



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC  
**Chair**  
David Snedeker, NVDA  
**Vice-Chair**  
Charlie Baker, CCRPC  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

March 10, 2023

Representative Diane Lanpher, Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations

*via email*

RE: FY 24 Appropriations Request

Dear Chair Lanpher and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to request the funding we need to carry out our work with Vermont's municipalities.

We were able to testify in our policy committees about the work we do and the unmet needs in our towns and villages. This need is especially great in some of our small, rural communities. These conversations lead to RPC funding being recognized by two House Committees: Commerce and Economic Development and Environment and Energy. The House Environment and Energy, in particular, noted the need for full statutory funding, which we have not received in decades.

The negative result of years of chronic underfunding of RPCs became especially apparent in the last few years, with RPCs unable to provide appropriate staffing to assist our towns with the infusion of state and federal funding due to the pandemic.

Our communities are fiscally stressed, short on staffing, and have had difficulty maintaining services and accessing the financial relief that higher levels of government have provided. The demand for our services has never been greater and we want to ensure we are there to assist.

To address the disconnect in service delivery, **we respectfully ask for your support in following the statutory formula for RPC funding in FY 24 in the amount of \$10,134,624.**

The key needs we see as we work with our municipalities include:

1. Housing - Conceptualizing, permitting, and assisting the development of more housing in the areas of our regions that can support it.
2. Shared Services - Initiating and nurturing conversations among municipalities on services that can be jointly provided on a regional or subregional basis.
3. Project Management - Managing ARPA and other federal and state funded projects

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- through to construction for municipalities.
4. Climate Resilience - Assisting towns in climate related resilience and adaptation projects that protect property and life by implementing recommendations articulated in the Climate Action Plan.
  5. Climate Mitigation – Assisting towns with plans, projects, and policies to reduce fossil fuel energy consumption to meet State energy goals.
  6. Bylaws - Improving the quality of local bylaw administration through education and as needed, by directly providing this service.
  7. Equity - Addressing non-transportation-related equity through additional engagement and assessment with our communities.

For all these reasons, we ask for your support for full statutory funding in FY24. Thank you for your consideration and, as always, please let us know if any additional testimony or information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Peter G. Gregory, AICP  
VAPDA

Cc: Maria Belliveau  
Erin Viera

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