



Community Planning, Placemaking, etc.

Vermont Community Foundation - Northeast Kingdom Fund Grants

The Northeast Kingdom Fund is interested in supporting opportunities in which a modest grant can leverage a new idea or other grant dollars, or make possible a project or idea that will benefit the people and communities in the Northeast Kingdom.

Eligible applicants must be nonprofit organizations whose primary service area is in the Northeast Kingdom; or schools or municipal entities located in Orleans, Essex, or Caledonia County. Nonprofit organizations or community groups who do not have 501(c)(3) status may apply for grant awards if another tax-exempt organization, school, or municipality acts as a fiscal sponsor.

The Northeast Kingdom Fund funds grants up to \$5,000.

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Vermont Natural Resources Council - Small Grants for Smart Growth

The Small Grants for Smart Growth Program provides seed money (\$500-\$1500) for community-based local initiatives related to smart growth. This includes initiatives in downtown and/or village center development areas. Eligible applicants include Local or multi-town entities, such as a municipality, municipal commission or committee; non-profit organization; or citizens group that is either working with a non-profit or seeking 501(c)(3) status. Eligible activities include citizen engagement (for example, community forum expenses), publicity, technical or consulting assistance, demonstration projects. This could include bringing in an expert as part of a community event.

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Department of Housing and Community Development - Municipal Planning Grants

Municipal Planning Grants (MPG) have helped communities implement town plan recommendations and jump start initiatives to find wastewater solutions, update zoning regulations to increase local housing options, develop strategic plans to diversify the local economy, and more. A wide range of municipal planning and implementation activities are eligible for funding. Applications are typically due at the end of September.

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Community Development Block Grants

The Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) offers multiple grant programs including:

- **Accessibility Modification Grants** (Grant Range: \$5,000-\$75,000) - Example: Bring municipally-owned buildings and libraries into compliance with state and federal accessibility requirements.
- **Implementation Grants** (Grant Range: \$50,000-\$1,000,000) - Examples: Assist businesses to create or retain jobs, create or rehabilitate housing units, build infrastructure, create or assist childcare and senior centers etc.
- **Planning Grants** (Grant Range: \$3,000-\$60,000) - Examples: Conduct feasibility studies and marketing plans, produce architectural and engineering plans, etc.

Any Vermont town, city (except Burlington), incorporated village chartered to function as a general purpose unit of local government, or a consortium of such entities, is eligible for funding. However, the majority of projects are a coordinated effort between the municipalities, community groups and local or state non-profit organizations or small businesses. VCDP funds must primarily benefit persons of low and moderate income. In addition, assistance is provided to communities for threats of health and safety issues as urgent needs and slums and blight projects.

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AARP Community Placemaking Mini-Grants

AARP Vermont provides communities with educational workshops and funding opportunities for demonstration projects that focus on creating public spaces that are vibrant, welcoming, safe and accessible for everyone. These projects will employ temporary changes with the goal of leading to permanent change that supports healthy active lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities.

The intention of this program is to “start small” by test-driving a process or material in your community with the expectation that the ‘test drive’ will be further improved upon and refined over time to progress permanent change. Your project will be aimed at temporarily reinventing a space that improves the safety, accessibility and overall appeal. Simple modifications can powerfully alter the health, economic, social, and ecological value of a community.

The objectives of the Placemaking Demonstration Projects are to help participants:

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- Enhance perceptions and attitude toward community change.
- Recognize how placemaking and community design influence successful aging, health and overall livability.
- Give participants an expanded toolkit to draw from to build healthier more vibrant public spaces.
- Emphasis will be made on initiatives that demonstrate inclusive, multi-modal infrastructure and placemaking concepts that can be practically applied within the community.

AARP Mini-Grants are awarded up to \$3000.

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Vermont Arts Council - Animating Infrastructure Grants

Animating Infrastructure Grants support community projects that integrate art with infrastructure improvements. Through this program, the Council strives to demonstrate the positive impact of art in helping communities meet goals of livability, walkability, safety, economic vitality, and community vibrancy, and to support the creation of unique infrastructure projects where function and art are one and the same.

The Council's definition of infrastructure is broad. Anything that serves a functional purpose in the built or natural environment qualifies. Proposed projects would not be limited to, but could include improvements to:

- buildings
- recreational paths
- parks
- bridges
- small-scale renewable energy projects
- water treatment facilities

Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$15,000. Funds may only be used to pay artist fees and/or fees related to the fabrication and installation of artwork. Grants will not require a match, but grantees will be responsible for implementing the project and raising any additional funds necessary for its realization.

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Vermont Arts Council - Arts Impact Grants

Arts Impact Grants support nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and schools in their efforts to add vibrancy to Vermont communities by providing equal and abundant access to the arts. The Arts Council seeks applications for projects that identify and break down barriers to participation.

Examples of fundable projects include:

- Performances, exhibits, screenings, readings, fairs, public art projects, and festivals that focus on including new audiences program improvements that enable people with disabilities to participate.
- Public art projects that commission an artist for the creation of new work where the community is engaged in the planning, presentation, and/or fabrication creative experiences that are designed to include a specific group of a certain age, income, gender, race, ability, or to encourage interaction among these groups.

Grant awards range from \$500-\$3,000; a 1:1 cash match is required. Any Vermont school, municipality, or nonprofit organization not already in receipt of Arts Partnership Grant funding can apply. Read this list to see which organizations were awarded grants for FY2019.

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Vermont Arts Council - Cultural Facilities Grants

Cultural Facilities Grants help Vermont nonprofit organizations and municipalities enhance, create, or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural activities for the public.

Examples of projects eligible for funding include:

- Improvements such as wiring, heating, accessibility features, lighting, and stage improvements.
- Building improvements, permanent display panels or exhibit cases, permanent infrastructure or fixed equipment wireless/broadband capacity that enhances programming capacity.

Awards range from \$1,000 to \$30,000 and must be matched on a 1:1 basis. At least 50% of the match must be in cash. Up to 50% can be in well-documented in-kind materials and/or labor.

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Northern Border Regional Commission - Economic Infrastructure Grants

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) invests in economic and infrastructure projects in Vermont, including Caledonia County. Grant funding, with assistance from NVDA, can be applied for through their Economic Infrastructure Grants. Priorities for the program include projects that:

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- Revitalize and modernize essential infrastructure in Northern Border region communities,
- Increase access, affordability, and use of high speed telecommunications by Northern Border residents and businesses,
- Stabilize and reduce electric and thermal energy costs,
- Retain, expand and diversify business enterprise that capitalizes on the region's natural, cultural, and economic assets,
- Position the Northern Border region as an attractive and supportive place for creative and entrepreneurial people,
- Support and expand a highly productive workforce with skills suited to existing and future business needs,
- Foster entrepreneurial leadership and capacity for community economic development, and
- Inform and align local, state, and regional economic development decision making with regional data and perspectives.

Public bodies, IRS recognized 501(c) organizations, Native American tribes, and the State of Vermont may apply for funds through this program. Up to a \$500,000 maximum award to eligible infrastructure projects, up to a \$250,000 maximum award for all other types of eligible projects. NBRC awards require up to a 50% match depending on the level of county economic and demographic distress. It is recommended that small communities work with their Regional Planning Commission to apply.

NVDA

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Preservation Trust of Vermont - Community Supported Enterprise Grants

The Preservation Trust offers funding for Community Supported Enterprises. For the purposes of this grant program, a CSE is a general store, café, restaurant or pub, owned by an eligible local entity (i.e. municipality or non-profit), and operated by a local proprietor. Eligible activities include the purchase of equipment and/or construction. The grant program will not pay for the acquisition of real estate.

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Non-profits, Local Governments and Regional Commissions (among others) are eligible to apply.

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Transportation Infrastructure

VTrans - Transportation Alternatives Program (TA)

The Transportation Alternatives Program offers funding for a number of transportation related activities, including:

- Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.

The TA program provides funds to eligible projects for these types of projects.

- Scoping (feasibility) studies
- Project design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction

Eligible applicants may apply for project funding up to \$300,000 in federal dollars. Scoping studies are typically awarded in the range of \$20,000 to \$50,000 total. For scoping and construction projects, a minimum of twenty percent (20%) of the total project cost must be provided by the Sponsor. All projects must receive a letter of support from their Regional Planning Commission (RPC).

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VTrans - Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grants

The intent of the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is to improve access and safety for people walking and bicycling through the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects.

Projects may be combinations of any of the following facilities:

- Bicycle lanes (on-road facility delineated with pavement markings and signs)
- Shoulders (generally a minimum of 3-feet wide to accommodate bicyclists)
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian crossing improvements, including median pedestrian refuge islands and bulb outs
- Pedestrian or bicycle intersection signals

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- Improvements that address requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Shared-use paths (designed for use by both bicyclists and pedestrians)

The Bike/Ped Program provides funding for three types of projects:

1. Scoping study for a project that has not yet been evaluated (Scoping)
2. Design and Construction of a project using Federal funds (Design/Construction or Additional Funding)
3. Small-scale construction of a project using State fund (Small-scale)

Applications may be for construction of new facilities, reconstruction of existing infrastructure to meet current design standards, or a combination of both. Projects that consist of a redundant facility (e.g. a sidewalk on one side of a street that already has a sidewalk) must include good rationale for the proposed facility. However, projects that consist solely of preventive maintenance (e.g. repaving an existing shared use path) are not eligible.

Municipalities are eligible to apply. Scoping studies typically range from \$25,000 - \$40,000. A 20% match is required for scoping, design and construction projects. 50% match is required for State Funded Small-scale construction projects. Small-scale grant awards are capped at \$75,000.

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Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation - Recreation Trails Program

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (FPR) provides RTP grants for recreational trail-related projects for hiking, running, mountain biking, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) recreation, snowmobiling, cross-country and back-country skiing, nature-based recreation and education, paddling, and horseback riding.

RTP grants in Vermont typically range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Grants are awarded for well-planned trail projects that will develop, protect and maintain trails and trail systems to create linkages to communities, improve livability and user-ability, and are open and maintained for public recreational use.

Projects to be funded through this program may include:

- Construction of new recreational trails or trail linkages;
- Construction of new trailhead areas/parking facilities;
- Construction of trailside facilities directly associated with the recreational trail;
- Maintenance, renovation, or restoration of recreational trails;
- Improvements to signage, or trail structures along the trail;
- Assessment of existing trail conditions for accessibility and trail improvements to improve accessibility;

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- Professional project management for project oversight;
- Equipment purchases;
- Acquisition of trail easements or fee simple title to property with trails or recreational trail corridors in conformance with the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, P.L. 91-646.

Municipalities, non-profit organizations, and other governmental entities may apply. A 20% sponsor match is required, 20% of the total estimated project cost - also referred to as the sponsor's "share".

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