



The Vermont **Matched Savings Program** gives low-to-moderate income individuals and families an opportunity to invest in themselves & their communities & move out of poverty.

THE VERMONT MATCHED SAVINGS PROGRAM



- * BUY OR REPAIR A HOME * POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION *
- * CAPITALIZE A BUSINESS * JOB SKILLS TRAINING & CERTIFICATION *
- * VEHICLE PURCHASE OR REPAIR FOR WORK PURPOSES *

Asset Building

Cumulative Outcomes 1997-2018

998 Vermonters successfully completed the IDA program, using \$2,778,091 in savings and match funds:

566 Business—invested \$1,574,493
229 Education—invested \$600,146
203 Homeowners—invested \$603,452

FY 2018 Outcomes

47 Vermonters invested \$122,185 in savings and match:

28 Business \$67,831
7 Education \$21,000
12 Homes \$33,354



A Brief History

Matched Savings Accounts, supported by the Vermont Legislature since 2000, are a proven strategy which combines matching savings and financial counseling to help lower income Vermonters to move up the economic ladder through the acquisition of an important asset, including homeownership, business development, and post-secondary education and job training.

Participants deposit their savings in a special joint savings account, branded as an Individual Development Account (IDA), at partner financial institutions. Once the participant has completed their savings and financial education, the State matches the participant's savings on a dollar for dollar basis to attain their chosen asset.

In 2018, the Legislature built upon this successful program to broaden the uses to include vehicle purchase or repair to access employment. Capstone Community Action oversees this program for the state.

Financial Education

Financial Education is an integral part of the IDA matched savings program providing the cornerstone for our participants' financial success. Participants gain an understanding of their money habits and beliefs, then use that knowledge to set financial goals, choose a budget system that works for them, and develop savings strategies. Additionally, they learn methods to build or repair credit, reduce debt, and plan for future financial needs.

We have seen excellent results in family and individual economic stability when participants take to heart the information, tools, and encouragement we offer in our classes and through our 1:1 coaching.

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* PARTICIPANT SUCCESS STORIES *

Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA)



Tara Lynn Bridal

Tara Lynn Scheidet of Sutton started making custom hemp clothing in 1999. Tara Lynn® was started in 2005 with a mere \$800 in cash. Tara Lynn® is an eco-couture fashion house that makes natural fiber clothing including one-of-a-kind wedding dresses, menswear, tailored suits, and wearable art jackets. The company has grown to fill \$50,000 in orders a year.

Because Tara Lynn is always thinking ahead about her business needs in order to grow, she enrolled in the IDA program. She is extremely appreciative for the opportunity to use her IDA to expand her market to attract customers all over the world!

www.taralynnbridal.com /802-467-9036

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)

Andrew was in a dangerous financial situation when he graduated college. He wanted to continue his education and obtain a PhD, but found that the meager student stipend made it nearly impossible to make ends meet. He started working with a financial coach to set up an emergency fund, and then enrolled in the IDA to help bridge the cost gap of his education. After long days of physical biochemistry classes, he would head to evening financial education classes at CVOEO and found a way to save \$10 a week.

“The success of this program can be summarized in the reality that I don’t need CVOEO anymore. I won’t need state or federal help within the foreseeable future.”



Andrew

BROC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont (BROC)



The McIntyre's New Home

Jessica and Warren McIntyre of Manchester each joined the IDA Match Savings Program in March of 2017 to save for their first home. They have two teenage sons and were paying \$1200 a month for rent and wanted to find an affordable home to buy. Jessica was determined to purchase their house in one year and worked hard at saving and repairing their credit reports. They completed the IDA Financial Capability workshops, the NeighborWorks Homebuyer Seminar, and started researching homes. By Spring of 2018 they made an offer and purchased a home in East Dorset

working with USDA Rural Development.

Their new housing cost including mortgage, insurance and taxes is \$931 per month, a decrease of \$269 monthly from their previous rent payments, and they are now building equity in their own home!

Southeast Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)

Tess Lindsay was looking for ways to become more competitive in the marketplace and increase her earnings so she could make a livable wage when she enrolled in the IDA program. She had opened Wildflowers Playground, a small childcare center in Putney, in 2014. Tess wanted to become eligible for ACT 166 funding, a publicly funded pre-k option, so she could be affordable for families considering a preschool program in the area. She is now using some of her IDA to pay for the eligibility process.

“The boost I got from matched savings and SEVCA’s help with my business plan made a huge difference!”



Wildflowers Playschool

Capstone Community Action



A Cut Above the Rest

Nermina Beslagic is a former Reach Up client and a single mom. She joined the IDA program to help grow her dog grooming business, **A Cut Above the Rest, LLC**. Nermina had recently earned an Associate’s Degree in Vet Technology from VTC when she began working with Capstone’s financial coach. She was working two part time jobs when she decided to take the leap of faith and go out on her own. She started her business on-site at a local, established kennel, and the business continues to grow.

With her IDA funds, she plans to buy more kennels and a dryer for the dogs. She is no longer on Reach Up and says for the first time she is able to save a portion of her tax refund.