

Canaan Schools - I did a quick read of the proposal and yes we could use funding in Canaan to create affordable net zero housing. We too are seeing a housing crunch that is keeping people from moving to the area for employment. We would use the Building Trades Program as a vehicle to construct a small housing development near school. We have everything we need to make this happen. We have near by land close to infrastructure and shovel ready that is for sale. What we do not have is a funding source to make this happen. If I can assist in anyway let me know.

- Eugene Reid, Instructor

SW VT Regional Technical School District (Bennington) We are interested, but have so many community projects I'm not sure we could utilize it to its extent. I support the concept and think it warrants consideration.

- Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director

Central Vermont Career Center (Barre) I believe we would use this program in partnership with another group.

- Jody Emerson, Director

St. Johnsbury Academy - We would use this program. It would help us find projects close to my center. It would help students get out and work on local rehab. projects. It would also allow them to work with local contractors.

- Patrick Guckin, Director

Hartford Career and Technology Center - We have a Building Trades program. Our program currently builds one house over the course of two years. We have a funding system in place for this already. We might use this program in the future, when we run out of the lots that we own. We could potentially use it sooner if we could hire two building trades teachers and have enough students to have two sections. However, when I hired for a Building Trades teacher last year there were minimal applicants.

-Erika Schneider, Director

Randolph Career and Technical Center - We have decided to move back to building (or rehabbing houses). This would give us seed money to make it a reality. We are a small CTE center. I also recall districts having a lot of challenges with the debt component of buying land and it taking two years to turn around the property. I want kids to learn the skills and partnering with housing agencies/ builders etc would lead to great opportunities for our students in the industry to learn from professionals alongside their instructor. They also are more employable showing documented experience versus just classroom or theoretical. Thanks for this opportunity.

- Felicia Allard, Director

Cold Hollow Career Center (Enosburg Falls) - I would agree/support this bill as the potential for good things to happen. I would add however if there is a way to increase or improve school infrastructure with the same idea or parameters might make sense. For example we need to build a sugar house, I would love to have additional support so contractors make it worthwhile to work with our students. Would love to reach out to VT works for Women and have them be able to come and support and provide outreach to not only our construction students but to all students. If there is a way to support this bill, but be willing to get more flexible or creative in how to use funds to attract future CTE students especially in Construction trades then I think we could kill two birds with one stone.

- Nate Demar, Director

Stafford Technical Center (Rutland) We would not use this funding. We have a separate corporation, Student Craft Corp, and the goal of this corporation is to build a new house every 2-3 years. Our district does not permit us to do rehabs/renovations.

- Melissa Connor, Director

Windham Technical Center (Brattleboro) - Who pays the cost for remediation of things like lead and asbestos? What is our liability in the short and long term if students are exposed? Who would be responsible or be the owner of the property if it did not sell? What if the cost of the rehab is greater than the value of the home once it is rehabeted?

I am going to go back to my statement that this does not move Vermont CTE forward in any way and the potential for pitfalls is huge. We have much higher priorities for the use of \$15,000,000.00 than something that we can easily build independently with our districts and community partners. We have access to low or Zero % loans, as do some of our community partners, we can work with Habitat for Humanity or housing trusts, plus paid and unpaid Work-Based Learning. We need to look at this in terms of priorities. We need money to equalize and meet the academic playing field and improve student outcomes, expand to offer more programs in the trades, health care, and other areas of high need, not duplicate things that we already have. We need to help the legislator look at what is important and to do that we have to agree on what is important.

I would also argue that the benefit of using the coop system is that it allows students to learn the industry from people in the industry. Remodeling real does not meet the curriculum that is required. It is just a whole host of problems that are not really our mission or goal. The answer is really that we should not be buying and managing property, that is not construction or building trades. Plus we have a whole host of issues that are much bigger that need funding.

- Nancy Wiese, Director

Green Mountain Technology and Career Center (Hyde Park) - While I really like the intent of the program, I worry that rehab of an existing property doesn't align well with the learning curve kids go through to become competent with construction and building skills. New construction offers a safer and more sequential approach to teaching and learning these skills, whereas a building rehab requires more advanced knowledge to diagnose problems, plan for, and then execute repairs- which likely means much more work for instructors. It also doesn't necessarily guarantee that students will practice all of the skills involved in new construction. But with a new building instructors know exactly when and how skills will be practiced and applied as the building goes up. So I would say no to this as written, with the exception of a more advanced adult Ed class. Otherwise I would say these funds should be used to build new affordable housing instead. That would be something we would use. - Erik Remmers, Director

North Country Career Center (Newport) - This fund and the relationships it would create with non-profit agencies and local contractors would be valuable to NCCC and our students. By sharing the responsibility with a non-profit organization (who would be the GC), our instructor could choose the pace at which our students would be involved. Our Building Trades instructor is in support of this opportunity. - Gwen Bailey-Rowe, Director

River Bend Career and Technical Center (Bradford) we do have a Construction Program and although in the immediate future we would not utilize this Program, I could see us doing so in the future. The business community is pushing hard to have these Construction students in full time apprenticeships and COOP opportunities their senior year. This really will limit our number of students available to work on these projects. Hopefully our numbers grow and we're able to do both. I think this is a great idea and I love the creative thinking going into this endeavor. Glad to help anyway I can. - Brain Emerson, Director

River Valley Technical Center (Springfield) - I am in agreement with Nancy(Windham) on this in that there is more to this than meets the eye. But I do see the merits. We are in a similar situation to Melissa(Stafford), in that we have our own building trades fund that replenishes the construction cost. I like that new construction is part of the possible uses but I am not sure how where would use it. If these funds could somehow be used to support local housing groups to buy CTE new construction homes (usually modular) and they take care of the land and site work plus costs related to transportation of the modular home to the local site then that might be helpful. I would rather sell our construction home to local folks or an agency that helps with affordable housing rather than selling our house to well-to-do people in Massachusetts like we have for the last two years. -Scott Farr, Superintendent/Director

Center for Technology Essex - Bob Travers, Director will be testifying

Northwest Technical Center - Leeann Wright, Director will be testifying

Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center (Middlebury) - We have not heard from them as to whether or not they could make use of this funding, but Director, Dana Peterson was interested in hearing more.

CTE Center with no Building Trades programs

Burlington Technical Center

Lyndon Institute