

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Regional Development Corporations of Vermont



Primary Objectives:

Recognize and build upon positive contributions to the Vermont economy, anticipate and react to new economic challenges, and do no harm.

Priority 1: Strengthen VEGI and Companion Programs

Action:

Strengthen the VEGI program by eliminating sunset provisions and allocate funding for professional consulting services to enhance business incentive offerings, with a focus on better supporting small and rural businesses.

Outcome:

Businesses retain and create jobs, small enterprises gain equitable access to incentives, and Vermont remains competitive for economic growth.

Priority 2: Expand Building Communities Grant Program

Action:

Increase funding from \$900,000 to \$1,000,000 to support business growth and community infrastructure.

Outcome:

Provides critical gap funding for shovel-ready projects that create or retain jobs, strengthen regional economies, and enhance community facilities. Increased funding ensures more municipalities and nonprofits can complete high-impact projects that drive long-term economic development and improve quality of life.

Priority 3: Adjust Act 181 Timelines

Action:

Delay Tier 3 designations and road rule implementations by one year; extend interim exemptions by one year.

Outcome:

Municipalities and businesses have time to comply without halting development, ensuring smoother implementation and continued growth. The delayed timeline recognizes the positive developments of the interim period allowing for more time for these to play out while still respecting the objectives of Act 181.

Priority 4: Increase Brownfields Funding

Action:

Add \$5 million in state funds to meet stricter standards for lead, arsenic, and PAHs (Effective Nov. 2025)

Outcome:

Prevent redevelopment delays on contaminated sites caused by stricter standards, enabling economic growth, improving community environmental health, and creating more utility-ready areas for housing.