

Building Communities Grant Program

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Program Highlights

- Grant program established to help preserve *“important historic buildings and enhance community facilities.”*
- Program includes 7 grant programs
- All grants are available to communities and nonprofit organizations, with exception of one grant that is available to barn owners
- Appropriations are made to the agency or organization administering the grant program

List of Grant Programs

- Historic Preservation Grant Program – added in 2007 and administered by ACCD, Division for Historic Preservation.
- Historic Barns Preservation Grant Program – added in 2007 and administered by ACCD, Division for Historic Preservation.
- Cultural Facilities Grant Program – added in 2007 and administered by the Vermont Arts Council.
- Recreational Facilities Grant Program – added in 2007 and Committee administered. Administrative support provided by BGS.
- Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program – added in 2007 and Advisory Committee created to administer program. Administrative support provided by BGS.
- Regional Economic Development Grant Program – added in 2011 and Advisory Committee created to administer program.
- Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Projects Competitive Grants Program – added in 2013 and Committee created to administer program. Administrative support provided by the Agency of Agriculture.

Establishment of Building Communities Grant Program

§ 5601. BUILDING COMMUNITIES GRANTS

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to establish grants to help communities preserve important historic buildings and enhance community facilities. Therefore, in order to make it easy for communities to apply, the board or department which administers a grant program under this chapter shall work with other administrators of building communities grants to develop a standard application form which:

- (1) describes the application process and includes clear instructions and examples to help applicants complete the form;
- (2) includes an opportunity for a community to demonstrate its ability to generate required matching funds from local fundraising or other efforts;
- (3) includes a summary of each of the other grants, their deadlines, and a statement that no community shall apply for more than one grant under this chapter for the same project in the same calendar year; and
- (4) may include supplements specific to an individual grant.

(b) Each board or department which administers a grants program under this chapter shall establish a selection process which ensures equitable selection of grant recipients; and ensures accountability by grant recipients.

(c) Before it notifies an applicant of an award under this chapter, the board or department which administers the grant shall provide notice of the award and time and location of any award presentation to the chairs of the senate committee on institutions and the house committee on corrections and institutions, and those members of the general assembly who represent the area in which a successful applicant resides.

Amendments to Program

- In 2009, match requirements for the grants were changed
- In 2011, added the Regional Economic Development Grant Program, amended the Grant Program to include nonprofit organizations and barn owners, and added an unexpended funds provision
- In 2013, codified the Agricultural Fairs and Field Day Capital Projects Competitive Grants Program

History of Appropriations in the Capital Bill

- Historically, grants appropriated in various sections, including to the Vermont Historical Society and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development's Division of Historic Preservation
- From 1999-2001, grants were separated out as one-time appropriations
- In 2007, grant programs were codified in 24 V.S.A. chapter 137
- After 2007, appropriations made to agencies in new section

History of Appropriations in the Capital Bill

Total One-Time Appropriations 1999-2001

- 1999 - \$1,142,500
- 2000 - \$1,456,800
- 2001 – \$2,000,000

(See Handout for language)