

Black-Plumeau Consulting, LLC  
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

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October 30, 2019

Ms. Karolyn Long  
Vermont Department for Children and Families  
Process and Performance Manager  
280 State Drive, Building G  
Waterbury, VT 05671

**Subject: Forecast of Reach Up and Reach Ahead Caseloads**

Dear Karolyn:

Based on our recent analysis of Reach Up and Reach Ahead entries and exits, the Reach Up caseload is expected to continue to decrease modestly through 2020 and stagnate in 2021, as shown in Figure 1. We project an average caseload of 3,512 in SFY 2020 and 3,354 in SFY 2021, as shown in Figure 2. Based on our best assumptions about the portion of Reach Up cases that will become eligible for Reach Ahead each month and about the number of months cases will remain in the program, we expect the Reach Ahead caseload to average 339 in SFY 2020 and 228 in SFY 2021.

This forecast is based on an average, seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate of 2.6% for 2020 and 3.3% for 2021—projections prepared by Vermont economist Tom Kavet in July 2019. This forecast assumes that neither the Reach Up or Reach Ahead programs will undergo future policy changes that alter the rate at which cases enter and exit the caseload.

The Reach Up caseload forecast is based on caseload data from July 1984 through September 2019 and on historical unemployment rate estimates from the Vermont Department of Labor. These data are input to a model that consists of a series of statistical analyses. The analyses predict future caseloads based on the historical effect of Vermont unemployment rates and seasonality on monthly rates of entry to and exit from the state's Reach Up caseload.

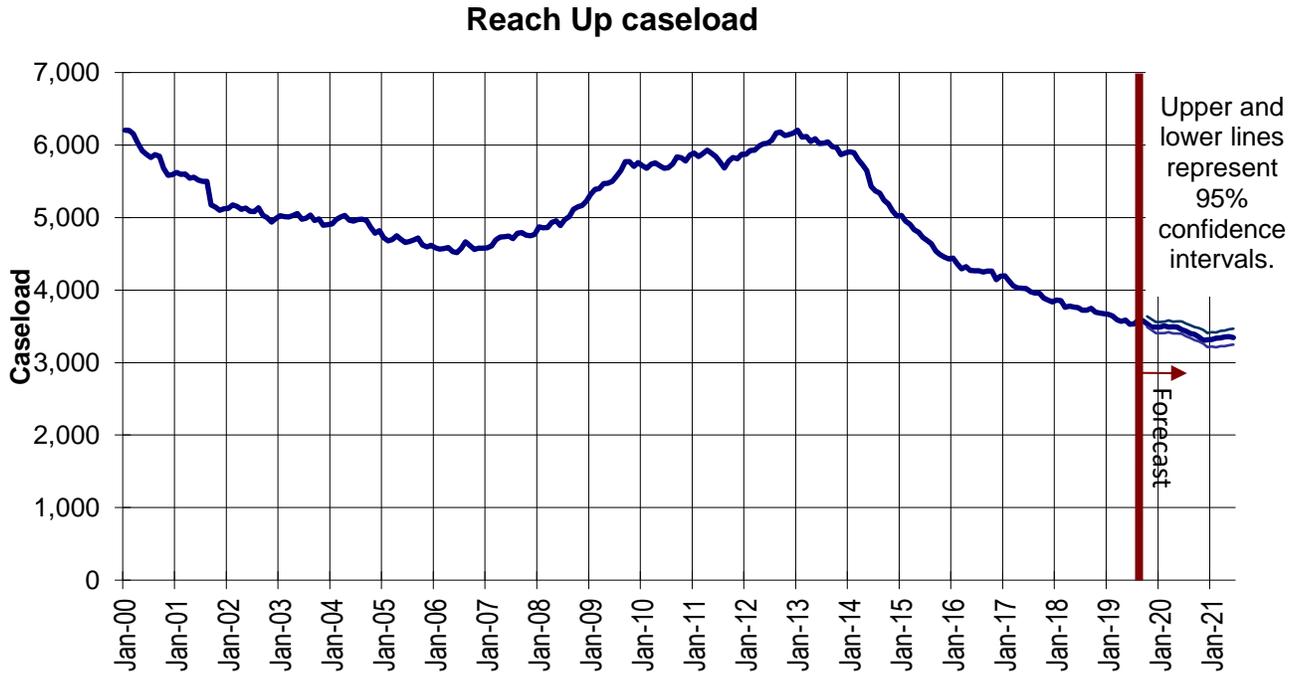
Please do not hesitate to contact me or Rob McIntyre who led this analysis with any questions about this letter or related issues.

Sincerely,



Leslie Black-Plumeau  
Cc: Robert McIntyre

Figure 1:



**Figure 2: Actual and forecast Reach Up and Reach Ahead caseloads**

	Reach Up				Reach Ahead
	Actual Caseload	Caseload Forecast			
		Point	Range		
			Lower	Upper	
Jul-19	3,533				460
Aug-19	3,590				428
Sep-19	3,578				427
Oct-19		3,535	3,489	3,637	356
Nov-19		3,490	3,448	3,598	340
Dec-19		3,489	3,406	3,559	322
Jan-20		3,490	3,405	3,560	301
Feb-20		3,509	3,404	3,562	289
Mar-20		3,489	3,420	3,582	293
Apr-20		3,494	3,400	3,564	291
May-20		3,491	3,402	3,569	282
Jun-20		3,455	3,397	3,566	276
Jul-20		3,434	3,361	3,536	263
Aug-20		3,403	3,339	3,517	254
Sep-20		3,386	3,309	3,489	253
Oct-20		3,355	3,291	3,478	251
Nov-20		3,306	3,261	3,450	240
Dec-20		3,316	3,215	3,407	232
Jan-21		3,317	3,223	3,419	221
Feb-21		3,337	3,210	3,414	212
Mar-21		3,338	3,227	3,436	208
Apr-21		3,353	3,228	3,441	204
May-21		3,360	3,241	3,457	199
Jun-21		3,344	3,246	3,467	195
Average SFY 2020		<b>3,512</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>3,578</b>	<b>339</b>
Average SFY 2021		<b>3,354</b>	<b>3,263</b>	<b>3,459</b>	<b>228</b>