

VERMONT COUNCIL ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural Technical Assistance Legislative Presentation



WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

- **Our Mission:** The Vermont Council on Rural Development helps Vermont citizens build prosperous and resilient communities through democratic engagement, marshalling resources, and collective action.
- **Since 1992,** VCRD has developed a portfolio of community and policy action that includes:
 - Town-by-town community development strategic planning (90+ Community Visits and more)
 - 8 Governor's Summits retreats, 15 statewide Rural Summit conferences, 3 national Rural Policy convenings;
 - Policy council initiatives on agricultural viability, value added forest products development, the creative economy, the structure of the planning system, in-state energy development, the future of Vermont, advancing the Vermont working landscape, and advancing Vermont's Climate Change Economy;

We are your State Rural Development Council



Rural Technical Assistance Supports Community Vitality

VCRD and Our Partners Urge the Legislature to
**include a \$500,000 appropriation to support rural
technical assistance in the State's FY'27 budget.**

*State, regional and local partners working together to provide
coordinated navigation support and flexible funding to Vermont's rural
towns to achieve community priorities aligned with state goals*

WHAT THE PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE

- **Flexible municipal support:** Meaningful, flexible grants for town-specific projects focused on community and economic development initiatives such as childcare, housing, water/wastewater, climate resilience or other community priorities
- **TA navigation and wraparound support:** TA providers and consultants will coordinate their services and provide navigation support to communities in the cohort
- **Evaluation and learning:** Ongoing assessment to refine program design, improve statewide TA service delivery, and implement recommendations in the VERTA report

PROGRAM DESIGN

- VERTA report plus combined decades of experience on Steering Committee+
- Core concepts and principles:
 - Community driven
 - Coordinated TA services
 - Flexible funding
 - Complementary to state development goals

QUESTIONS?

<https://www.vtrural.org/>



For more info: Denise Smith, *VCRD Executive Director* | denise@vtrural.org | 802-232-2513