

Written Testimony to the House Commerce Committee

Subject: Vermont Community Loan Fund: CTE Collaboration with Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity

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Over the past two years, the Central Vermont Career Center has collaborated with Habitat for Humanity on a home in Barre, VT. Initially discussing how we might work together and use the Vermont Community Loan Fund to support the work, and then collaborating on a project at 22 Hill Street in Barre.

I'd like to briefly share how students from the Building Trades and Electrical Technology programs at the Central Vermont Career Center are making a real impact through our partnership with Habitat for Humanity on the Hill Street House project.

This project gives our students true hands-on experience. They aren't just learning in a classroom; they are working on a real home, applying skills like framing, finishing, wiring, and problem-solving in a professional setting.

At the same time, they are learning the importance of service. Our students see how their work helps provide safe, affordable housing for families in our community. It shows them that their skills can truly make a difference.

They also develop strong work habits by arriving on time, adhering to safety standards, communicating with supervisors, and working as part of a team. These are the qualities employers are looking for.

By working alongside Habitat staff, instructors, and community volunteers, students learn teamwork and professionalism. They experience how different trades come together to complete a successful project.

Most importantly, this experience builds confidence and pride. When students see the finished Hill Street House, they know they helped create something meaningful. That sense of accomplishment motivates them to succeed in their future careers.

This partnership highlights the value of career and technical education and demonstrates how Central Vermont Career Center students are helping build a stronger workforce and community.

Thank you for supporting programs like ours and for investing in our students and our future.