

think VT

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development partners with municipalities, businesses, and Vermonters every day to help them achieve their economic development goals. Our staff provides outreach and assistance statewide to engage communities and businesses, guiding them to leverage the programs we manage to receive funding, achieve certifications, and implement projects. The programs below are just a sampling of what we do to benefit Vermont.



VERMONT TRAINING PROGRAM (VTP)

Helping Quality Employers Enhance the Skills of Their Workforce

Barre-based Trow & Holden, a family business manufacturing stonecutting tools since 1890, used VTP to implement an ISO-compliant system encompassing every aspect of their business. Achieving ISO certification allows them to advertise their compliance with an internationally recognized global quality standard, evidence that this small Vermont company manufactures some of the best products on the market.



VERMONT EMPLOYMENT GROWTH INCENTIVE (VEGI)

Cash Incentive to Encourage Business Start-Up, Growth, and Expansion

The VEGI program was instrumental in enabling startup New England Chimney Supply (NECS) to locate in Vermont. NECS met headcount, payroll, and capital investment targets over the incentive period, allowing them to secure over \$1M in startup funding. NECS renovated existing space in Williston, made capital investments in machinery and equipment, and in its first year hired eight qualified new employees.



PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (PTAC)

Where Businesses, Opportunity, and Government Connect

CAM Development & Micro Components of Hydeville machines precision component parts for defense, medical and commercial industries. PTAC Counselors assisted CAM through the arduous application process for SBA HUBZone Certification to help CAM expand their business. Benefits of SBA HUBZone Certification may include federal contracting pricing preference, competitive advantages, and subcontracting opportunities with large prime contractors.



BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION FUND

Promoting the Productive Reuse of Under-Utilized Contaminated Sites

Burlington's new City Market expansion in the city's South End utilized Brownfields Revitalization Fund dollars to complete extensive remediations at the build site. The site's redevelopment required the removal and containment of contaminated soil, among several other environmental improvements. The site had been an industrial location since at least 1880, and is now re-purposed as a community market serving thousands.



NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANTS (NBRC)

Investing in Economically Distressed Counties in Northern Vermont

The NBRC invests in community and economic development projects in six Vermont counties: Essex, Orleans, Caledonia, Lamoille, Franklin, and Grand Isle. In 2017, the Northern Forest Center received funds through NBRC to help forest-based businesses adapt to the changing regional forest economy. An NBRC grant also helped the Vermont Brewers Association launch a new mobile app to market breweries and craft beer around the state.



WINDHAM COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (WCEDP)

Promoting Economic Development in Windham County

The WCEDP promotes economic development in Windham County by providing funds to stimulate job creation through business start-up, expansion, or relocation; encourage entrepreneurial activity; and strengthen economic development infrastructure. In 2017, Hermit Thrush Brewery of Brattleboro received working capital in support of its expansion, and the Vermont Film Institute received start-up funding, among other projects approved.

LIVE GROW

WORK PLAY

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 **VERMONT**
AGENCY OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF)

Leveraging Public Investment to Encourage Community Development

A TIF District is established by a municipality around an area requiring public infrastructure to encourage public and private development or redevelopment. In 2008, Milton created the Town Core TIF District. Public investments totaling \$24 million will leverage over \$126 million in private development. The district's value when fully developed is expected to be \$251 million.



VERMONT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (VCDP)

Assisting Communities to Improve Resiliency and Access

VCDP assists communities with financial and technical assistance to address local needs in the areas of housing, economic development, public facilities/services, handicapped accessibility, and disaster recovery. With help from VCDP, Springfield's Woolson Block building was recently redeveloped into 21 affordable rental housing units and approx. 3,400 SF of commercial space.



DOWNTOWN & VILLAGE CENTER TAX CREDITS

For Rehabilitation, Code Compliance and Exterior Improvements of Historic Buildings

Vermont's Downtown and Village Center Tax credits help bring historic buildings back into productive use. The Quincy Hotel in Enosburg Falls will once again be a hotel and restaurant, more than doubling the number of overnight accommodations in town, creating jobs, and providing an accessible gathering space. The project benefits from \$200,000 in tax credits.



STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM GRANT (STEP)

Business Assistance to Access Global Markets and Engage Internationally

STEP supports Vermont businesses to engage internationally through trade missions, trade shows, and export education. Ogee is a Burlington start-up business producing luxury, organic skincare products for women. With STEP funding in FY17 and FY18, Ogee was able to attend trade shows, create new marketing material, and break into the Canadian market.



STATE DESIGNATION PROGRAMS

Incentives and Technical Assistance for Compact Redevelopment

Designation programs encourage development in compact areas by providing incentives including tax credits for historic building rehabilitations, permitting benefits for new housing, funding for transportation-related public improvements, and priority consideration for other state grant programs. Dozens of communities statewide have leveraged their designations to revitalize their downtowns.



MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANTS

Enhancing Local Framework for Growth and Development

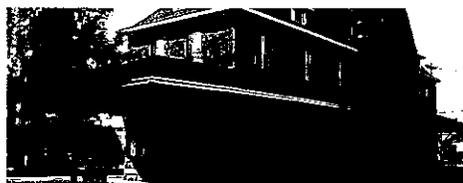
In 2018, 40 communities received grants to plan for the future. Funds will help Halifax develop a plan to mitigate the impacts of future flooding. Dorset will work to make walking and bicycling safer and more inviting in the village. Swanton will convene stakeholders to help advance their top community and economic development projects.



DOWNTOWN TRANSPORTATION FUND

Enabling Transportation-Related Capital Improvements

A combination of \$140,000 in downtown transportation grants and over \$15M in federal funding supported Barre's "Big Dig," a multi-year effort to revitalize Main Street and City Hall Park. The project included the replacement of 100-year-old water and sewer lines, plus sidewalk and lighting improvements and new paving, parking, and signage.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS

Maintaining the Historic Integrity of Vermont's Communities and Landscape

Built in Island Pond in 1903-4, the Grand Trunk Railway Station was originally used for passenger service. It is currently leased to several tenants, including a local bank, the police department, and the Island Pond Historical Society. In 2018 the station will receive a \$20,000 historic preservation grant to offset the costs of replacing its failing asphalt-shingled roof.



BARN PRESERVATION GRANTS

Preserving Vermont's Historic Agricultural Buildings

Conant's Riverside Farm in Richmond has been in the family for seven generations since it was founded by Samuel and Harriet Conant in 1854. Barn Grant funds enabled the repair of the barn's two distinctive cupolas. The barn houses part of the family's active dairy operation of roughly 450 cows and a local farm stand.

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