

Building Communities Grants

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Building Communities Grants

Overview:

Building Communities Grants provide competitive funding opportunities to municipalities and nonprofits as defined in Chapter 117 of Title 24 for capital costs associated with:

- the development and creation of community recreational opportunities;
- major maintenance, renovation, or for the development of facilities for the delivery of human services and health care or for the development of educational opportunities; and
- major maintenance, renovation, or planning related to the development of facilities reasonably expected to create or retain job opportunities

in Vermont communities.

The program provides last-gap funding for shovel-ready projects and does not support ongoing fundraising initiatives.

Matching funds are required. The BCG committees give priority consideration to grant applicants demonstrating they have strong community support through the success of local fundraising campaigns.

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Grant Cycle:

- Applications available in summer
- Applications due September 10
- Committees meet in October

2024 Summary:

- 110 grant applications
- 89 awarded, 21 not awarded (81%)
- Grants ranged from \$1,300 to \$25,000 for a total of \$925,472.68
- All 14 counties represented

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- **Recreational Grants:**
 - \$300,000 annual appropriation
 - 2024 stats:
 - 12 counties
 - 27 grants ranging from \$3,500 to \$25,000
- **Human Services Grants**
 - \$150,000 annual appropriation
 - 2024 stats:
 - 9 counties
 - 17 grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$17,000
- **Educational Facilities Grants**
 - \$150,000 annual appropriation
 - 2024 stats:
 - 8 counties
 - 17 grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$15,000
- **Regional Economic Development Grants**
 - \$300,000 annual appropriation
 - 2024 stats:
 - 11 counties
 - 28 grants ranging from \$1,300 to \$25,000

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Case Studies

Brattleboro Housing Partnership: \$25,000

- *Our goal is to install a playground/outdoor activity equipment at one of our family sites, Ledgewood Heights. It is a 41-unit neighborhood with anywhere between 80-100 children living there. Currently there is a play area where there once was equipment that had to be removed for safety reasons. The children have no safe place to play - thus they use the parking areas and roadways. This will enhance the environment for the entire neighborhood.*

Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital, Townshend: \$17,264.10

- *Grace Cottage maintains a wastewater pumping station that serves both Grace Cottage and Townshend Elementary School. The system has two pumps, one serving as a backup to the other; currently one of these pumps is not functioning. Also, the electrical system that controls these pumps is 31 years old and needs to be replaced. Grace Cottage will replace both pumps and the electrical panel this fall. If this work is not done and the other pump fails, both facilities will be in dire straits.*

Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick: \$6,000

- *Completion of non-load-bearing walls in the critical new multi-use community spaces on the lower level of a long-awaited expansion of the library. The community spaces are designed for speakers, educational classes, hands-on activities, community meetings, and cultural events.*

NVDA on behalf of Three Branches Café & Bakery, Island Pond: \$9,100

- *Purchasing equipment including food warmers, refrigeration units, lightings, furnishings, and an oven for a café that supports village revitalization through serving as a community hub.*