

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Peg Flory, Chair, Senate Committee on Institutions
Representative Alice Emmons, Chair, House Committee on
Corrections and Institutions

FROM: The Human Services and Educational Facilities Grant
Program Selection Committee

DATE: December 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Building Communities Grant Programs

The Human Services & Educational Facilities Grant Program Selection Committee would appreciate it if your committees could provide us with more guidance that would help us fairly choose the entities to receive funding through the Building Communities Grant Program. These are examples of the kinds of questions we have struggled with:

- 1) Are the education grants intended for projects at public schools? Should there be a community aspect to the use beyond just that of a public school (e.g. a kitchen which makes it possible to use the school as an emergency shelter during a disaster situation)? Are they intended for private schools which select who is and who is not admitted?
- 2) Is there an official definition of what constitutes a "capital expense" for these grants? Are computers eligible? Are vans eligible?
- 3) Should there be any restrictions on how many times or how frequently an entity may apply for one of these grants? What if it is the same entity requesting money for a different project?
- 4) Should it make any difference whether services of an entity are provided on a sliding fee scale so that the services are more equally available to any Vermonter?

Any direction you give us could be in the form of a memo from your committees rather than needing to be in statute which would be more difficult to update as circumstances change. We will appreciate your attention to this request.

Thank you.

