



Senate Appropriations Committee 2021 Budget

September 2, 2020

Housing & Conservation Impacts

Housing for All Revenue Bond: 843 new and rehabilitated homes; \$198M leveraged

FY20 Water Quality Program Implementation:

- \$10M RCPP federal water quality grant based on Vermont's past performance
- Ag conservation protects wetlands and requires buffer strips along waterways
- [\\$950,500 in Water Quality Grants](#) awarded to 30 farms; \$3.1M leveraged to support projects that promote resilience, sustainability, and improved water quality.

Rural Community Development and Revitalization:

- Conservation projects in FY19 & FY20 to date have facilitated 21 transfers to next generation owners, out of 44 farm projects
- FY18-20 \$225,000 in REDI appropriations for grant writing helped 24 rural enterprises and small towns win \$4.1M in federal, state, and philanthropic funding.

Outdoor Recreation Economy:

VHCB FY19-FY20 investments will protect permanent public access to more than 7,600 acres with miles of 4-season, multi-use trail systems.



Construction Resumes

New affordable homes available soon in communities across the state: St. Albans, Vergennes, Lyndonville, Burlington, St. Johnsbury, Springfield, and Shaftsbury. Many with apartments dedicated to those experiencing homelessness.



Vergennes Community Housing



Juniper House, Burlington



Photo Credit: Sylvie Vidrine

Housing Development

VHCB leverages federal and private funds to create, preserve, and rehabilitate housing affordable to Vermonters.



Lake Paran Village, Shaftsbury



Olivia Place, Lyndonville



Woolson Block, Springfield



Village Center Apartments in Morrisville

A Critical Element of the State's Overall Response to COVID-Related Housing Needs



Support services and rental assistance working with the Agency of Human Services, service and shelter providers, and state and local housing authorities.

Partnerships between affordable housing developers, shelters, and social service agencies to facilitate transitions for households from temporary stays in motel rooms and shelters to more permanent housing. [Full Legislative Report](#)

VHCB Farmland Conservation

State funding matched with federal and privately raised funding to protect productive farmland, improve water quality, and facilitate transfers to the next generation.

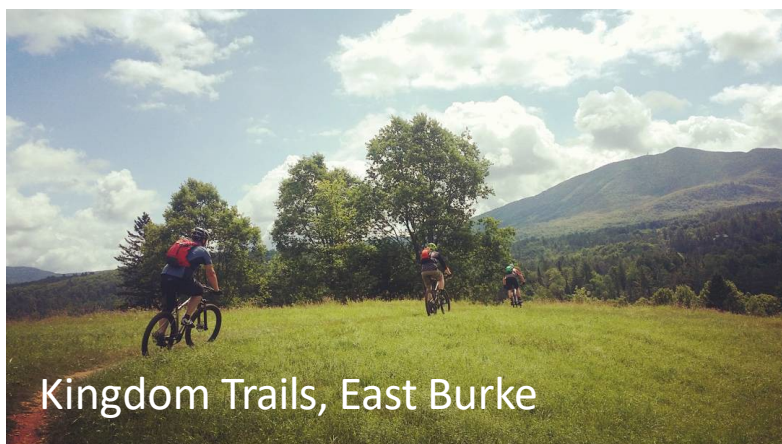
Hewitt/Old Road Farm, Route 100, Granville

- New owners run an organic vegetable operation, breathing new life into the tiny village of Granville at a time when COVID-19 has reinforced the importance of local food.
- Assistance from the Vermont Land Trust Farmland Access Program and business/transition planning with the Intervale Center through the Farm & Forest Viability Program.



Land Conservation

Protection of natural areas, recreational lands, forestland and historic community buildings. Land conservation improves water quality and builds flood resiliency, protects wildlife habitat, and supports rural economic development.



VHCB has funded acquisition of two parcels by Kingdom Trails as they secure their trail network that annually brings million in revenue to the area.

VHCB selected to be the designated clean water service provider for the Lake Memphremagog Basin.



The Green Mountain Conservancy acquired and conserved 913 acres with VHCB support, establishing a new nature preserve near the southern end of the Putney Mountain ridge with 2.5 miles of frontage on the West River. Public access for hiking, hunting, and fishing.



Emerging Needs and Challenges

- Homelessness has almost doubled since January
- Demand for Vermont homes threatens affordability
- Distress in the ag economy
- Pressure on outdoor recreation resources

[In the NEK, the need for homelessness services rises amid Covid-19](#)

[Crowds undeterred as Newfane closes parking near swimming holes](#)

[Vermont farms dump 60,000 gallons of milk since beginning of April](#)

[Realtors say out-of-staters buying up Vermont homes online](#)



J. Henke



VHCB Statute: 10 VSA Chapter 15, Section 322

(a)(2) The need for a timely response to **unpredictable circumstances or special opportunities** . . .

Using CRF \$s and our organizational capacity and networks to:

- Improve safety of crowded emergency facilities to protect health of those experiencing homelessness
- Secure permanent housing for Vermonters temporarily in motels or shelters
- Help farm and food businesses adapt to shutdowns and loss of markets including accessing relief programs.



Modular home, Bradford MHP



Pine Street, Rutland



Applegate, Bennington

Coronavirus Relief Funding: \$32M

New and Rehabilitated Housing; Shelters to be CDC Compliant for COVID

-
- Secure and rehabilitate housing for Vermonters experiencing homelessness in 17 communities around the state.
 - 212 new apartments and emergency beds to be created statewide in areas of greatest need.
 - Improvements to 13 homeless shelters that together provide 251 beds, reducing the risk of spreading coronavirus and enabling compliance with current public health protocols.

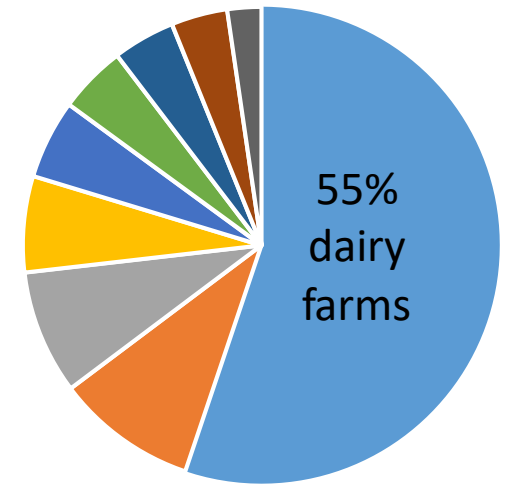
CRF for COVID Response: \$192,000

Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program

COVID Rapid-Response & Recovery Support

Free Business Coaching

for Farm, Food and Forest Products Businesses



Beginning in late March through August 31, 2020, the Viability Program has assisted 306 businesses with Rapid Response and Recovery Support

- Financial and cash flow planning
- Navigating COVID relief funding programs
- Shifting markets
- Online and direct sales strategy
- Health, well-being and mediation resources

Dairies comprise 55% of the businesses assisted March 2020 to date (table at right).

| Primary Business Type | % |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Dairy | 55% |
| Forest & wood products | 10% |
| Value-added food processing | 8% |
| Produce | 7% |
| Slaughter and/or meat processing | 5% |
| Diversified livestock & produce | 5% |
| Other | 4% |
| Livestock (non-dairy) & poultry | 4% |
| Greenhouse, Nursery, Orchard | 2% |

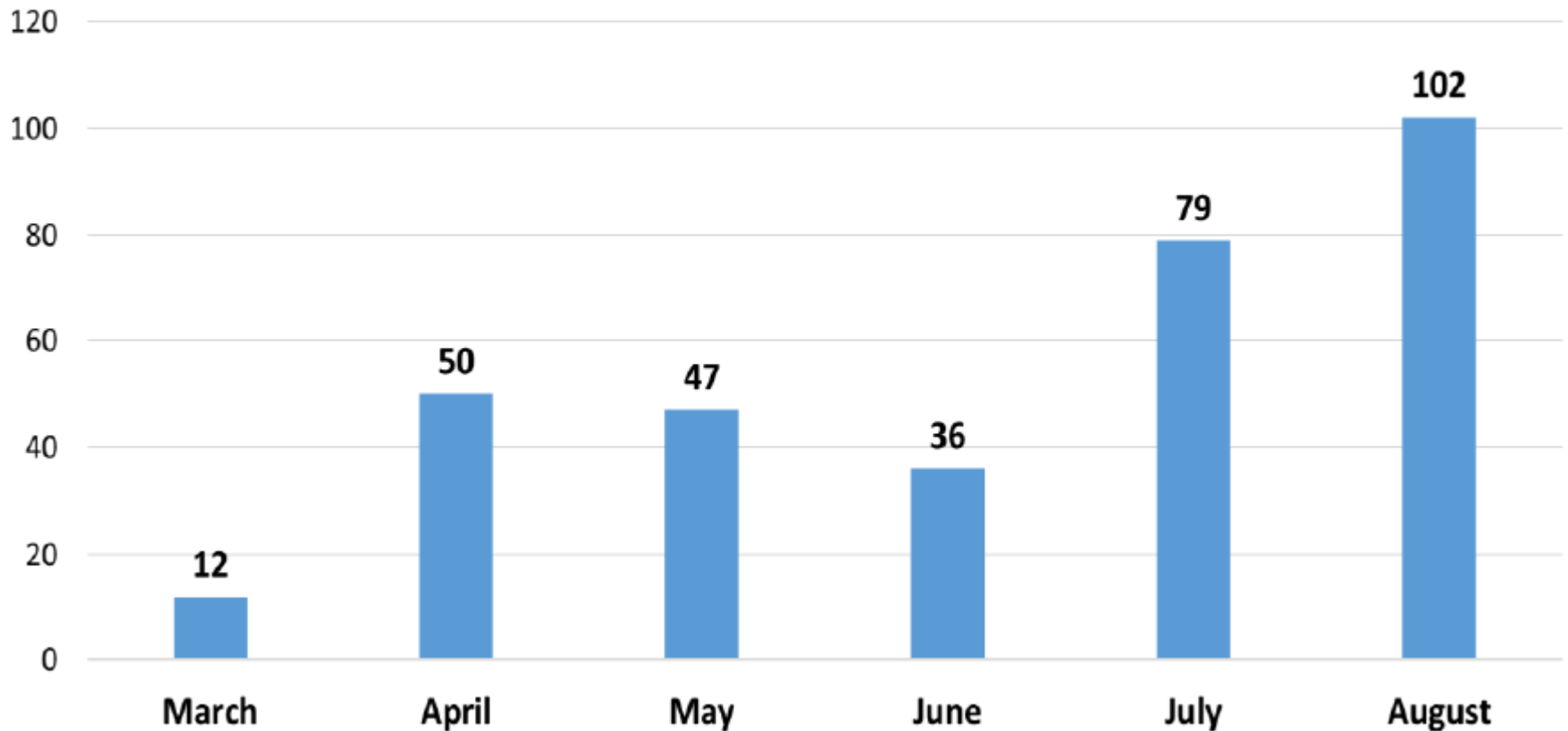
[Full Legislative Report](#)

www.vhcb.org/support-services

CRF for COVID Response: \$192,000

Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program
Free Business Coaching for Farm, Food
and Forest Products Businesses

Enrollment for Rapid-Response Services, by Month





Rural Economic Development Initiative

- From FY18 to FY20, \$225,000 in special appropriations for grant writing helped 24 rural enterprises and small towns win **\$4.1 million** in federal, state, and philanthropic funding.
- An additional \$2.3 million in federal, state, and philanthropic funds are pending.
- Projects span the state from Pownal to Newport, and have helped with outdoor recreation infrastructure, agricultural and forest industry projects, downtown revitalization, and developing rural childcare centers.
- Recent successful grant applications:
 - \$300,000 Vermont Community Development Program Grant for Jenna's Promise in Johnson
 - \$204,098 USDA Value Added Producer Grant to Agricola Meats in Panton
 - \$114,043 USDA Value Added Producer Grant to Sweet Rowen Farm in Glover
 - \$250,000 Northern Border Regional Commission grant to downtown water infrastructure in Jeffersonville

Summary of VHCB Restated FY2021 Budget

| Summary of State Funding | FY2021 Budget Restated & Capital Bill Actual | FY2020 Budget |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Property Transfer Tax to VHCB (-3%) | \$10,480,695 | \$10,804,840 |
| Capital Bill Appropriation (enacted) | \$6,600,000 | \$4,600,000 |
| Legacy funds (one-time General Fund) | | \$500,000 |
| Rural Economic Development Initiative | | \$75,000 |
| FY2021 State Funding | \$17,080,695 | \$15,904,840 |
| Special Initiatives | | |
| Housing Revenue Bond Proceeds – Final Balance | | \$6,100,000 |
| CRF Appropriation – Housing for Homeless | \$32,000,000 | |
| CRF Appropriation – Farm & Forest Business Coaching | \$192,000 | |



Fairbanks Museum, St.
Johnsbury



Lamoille River Access,
Cambridge



Wentworth Housing II,
Hartford

18-Month Pipeline

Housing, Conservation & Historic Preservation

- \$37 million for 54 rental housing developments, homeownership and accessibility
- \$10.5 million for 35 farmland conservation projects
- \$5.7 million for 63 natural resources and recreational areas projects
- \$1.2 million for 22 historic community buildings



In July, Hussam and Hazar Alhallak-Mansour moved their family into a new home on Crescent Street in Rutland, built by Habitat for Humanity.

Providing affordable housing is one of the best ways to make our communities inclusive.



Gus Seelig, Executive Director

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