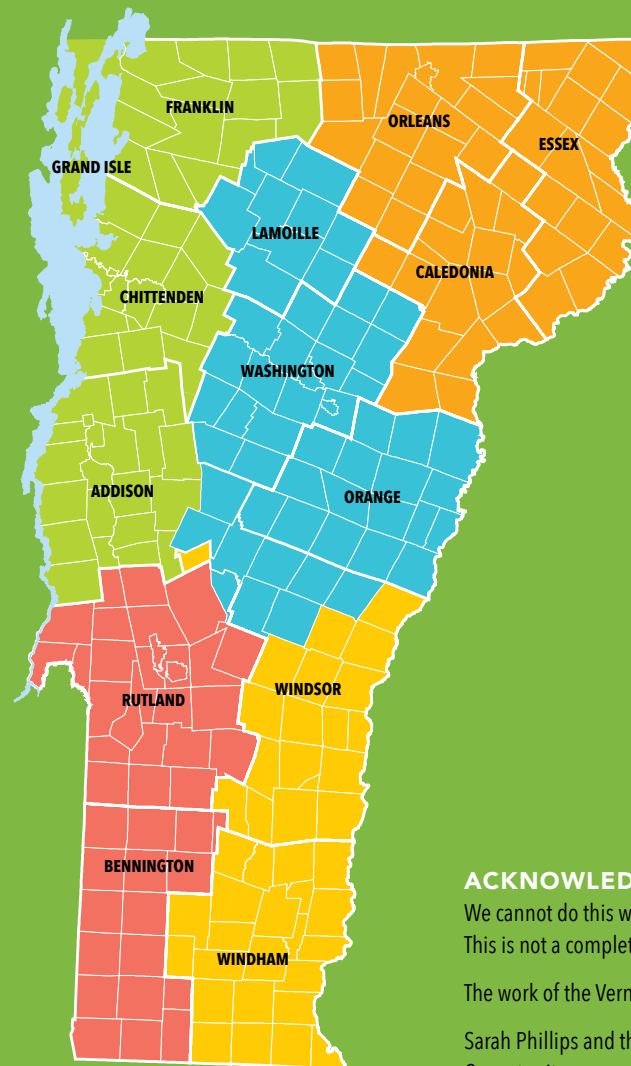


Southeastern Vermont Community Action

STEVE GELLER

sgeller@sevca.org

Serving Windham and Windsor Counties, except for Barnard, Bethel, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon and Stockbridge in Windsor County



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We cannot do this work alone.

This is not a complete list. It never could be.

The work of the Vermont State Legislature.

Sarah Phillips and the Office of Economic Opportunity

National Community Action Partnership and CARES University of Missouri Extension

The staff and management of the five VCAP Agencies: BROCC Community Action, Capstone Community Action, CVOEO, NEKCA and SEVCA

*Data points taken from Prosperity Now