

Vermont Young Professional Economy Pitch

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Name of Organization: NeighborWorks of Western Vermont / Rutland YPs

Name of Individual/s Presenting Pitch: Sara Gilbert

Challenges Facing Vermont Businesses/Specific Sector:

Housing – rental market is tight

- \$28K in debt (average student debt in VT when they graduate)

Ideas/Suggestions to Rejuvenate Vermont's Economy:

To buy a home (how to help YPs take that step):

1) down payment assistance, can be a loan as opposed to a giveaway so more salary ranges can access it

2) invest in energy efficiency (provide tech assistance and lending for efficiency upgrades)

- can save more than \$800/year

3) home ownership education and one-on-one coaching

- Vermonters don't know these resources are available

- need to do a better job connecting young professionals with these resources

Other Challenges we must address:

Other Comments: