

# The People's Budget Campaign

## Toward Spending and Revenue Policies based on Human Rights



**Vermont Workers'  
Center/ NESRI,  
May 30, 2012**

# Why Do We Need a “People’s Budget”?

From “Managing to the Money”...



...to Meeting People’s Needs!

# The Paradigm Shift



- The state budget must strive to meet everyone's fundamental needs
- Revenue policy must be designed to fund a needs-based budget
- Spending and revenue policy must be guided by human rights principles
- Policy must be linked to binding accountability measures and indicators
- Process for public participation in the budget and revenue process

Why a People's Budget?

# The Breakthrough in the 2012 Legislature

A People's Budget is a budget

- grounded in human rights principles
- that raises and spends public money in equitable way
- with the goal of meeting people's fundamental needs

This year's "Big Bill" includes a very first step toward this goal!





# Prioritizing Needs

- ✓ “The state budget should be designed to address the needs of the people of Vermont”
- ✓ “Spending and revenue policies will ... recognize every person’s need for health, housing, dignified work, education, food, social security, and a healthy environment.”

# Advancing Human Rights

- ✓ “The state budget should be designed to address the needs of the people of Vermont **in a way that advances human dignity and equity.**”



The Breakthrough

# Increasing Accountability and Participation

- ✓ “The Administration shall develop budget and revenue proposals as part of a transparent and accountable process with direct and meaningful participation from Vermont residents.”
- ✓ “The Administration will develop a process for public participation in the development of budget goals, as well as general prioritization and evaluation of spending and revenue initiatives.”

# Outcome Measurement and Indicators

- ✓ “Integral to achieving the purpose of the state budget is continuous evaluation of the raising and spending of public funds by systems of outcome measurement based on indicators that measure success in accomplishing the purposes of the state budget.”



# Next Steps

- Developing a process for public participation
- Developing an indicator system for assessing whether the budget meets people's needs and increases equity



# Contact Us

[www.workerscenter.org](http://www.workerscenter.org)

[www.nesri.org](http://www.nesri.org)

Next Steps