

State Funding Proposal

Common Good Vermont

1/31/2025

Appropriation Request:

Common Good Vermont seeks a \$226,470 annual grant from the Vermont general fund. Funds will be invested to provide capacity to nonprofits that have grants and/or contracts through the State of Vermont. These organizations are leading Vermont forward by providing a range of essential and beneficial services including those dedicated to arts, environment, community building, affordable housing and homelessness, youth services, libraries, mental health, childcare, hunger, and others.

Common Good's program will fill a gap in grant and contract support for the sector and create efficiencies for both nonprofits and the State.

Common Good Vermont will provide with State funding:

- Annual training on grant compliance, reporting, and financial management.
- Annual statewide nonprofit conference, including representatives from the Administration and the Legislature, on best practices for partnering with State government.
- Bi-annual [survey & report on Vermont nonprofit wages & benefits](#) to support nonprofit employers with recruitment and retention.
- Technical assistance and/or training on fiscal sponsorship, as well as nonprofit mergers and dissolutions, in partnership with the office of the Secretary of State.
- One-on-one coaching for nonprofits on financial management and other organizational health concerns.
- Scholarships to Common Good Vermont educational programming to increase equitable access to learning for employees.

Common Good Vermont has a long track record of providing nonprofits with access to mission-critical resources tailored to the unique needs of the sector. This includes multi-month certificate & cohort programs on nonprofit management and development best practices, workforce development & education reports, technical assistance, information & resource sharing, job and board position posting sites, sector advocacy & issue convening, and sector data. These services are highly valued by the nonprofit community and delivered by a team of three staff members without any public support.

With funding from the State of Vermont, Common Good Vermont will expand our offerings to support emerging sector needs, grow equitable access to programming, and, in partnership with the State, increase the impact of public investments.

About Common Good Vermont

Common Good Vermont, a statewide program of United Way of Northwest Vermont, is a trusted resource and nonpartisan advocate for the State's more than 6,400 nonprofit organizations, supporting the success of Vermont's nonprofits through education, advocacy and relationship building.

Vermont nonprofits serve all corners of our State, providing vital services, good jobs, and civic engagement that make our communities stronger, healthier, and more resilient. They address basic human needs such as food, shelter, childcare, health services, and education. They also provide vibrancy to our villages, towns, and cities through investment in the arts, libraries, historic preservation, conservation and environmental concerns, and economic development.

In the face of rising costs, frequent crises, workforce shifts, evolving technology, and declining resources, the strain on these essential organizations is building. This crisis threatens the ability of nonprofits to meet growing community needs efficiently and effectively.

Many Vermont nonprofits provide services on behalf of the government through grants and contracts. The partnership between government and nonprofits can be strengthened to promote innovation, collective models of impact, and streamlined processes -- all of which serve the long-term interests of taxpayers and communities. Together, by providing training, resources, and technical assistance that builds the capacity of nonprofits with State grants and contracts, we ensure Vermont receives the full value of public investments in our social sector.