

1 Sec. X. CTE CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION EXPERIENTIAL
2 LEARNING PROGRAM; REVOLVING LOAN FUND

3 (a) Purpose.

4 (1) This section authorizes and provides funding for a CTE Construction
5 and Rehabilitation Experiential Learning Program and Revolving Loan Fund,
6 the purposes of which are to:

7 (1) expand the experiential and educational opportunities for Vermont
8 CTE **high school and adult** students to work directly on **residential construction**
9 **projects;**

10 (2) build community partnerships among CTE centers, housing
11 organizations, government, and private businesses;

12 (3) beautify communities and rehabilitate underperforming housing **and**
13 **land** assets; **and**

14 (4) expand housing access to Vermonters in communities throughout the
15 State, **and**

16 (5) improve property values while teaching high school and adult
17 **students trades skills.**

18 (b) Appropriation; creation of fund. In fiscal year 2023 the amount of
19 \$15,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Vermont
20 Housing and Conservation Board to create and administer a CTE Construction

1 and Rehabilitation Experiential Learning Program and Revolving Loan Fund
2 pursuant to this section.

3 (c) Proposals; applications; funding.

4 (1) A regional CTE center, working in collaboration with one or more
5 housing and community partners, private businesses, nonprofit organizations,
6 or municipalities, shall identify project opportunities for rehabilitation of
7 blighted residential properties; or in exceptional cases of critical community
8 need -for new construction residential projects or improvements to land, which
9 would be relevant and appropriate for CTE students enrolled in construction,
10 electrical, plumbing, design, business management, or other CTE programs.

11 (2) A CTE center and its partners shall apply to the Board for funding
12 by submitting a project application that includes the information required by
13 the Board and addresses the following:

14 (A) the educational benefits for students and fit with the CTE
15 curriculum;

16 (B) the community benefits for the neighborhood, municipality, or
17 region in which the project is located; and

18 (C) the partners with whom the CTE center is collaborating and the
19 respective responsibility for the aspects of a project, including:

20 (i) educational instruction and academic credit;

21 (ii) project management;

1 (iii) insurance coverage for students and the property;

2 (iv) compensation and benefits, including compliance with labor

3 laws, standards, and practices; and

4 (v) property acquisition, ~~transfer, ownership and management, and~~

5 ~~transfer.~~

6 (3) A CTE center may use funding for, and shall specify in its

7 application the allocation of costs associated with:

8 (A) acquisition, design, permitting, construction, marketing, and

9 other building-related expenses; and

10 (B) costs for labor, including for student wages and for instructor

11 compensation during the academic year as well as for summer or other work

12 that is not otherwise budgeted during the academic year;

13 (d) Eligibility; review; approval. The Board may approve an application

14 that includes the information required by subsection (c) of this section and

15 provide funding for a project that meets the following eligibility criteria:

16 (1) The project involves the rehabilitation of blighted or non-code

17 compliant property, ~~or in cases of critical exceptional community need cases~~

18 ~~involves new construction residential projects or improvements to land,~~ and

19 results in a building with not more than four residential dwelling units.

20 (2) The project includes a weatherization component.

1 (3) Students working on the project receive academic credit, a
2 competitive wage, or both.

3 (e) Affordability; flexibility. If appropriate in the circumstances, the Board
4 may condition funding for a project on the inclusion of one or mechanisms
5 addressing the affordability of the property upon rent or sale.

6 (f) Funding; proceeds; revolving loans.

7 (1) The Board shall provide funding for projects from the amounts
8 available in the Fund in the form of zero-interest loans, in an amount, for a
9 period, and upon terms specified by the Board.

10 (2) The Board shall return to the Fund any proceeds realized to provide
11 funding for future projects.

12 (3) The Board may use up to five percent of the fund annually for cost of
13 administering the program.

14 (g) Report. The Board shall address the implementation of this section in
15 its annual report to the General Assembly.