

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL (VEPC)

VEPC is an independent body created by the General Assembly that is attached to ACCD for administrative support. VEPC is housed within ACCD and receives legal, grants management, IT, and other services from the agency. VEPC's budget is included in the DED budget. VEPC is staffed by an Executive Director who is appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate and one classified employee (currently a Grants Management Specialist).

The Council consists of a voting board of eleven citizens, plus two non-voting members from each region, one designated by the RDC and one by the RPC. The voting Board has nine members appointed by the Governor, a member from the House appointed by the Speaker, and a member from the Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees. The current Board members are:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Tim Briglin	Windsor County	2017
John Davis	Chittenden County	2019
Betsy Gentile	Windham County	2017
Patricia Horn	Windsor County	2017
Michael Keane	Bennington County	2017
Warren Kitzmiller	Washington County	House Appointee
Emma Marvin	Lamoille County	2019
Stephan Morse	Windham County	2019 (Chair)
Kevin Mullin	Rutland County	Senate Appointee
Thaddeaus Richardson	Caledonia County	2019
Rachel Smith	Franklin County	2017

Terms for the executive director and five of the members expire in March 2017 and four in March 2019, with statutory allowance for reappointment by the Governor.

VEPC administers two programs in accordance with statute: the application and approval process for the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive (VEGI) program, the application and approval process, as well as monitoring and oversight, of TIF Districts. VEPC partners with the Tax Department for these programs.

In agreement with ACCD, VEPC also administers the Windham County Economic Development Program and is administering the grants provided by the Vermont Enterprise Fund. Additionally, VEPC Executive Director provides assistance with business recruitment functions and assists with policy development and legislative initiatives.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

VEGI:

- Program started in 2007
- Potential incentives available (based on annual caps): \$128 million
- 106 applications considered for incentives valued at \$75 million
- 58 projects denied, rescinded, or terminated valued at \$35.3 million
- 48 projects complete or active valued at \$39.6 million
- New jobs created or projected: 7,836
- New investments projected (payroll and capital): \$911 million
- Estimated net revenue benefit to State (after cost of incentives): \$27.2 million
- For detail view [2016 Annual Report](#)

TIF Districts:

- Eleven Districts approved by VEPC or General Assembly
- Nine Districts active
- Colchester terminated their District and Newport District ended as scheduled (all debt paid)
- Total projected infrastructure value: \$213 million
- Total projected increase in taxable property value: \$777 million
- For detail view [2016 Annual Report](#)

WCEDP Program:

- Funds scheduled to be paid to State per MOU with Entergy: \$10 million over five years
- Funds received: \$6 million
- Funds committed: \$4.480 million
 - Allocation of funds by broad category:
 - 76% for businesses and entrepreneurial activities;
 - 24% to non-profits for economic development infrastructure
 - Use of funds by type:
 - Incentives: 60%
 - Loans: 16%
 - Non-Competitive grants: 11%
 - Competitive Grants: 13%

Vermont Enterprise Fund:

- \$1.7 million (of original \$5 million) allocated to three projects:
 - \$1 million to GlobalFoundries for capital investments and conversion of 100 jobs to permanent, full-time status
 - \$500,000 to GW Plastics, Bethel, for expansion and new jobs
 - \$200,000 to BHS Composites to establish US operation in St Johnsbury
- \$1,483,721 disbursed to date
- To date, 150 new jobs (compared with 120 expected) and capital investments of \$80.5 million (compared to \$71.4 expected)
- Net revenue return to State expected to exceed \$3.5 million