

Vermont Evaluation of Rural Technical Assistance (VERTA)

Strengthening Support for Vermont's Rural Communities

What is This Project?

Vermont's rural communities face growing challenges, including aging infrastructure, complex regulations, limited municipal capacity, and economic decline. While technical assistance (TA) providers exist, rural towns struggle to access the support they need. The VERTA project, led by UVM's Center for Rural Studies and in partnership with the State of Vermont's Department of Housing and Community Development through the support of UVM's Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships, is evaluating Vermont's current municipal TA system and developing recommendations to improve its effectiveness and accessibility. This project aligns with Act 181 of 2024, Section 67.

Project Goals

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Provide | Provide a comparative analysis of Vermont's current TA provider model against other states. |
| Engage | Engage at least 50% of municipalities to identify challenges and successes. |
| Foster | Foster collaboration among policymakers, TA providers, funders, and municipalities. |
| Host | Host a statewide summit to build consensus. |
| Develop | Develop strategic recommendations to improve municipal technical assistance. |

Why This Matters

Improving Vermont's TA system will help rural communities navigate funding opportunities, strengthen governance, and build resilience. Your voice is essential to ensuring the recommendations reflect real community needs.

Who Will Be Involved?

Community Leaders & Municipal Officials

Share your experiences and challenges in accessing technical assistance.

Elected Representatives

Learn how better-coordinated TA can help your constituents and inform policy decisions.

Technical Assistance Providers

Help shape improvements that make municipal support more effective and responsive.

How Can You Get Involved?

Participate in Surveys & Listening Sessions

Provide input on the strengths and weaknesses of Vermont's TA system.

Join the Stakeholder Summit

Engage with policymakers, TA providers, and community leaders to discuss solutions.

Stay Informed & Provide Feedback

Follow the project's progress and contribute to the recommendations.

Vermont Evaluation of Rural Technical Assistance (VERTA)

Strengthening Support for Vermont's Rural Communities

Project Steering Committee

Northeastern VT Development Association (NVDA)

David Snedeker, Executive Director

VT League of Cities and Towns (VLCT)

Ted Brady, Executive Director

Preservation Trust of Vermont

Ben Doyle, President

VT Council on Rural Development (VCRD)

Denise Smith, Executive Director

Jessica Savage, Director of Programs & Strategic Initiatives

VT Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB)

Mariah Noth, Rural Economic Development Initiative
Program Manager

VT Community Foundation (VCF)

Holly Morehouse, VP for Grants & Community Impact

VT Assoc. of Planning and Dev. Agencies (VAPDA)

Chris Campany, Executive Director, Windham Regional
Commission

Land Access & Opportunity Board

Ornella Matta-Figueroa, Director of Advocacy & Engagement

Jean Myung Hamilton, Director of Program Development

State Treasurers Office

Ashlynn Doyon, Director of Policy

VT Agency of Administration

Patricia Moulton, Flood Recovery Officer, Central Vermont

Want to Learn More?

For more information, please contact:

Andrew Brown (UVM) – Andrew.Brown@uvm.edu

Michael Moser (UVM) – Michael.Moser@uvm.edu

Richard Amore (UVM) – Richard.Amore@uvm.edu

Or visit: www.accd.vermont.gov/VERTA

Chris Cochran (DHCD) – Chris.Cochran@vermont.gov

Gary Holloway (DHCD) – Gary.Holloway@vermont.gov

Jeff Dube (DHCD) – Jeff.Dube@vermont.gov

