

Addison County  
Regional Planning Commission



# ACRPC's Monthly Newsletter

June 2024



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## ACRPC UPDATE

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### **Presentation on Changes to Open Meeting Law at June Full Commission Meeting**

At ACRPC's Full Commission Meeting on **Wednesday June 12**, guests from the Office of the Secretary of State will be joining us to present on the recent changes to Vermont's Open Meeting Law. This is a terrific opportunity for any new, or returning, municipal officials to attend and catch-up on the changes made.

The Full Commission meeting is at **7pm** and is available for in-person or remote attendance and all are welcome. Details for joining the meeting virtually, along with location and time, can be found on our website.

[Visit our  
Website](#)



### **THERE'S STILL TIME!**

#### **Basin 3 CWSP**

#### **Call for Proposals for Clean Water Projects**

As the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for the Otter Creek Basin, ACRPC is Issuing a request for proposals for projects that improve water quality in Basin 3. Any proposed projects must be consistent with the Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) Funding Policy. Applicants must consult with DEC staff on potential project impacts on natural resources, like wetlands or river corridors and to give DEC 30 days to review project impacts.

Applications for this round of funding are due: **June 12, 2024**

If you have any questions you can contact [Mike Winslow](#) or [Deron Rixon](#) by email.

[Read the Full RFP Here](#)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Nearly \$598,000 in VOREC Grants Boost Outdoor Recreation Across Addison County!

Congratulations are in order for [Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center](#), [Middlebury Area Land Trust \(MALT\)](#), [Lincoln Sports Inc.](#), and the [Town of Cornwall](#)!

These are the recipients in Addison County of the **2023 VOREC Community Grant Program**. Funding from this program is designed to enhance recreation economies in rural, mid-size and urban communities, lay the groundwork for future community-based projects, expand access to outdoor recreation for all people, and help communities and trail organizations recover from the flooding of summer 2023.

[Explore the Grant Recipients and Projects Here](#)



## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

### VCDA 2024 Spring Conference How Municipalities Can Drive Local Economic Development

Celebrate the power of municipalities in shaping vibrant communities and driving economic development at the Vermont Community Development Association Annual Spring Conference on **June 25th in Hardwick, Vermont**.

This event will highlight the pivotal role municipalities play in fostering vibrancy and resilience across Vermont. Join VCDA in Hardwick to:

- Hear firsthand accounts of impactful municipally-led projects driving positive change in towns across the state.
- Share practical tools and strategies to empower municipalities in their development efforts.
- Learn effective techniques for rallying support and engagement from municipal leaders.
- Showcase stories of collaboration and unity, where communities and municipalities join forces to achieve shared goals.

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

The Towns of **Leicester** and **Monkton** have finalized drafts of their 5-year Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) that include updates of previous hazard mitigation proposed-actions, a hazards inventory and risk assessment, revised overall mitigation goals, and new mitigation projects associated with each of the hazards identified.

The plans will be submitted to the Vermont State Hazard Mitigation Officer for review and approval in June 2024.

If you have comments or suggestions, please send them by **June 15** to ACRPC's Emergency Management Planner, [Andrew L'Roe](#).

Review the Plans

A FEMA-approved LHMP is required for local governments that wish to receive federal funds from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. The LHMP is also one of the mitigation actions needed to qualify for additional post-disaster funding through the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

If you have questions about your own municipality's LHMP status or steps needed to create or update one, please reach out!



### First St. Stephen's Housing Grant Awarded!

Congratulations to Colleen Brown, her husband, Doug, pictured standing, and their friend and tenant, Ginny, pictured seated, on being the first Housing Grant winner of **one of six \$5,000 grants** given to people willing to create affordable housing on their property.

## GRANT & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## Community

### Community Heart & Soul Grant Program

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program is uniquely designed for small cities and towns (population 2,500-30,000). Successful applicants will receive \$10,000 grants to match funding from a participating municipality or a partnering organization. Awards are made on a **rolling basis**.

[Learn More](#)

### Downtown and Village Tax Credits

2024 Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits applications are due **August 1**. The application portal is expected to open in **mid-June**.

Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits serve multiple purposes. They help stimulate private investment, create jobs, and support new and upgraded rental housing. Successful projects range from modest renovations to multimillion-dollar downtown redevelopments.

In FY2024, **\$4.35 Million** in state income tax credits are available. Credits are awarded to projects that improve building safety, attract new business, and create jobs. Projects must be within a **state-designated downtown, village center, or neighborhood development area**.

[Learn More](#)

## Energy

### Electrify Your Fleet Program

The VTrans has launched their Electrify Your Fleet program, offering organizations the opportunity to apply for up to twenty \$2,500 incentives. The Electrify Your Fleet program aims to transition from fossil-fueled transportation, addressing carbon emissions and promoting cleaner options. Priority is given to historically underserved communities. Eligible vehicles include electric, hybrid, bicycles, motorcycles, and snowmobiles. Participants must hold the vehicles for 24 months and demonstrate emission reduction. [Learn more here and apply here!](#)

**Due: June 30**

[Learn More](#)

### Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP)

The Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP) may be able to help you. WRAP is intended to assist both homeowners and renters in Vermont in pursuing home weatherization projects by allowing them to pay for the costs over time through a low-interest monthly charge on their utility bill.

WRAP assists with projects like insulation and air sealing as well as heat pumps, electric water heaters and advanced wood heating systems.

[Learn More](#)

## Emergency Management

### Does Your Town have a Big Project that Would Make it More Resilient to Flooding or Other Hazards?

**Now is the Time To Get it Done!**

An unprecedented amount of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Funding and State Match for 100% of costs is available to Vermont towns for projects that reduce the risk of hazards as a result of the July 2023 flooding (even if your town wasn't severely affected by that storm!)

**These projects can include:**

- Voluntary property buyouts
- Structural Elevation of buildings
- Floodplain restoration
- Dam removals
- Upsizing Bridges and Culverts
- Other infrastructure projects
- Floodproofing of municipal or commercial buildings
- Road relocation, elevation, or soil stabilization

VEM is covering the 25% match usually required from local sources- this means selected projects will be 100% funded from FEMA and VEM.

**Who can apply?**

- Towns with an approved (or in process) 5-year Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)- it must be finalized to receive funds
- A project from the list above, with a Benefit-Cost Analysis showing that the project is cost-effective.
- Applicants **do not need to have damages** from the July 2023 flooding

**Application Steps:**

- Complete a Pre-application Form by **August 16, 2024**
- Pre-applications will be evaluated for eligibility, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness
- Projects meeting these requirements will be invited to apply, provided technical assistance (if requested) and submitted to FEMA by late 2024.

If you have questions or project ideas you'd like to pursue, please contact ACRPC Emergency Management Planner [Andrew L'Roe](#) or at 802-388-3141 x3

Learn More

**Rural Fire Protection Grant Program**

The installation of new dry hydrants and other types of rural water supplies is still the program priority, but eligible projects may include repair/upgrade, replacement, or relocation of existing rural water supplies (whether previously grant funded or not), and drafting site development.

[Download the application packet here.](#)

Learn More

**Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF)**

This is a voluntary program that will prioritize projects in communities and/or for homeowners with greatest economic need and projects that mitigate repetitive loss among low-income and marginalized portions of the population. **Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.** Priority will be given to buyout projects following the July 2023 flooding in Vermont.

Learn More

**Transportation**

**2024 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**

**Natural Resources**

**Forestry Accelerator Now Accepting Applications**

The Forestry Accelerator is a four month

The VT Agency of Transportation is soliciting applications for projects through the **VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**. The intent of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is to improve access and safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects.

The Bike/Ped Program provides funding for the following facilities:

- Bike Lanes
- Shoulders
- Sidewalks
- Ped crossings improvements
- Pedestrian signals
- ADA improvements
- Shared-use paths

**Applications Due: June 14**

[Learn More](#)

### **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program**

The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Over \$3 billion is still available for future funding rounds. The SS4A program provides funding for two types of grants: **Planning and Demonstration Grants** and **Implementation Grants**.

**Planning and Demonstration Grants** provide Federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement an Action Plan. The goal of an Action Plan is to develop a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a locality, Tribal area, or region. Planning and Demonstration Grants also fund supplemental planning activities in support of an Action Plan and demonstration activities in support of an Action Plan.

**August 29, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT):** Deadline #3 for Planning and Demonstration Grants. NOFO closes.

[Learn More](#)

accelerator for North American start ups that are commercializing new and improved products, services, and technology in the forest and wood industries. Companies receive expert advice and tools to build a market-validated business case, model, and operating plan through a rigorous commercialization curriculum, coaching, webinars and panels, and connections to industry experts, customers, and suppliers.

This program will run July - November 2024.

**Applications Due: June 14**

[Learn More](#)

### **Vermont Natural Resources Council Small Grants for Smart Growth**

VNRC's Small Grants for Smart Growth program, in collaboration with Preservation Trust of Vermont, is seeking competitive applications for a special grant round of **up to \$2,500** for communities seeking to build momentum toward flood-resilient community development.

Projects might involve advocacy for **better land use**, by getting involved in the “nuts and bolts” work of municipal planning, regulations, or a permitting process. A project could also be a town or local group effort to promote downtown or village center revitalization and historic preservation; to develop a plan for better sidewalks or paths; to identify ways to support housing choice and affordability; or to plan on **conserving land for agriculture or forestry**.

Applications are being accepted on a **rolling basis**.

[Learn More](#)

Want to get in touch or ask us a question?

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