

# UtahFutures



## What is UtahFutures?

UtahFutures is a critical tool in the state’s 66% by 2020 plan – supporting timely education and career guidance to students and job-seekers.

UtahFutures has a Utah-built front end, and several vendor-licensed products that plug into it, such as test prep and career databases.

Originally launched in 2009, it is the primary online resource for career planning used by Utah school counselors and job seekers.

UtahFutures is also a collaboration among several state agencies. Partners have consolidated various functions and aggressively pursued grant funding to grow UtahFutures.

## Funding Request

Governor Herbert established a new UtahFutures Steering Committee and Advisory Board by Executive Order in January 2015 who request legislative funding as follows:

FY2015 Supplemental	\$1.0 Million	<i>To accomplish:</i> Paying annual vendor contracts, site hosting and maintenance, and website improvements <b>Note:</b> no legislative funding was received for UtahFutures in 2013-14 or 2014-15
FY2016 Ongoing	\$1.4 Million	<i>To accomplish:</i> Paying annual vendor contracts, site hosting and maintenance, programming, data breach insurance, training, and site enhancements.

## History

The legislature funded UtahFutures with a \$500,000 appropriation in February of 2012. In July of 2012 other partners committed \$2.5 million to fund improvements to website. There is no ongoing appropriation for UtahFutures.

At the close of the 2014 General Session, the Utah Legislature passed Senate Bill 34 that amended provisions related to UtahFutures and established an evaluation panel to determine whether any or all components should be outsourced to a private provider.

As presented to the Executive Appropriations Committee in September 2014, the external evaluation panel concluded that **UtahFutures should be maintained as a Utah-built service** for the following reasons:

1. Customizes Utah front-end with strong vendor tools and resources
2. Retains management and control with state agencies in Utah; ability to highlight Utah job needs and partner businesses
3. Secures student and user data with Utah state agencies; data managed by DTS
4. Avoids likely high transitional costs such as retraining counselors, students, users
5. Avoids loss of service and education/career planning if there were another RFP and customization process

The panel further found that the ability to build, improve and maintain a Utah-built system, coupled with the flexibility to add various vendor packages to customize based on local needs, makes UtahFutures 2.0 the best of all worlds. This program needs ongoing funding to become a fully functional career and college planning tool.