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Vermont Young Professionals Determined to Close YP Opportunity Gap

Montpelier, VT (February 5, 2020) – After facilitating 14 focus groups with statewide Young Professional (YP) groups, the [Vermont Futures Project](#) released a [report](#) to pursue their three major recommendations and incorporate their concerns into the sustainable economic growth plan slated for release in the fall of 2020.

The Vermont Futures Project wanted to ensure the voice of the YPs currently living here will be included and help determine how best to secure a robust economic future for Vermont. Twenty-two to forty-year-olds presented their insights on Vermont's current economic challenges, their own personal fiscal and work aspirations, and their recommendations on how to ensure Vermont's future to be a great place to work, live and play. The Young Professionals' top concerns were:

- Competitive [salaries](#) within the New England region and US
- Limited career opportunities for upward and lateral mobility
- [Cost of living](#) to wages
- [Availability](#) and [affordability](#) of housing and rental options

“You can call us Boomers, Millennials or Young Professionals, but make sure to also call us Vermonters. There is a strong and growing network of Young Professionals (YPs) building momentum in the state, and therefore, our own future” stated Laura Pierce, President of Rutland Young Professionals and Vermont Futures Project Board Member.

Vermont's current [demographic](#) challenges are real. We need our young folks to stay, return and believe that Vermont is for them and their peers. Despite the obstacles presented, many YPs share remarkable passion and love for Vermont. The report provides several recommendations and opportunities for positive change. Building on Vermont's strengths and the YP's energy, this generation will innovate and create a future that is bright and sustainable.

To keep this cohort engaged, the Vermont Futures Project is:

- Creating a YP Advisory Group representing all regions of Vermont
- Encouraging business and community leaders to engage these folks on boards, leadership, advisories
- Educating state and local government officials on the true cost of living challenges for this cohort

About the Vermont Futures Project

The Vermont Futures Project promotes the long-term economic health of Vermont through leadership, research and education. The Vermont Futures Project seeks to inform the conversation about Vermont's economic future and demonstrate how a healthy economy contributes to Vermont's vibrant communities and unique quality of life.

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