

Federal Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund

FY23 Governor's Recommended Budget

JULIE MOORE, ANR
JENNIFER FITCH, BGS
DOUGLAS FARNHAM, AOA

FEBRUARY 16, 2022

FY23 Climate Action Initiatives

Governor's FY23 Recommend proposes \$215.5m investment in climate action

- ARPA: \$161.5m
- One-time GF: \$10m
- Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund: \$44m

Federal Coronavirus Capital Project: Governor's Recommended List of Projects

Critical Communications Expansion Program

\$51,500,000

To support the deployment of at least 100 new mobile wireless installations to improve service along state highways and in population centers.

Libraries Capital Project

\$15,900,000

To pay for capital improvements such as ADA compliance, better space for in-building internet access, including space for online medical appointments and job interviews, and general building improvements.

Resilient Community Centers

\$44,069,184

Grants for infrastructure improvements in community-facing public facilities to improve existing space , including improvements such as HVAC, air quality, weatherization, EV infrastructure, broadband access.

State Parks Connectivity

\$1,530,816

Improve reliability, performance, and support of internet connectivity services to all state parks.

Total

\$113,000,000

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U.S. Treasury Guidance – Capital Project Eligibility

For a Capital Project to be an eligible use of Capital Projects Fund grant funds, it must meet all of the following criteria:

1. The Capital Project invests in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.
2. The Capital Project is designed to address a critical need that resulted from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
3. The Capital Project is designed to address a critical need of the community to be served by it

U.S Treasury Guidance – Presumptively Eligible Projects

Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects.

- Projects to construct or improve buildings that are designed to jointly and directly enable work, education, and health monitoring are eligible for funding under the Capital Projects Fund program... but these activities need not be the exclusive function or purpose of the Project.
- Recipients must explain why the communities they have identified to be served by Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects have a critical need for such projects.

Resilient Community Centers

Investments in public-facing municipal facilities can both help achieve Vermont's climate goals and improve multi-purpose civic spaces to meet 21st-century community needs, including:

- Expanding locations where community members can access high-speed internet service for work or educational purposes,
- Supporting community public health services and telehealth,
- Offering emergency shelter and
- Creating welcoming spaces for community gatherings and engagement.

Project would improve existing buildings through investments such as:

- Creating accessible, dedicated space for community members to conveniently and reliably access high-speed internet;
- Conducting energy audits of qualifying municipal facilities;
- Weatherizing buildings and other efficiency improvements to enhance comfort, improve indoor air quality and reduce building maintenance costs;
- Replacing fossil fuel heating systems with renewable and efficient heating systems;
- Providing emergency shelter, including battery storage and back-up generators as necessary, for community members during disasters and conditions of extreme heat and cold;
- Installing rooftop solar; and
- Continuing to build out a network of publicly available electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Resilient Community Centers

Initiative is a collaboration between ANR, BGS, ACCD, PSD, VDH and VEM

Would provide municipalities with technical assistance, direct financial support and incentives to make investments that modernize and make more resilient public-facing municipal facilities

Initial priority screen would focus on needs related to community broadband access and facility compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), followed by a “menu” of other potential improvements

- Designed to build on:
 - Interactive map of public WiFi hotspots developed by PSD
 - Accessibility Modification Grant program administered by ACCD
 - Audits currently underway as part of the SEMP led by BGS
 - Local emergency management plans supported by VEM
 - Initial Climate Action Plan, adopted Dec 1, 2021