

PRIORITIZING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Strong and Vibrant Communities

Resilient Community Centers



- **WHAT:** As part of the Governor’s Climate Mitigation Package, the Administration is proposing a Resilient Community Center Program to support community resilience in the face of a changing climate, while improving multi-purpose civic spaces to allow for safe public gatherings and meet 21st-century community needs.
- **WHY:** Investments in public-facing municipal facilities will reinvigorate these important community assets to meet local needs such as: supporting community public health services and telehealth, offering emergency shelter and creating welcoming spaces for community gatherings and engagement.
- **WHO:** Vermont municipalities will receive technical assistance and direct financial support and incentives to make investments that modernize and make more resilient public-facing municipal facilities. Individual grant award not to exceed \$1 million.
- **HOW:** Building on work currently underway as part of the State Energy Management Program (SEMP) Expansion to develop energy services tools for municipal buildings, this grant funding will create opportunities to improve existing building by supporting the following types of projects:
 - 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;
 - Installing rooftop solar;
 - Continuing to build out a network of publicly available electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
 - Expanding locations where community members can reliably access high-speed internet service; and
 - Providing emergency shelter, including battery storage, for community members during a disaster.
- **FUNDING:** \$44 million is included in the Governor’s FY23 ARPA Capital recommended budget.

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