



The



James M. Jeffords Center's
Vermont Legislative Research Service



State Work Study

This report examines college level work study programs for students, and identifies what would be necessary in developing a state level work study program. Many universities have a federally funded program in place that benefits students by providing them with a job while in school in order to help offset some of the financial burdens of college. The primary goal of this report is to address issues in the community surrounding federal work study, and how to best solve such issues by implementing a state level program that better addresses community and student needs. This will be achieved through the analysis of several already established state level work study programs and an examination of community concerns in Vermont.

Details of Already Existing Programs in Other States

State work study is defined by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (MOHE) as a program for eligible students to “gain career related, on the job work experience while earning money to help pay for your higher education.”¹ State work study provides, “part time on or off campus jobs” and can be “structured as internships.”² There are state work study Programs in Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, and Washington. Each state has different requirements in terms of eligibility.¹

Eligibility Requirements by State

Each state has different requirements that dictate eligibility for the state’s work study programs. For PHEAA eligible means a “Pennsylvania resident for at least 12 consecutive months before [filing] a FAFSA, excluding any time [the student] was enrolled in a Penn

postsecondary school," who: "is enrolled in a PHEAA approved... institution in a program of study that is at least two years long," is an undergraduate student or graduate student currently eligible for a State Grant or subsidized federal loan respectively, and a student who has "never defaulted on any student loan and owe no State Grant refund.² For MOHE eligible is defined as "a Minnesota resident and US citizen or eligible non citizen, enrolled for at least six credit hours per term in a program leading to a degree, certificate or diploma, [with] priority given to students enrolled for the equivalent of 12 hours or more."³

Under the state work study program, the employer pays

Impact on the Community

During the 2008 2009 school year there were 112 outside agencies actively participating in work study with the University of Vermont (see Table 1 for complete list). Through October 2012 only 20 agencies will be actively participating, with 15 organizations eliminating themselves from the program due to financial constraints.¹² The following organizations specifically communicated about the lack of affordability: American Red Cross, American Red Cross Blood Services, Ascension Childcare, Catholic Center at UVM, FAHC – Volunteer Services, FAHC Nurse Midwifery Services, FAHC Pediatric Genetics, FAHC/ Radiology, King Street

two off campus non profits and one local public elementary school.¹⁷ These groups do not contribute funds to the program, though, as Marlboro College subsidizes all off campus jobs.

Bennington College

Meg Woolmington, the Director of Financial Aid at Bennington College in Bennington, Vermont, also provided information about the work study program at another college in Vermont. Federal support for work study has decreased. In 2007 2008, Bennington College was receiving \$128,412. In 2008 2009, Bennington College received \$135,782. In 2009 2010, because of the American Relief and Recovery Act, Bennington received a

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Table 1: List of Campus Agencies in 2008 2009 That Participated in Federal Work Study at UVM

Alliance for Climate Action	~Edmunds Middle School
American Lung Association of VT	Energy Action/Climate Campaign
*American Red Cross	Essex Town School District
*American Red Cross Blood Services	~FAHC
*Ascension Childcare	*FAHC Volunteer Services
Audubon Vermont	*FAHC Nurse Midwifery Services
Boys & Girls Club Burlington	*FAHC Pediatric Genetics
Boys & Girls Club Winooski	*FAHC/ Radiology
Brain Injury Association of VT	Fletcher Free Library
Burl. Comm. Economic Development	~Flynn Center
~Burlington After School Programs	Girl Scout Council of VT
Burlington Children's Space	~Greater Burlington YMCA
Burlington City Arts	Green Mountain Peer Projects
Burlington City Arts/ Firehouse Gallery	Green Mountain Animal Defenders
Burlington Community School Project	~H.O. Wheeler School
Burlington High School	Heimdall By Canoe
Burlington Housing Authority	~Humane Society of Chit. County
Burlington Parks and Recreation	Imani Health Institute
Burlington School District	~Intervale Center
Cathedral Square	Intervale Compost Products
*Catholic Center at UVM, The	Keeping Track, Inc.
Chittenden County Public Defender	*King Street Youth Center
Chittenden County State Attorney	Lake Champlain basin Sci Ctr
City Kids BP & R After School Program	Lake Champlain Land Trust
~City of Burlington	Lake Champlain WTc0.2280Td0Td00037jEMC/P6Tj/C2_5oducts
Clerk/Treasurer's Office	
~Committee On Temporary Shelter	
Common Ground Center	
~Community College of VT	
Community Health Center	
Community Health Svcs of Addison County	
Community Justice Center	
Congressman Sander's Office	
Cooperative Campus Ministry	
CVOEO Mobile Home Project	

