

# LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

On the farm September brings a change of routine, we move into bulk harvest mode and cover and prepare the soil for regeneration. School routines also resume, bringing excitement and anxiety for educators and students alike. Unfortunately, at the start of the 2017-18 school year approximately 2/3 of school contracts were not settled. This means thousands of teachers returned to their classrooms and began educating and inspiring our children without contracts. We consistently rank at the top of the nation for quality of education and the dedication shown by these teachers is one reason why.

**IN 2016, 12.3% (74,000) OF  
ALL VERMONTERS LIVED BELOW  
THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.**

Over the years our communities have experienced many changes and teachers are on the frontline supporting children and families. Increases in all types of diversity, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), students learning English as a second language, and environmental and health issues all place added challenges and opportunities on our schools, employees, and support systems.

In government, we often see valuable programs operating in silos. I believe we must expand our cross-departmental work to both increase efficiency and provide more consistent access to those in need. This month several groups have met to exchange information and create common language and objectives to assist us in meeting the needs of many children and families in an efficient and productive way. I've provided more information on the other side.

While we have made great strides in Vermont we are currently facing budget shortfalls that will directly impact our ability to meet the needs of many working Vermont families. As Federal funds are reduced we will be forced to find additional efficiencies or risk failing in our mutual goals. Vermonters want to provide every individual the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of their abilities by providing the opportunity for good education and training to all.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **September 25 2:00PM**

Talking with students about sustainability and farming. Williston Central School dining room.

### **September 27 10:00AM**

Building Homes Together Press Conference  
Market Street, South Burlington

### **October 1 4:30PM**

Panelist at Health Care Forum  
Brandon Town Hall  
(Childcare provided.)

### **October 2 9:00AM**

Welcome Speaker at Renewable Energy Vermont Conference  
Sheraton Hotel, Burlington

### **October 5 7:00AM**

Live with Charlie, Ernie & Lisa on WVMT

### **October 8 12:00PM**

"Keep the Soil Organic" Rally  
Intervale, Burlington

### **October 9**

Indigenous People's Day

### **October 10 12:00PM**

Lunch with St. Albans Rotary  
Masonic Lodge, 142 N. Main Street, St. Albans

**For a complete list of events please visit the calendar on our website:  
[www.LtGov.vermont.gov](http://www.LtGov.vermont.gov)**

## ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Working Group was established through legislation this year with a goal to better understand ACEs in Vermont and the impact of them on our children. We know that adversity in childhood can have a direct impact on an individual's health outcomes and social functioning and the cumulative effects of multiple ACEs have even more profound public health and societal implications. This working group learned that 57% of Vermonters have one or more ACEs and 22% have 3 or more ACEs. Trauma is a deeply entrenched social condition that is often interconnected with poverty, intimate partner violence, child abuse, substance use, mental health conditions, social isolation, racial and gender inequality and homelessness. This Working Group is looking at ways we can address the social conditions and structures that contribute to trauma and to better understand which public and private programs are meeting the needs of this demographic. You can find committee members, the schedule of meetings, and documents presented by visiting the legislative website (<https://legislative.vermont.gov>), clicking on Committees, then Study Committees on the far right, then Adverse Childhood Experiences Working Group.

## VERMONT CHILD POVERTY COUNCIL

The Vermont Child Poverty Council was established through legislation in 2007 and consists of 15 members who represent the legislature, key state departments and non-profit organizations working to end child poverty in Vermont. In 2007 they were tasked with developing a 10-year plan to reduce Vermont Child Poverty levels by 50%. Earlier this month the Council met to review the goal, identify factors that have caused this goal not to be met, and discuss next steps for the council. You can follow the work of this Council by visiting the legislative website (<https://legislative.vermont.gov>), clicking on Committees, then Study Committees on the far right, then Vermont Child Poverty Council.

## FEDERAL QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS

One in four Vermonters receive their primary health and dental care at a Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC.) This program is in jeopardy because almost 2/3 of the Federal funding for FQHC's is scheduled to run out at the end of September and congress is unable to act. According to Senator Sanders office, "Vermont has the highest per capita use rate of FQHC's in the country and the loss to Vermont would be \$11 million." This loss will have catastrophic consequences to thousands of Vermonters and will put enormous stress on our State funds. Ensuring all Vermonters, including children, receive access to early, preventative, and affordable health care must be a top priority during the upcoming legislative session.

## BRING HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCES INTO OUR SCHOOLS

Integrating mental and physical health services in our schools makes sense. Several organizations in Vermont are currently using this model with very positive results. Not only does this improve access to services for parents and children but makes collaboration and consistency among agencies easier. By reducing behavioral issues in classrooms, we allow teachers to focus on education and can expect better results across the board.

**Vermont Lt. Governor David Zuckerman**

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