

BUILDING COMMUNITIES GRANTS PROGRAMS

The Building Communities Grants Programs consist of five grant programs established and funded by the Vermont Legislature to “help communities preserve important historic buildings and enhance community facilities.” All of these grant programs, with the exception of the Barn Grants, require that the applicant be a non-profit organization, regional economic development organization, or municipality. The deadlines for all five grant programs vary and the committee selections are made up by individual boards through an established selection process. All grants require matching funding. Funds raised from local fundraising efforts are encouraged. You may not apply to more than one of the grant programs for the same project in one calendar year. Please contact the Grant Administrator’s with any questions.

- **Please read the grant descriptions carefully below to determine which programs fund the type of project you are planning.**
- **Look at the grant instructions and applications on-line at the websites listed below.**
- **Contact representatives from the Agencies listed below if you have any questions concerning their respective grant programs.**
- **Be prepared to demonstrate strong community support for projects on public buildings through fundraising campaigns and grass roots initiatives.**
- **Make sure you meet the criteria before applying.**
- **Good luck!**

CULTURAL GRANTS

Agricultural Fairs Capital Projects Competitive Grant

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets has been administering the Agricultural Fairs & Field Days Capital Projects Competitive Grants program for over ten years. Funding is appropriated yearly to assist our fairs throughout the state with capital improvements, and each grant recipient has 24 months to complete their project. Approved projects and proposals must have a 20-year lifespan. Emphasis is placed on leveraging other funds and generating community support for the fair through improvements to the infrastructure, budgets must include a 15% match, which may be either in-kind or cash. Examples of endorsed grant activities include: safety improvements to tractor pad area, construction of a multipurpose horse barn, roof replacement, agricultural education building upgrades, barn floor replacement, facility upgrades, and historical grandstand restoration.

For more information, contact:

Lauren Masseria

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets

Phone: 802-505-5413

Email: Lauren.Masseria@vermont.gov

Website: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov>

Cultural Facilities Grant Program

The cultural facilities grant program is administered by the Vermont Arts Council in conjunction with the Vermont Historical Society, and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. The program awards grants on a competitive basis to assist nonprofit organizations and municipalities to improve community facilities used to provide cultural activities to the public. The purpose of the program is to enhance or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural programming. Grants range from \$1,000.00 - \$30,000.00 and require a 1:1 match (at least 50% of which must be in cash and up to 50% of which may be in well documented in-kind materials and/or labor). More information on program deadline and grant workshops can be found on the Council's website.

For more information, contact:

Michele Bailey

Vermont Arts Council

Phone: 802-828-3294

Email: mbailey@vermontartscouncil.org

Website: www.vermontartscouncil.org

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Historic Preservation Grant Program

Established in 1986 and administered by the Division for Historic Preservation, the Historic Preservation Grant program offers competitive 50/50 matching grants to assist municipalities and nonprofit organizations in restoring important historic buildings across the state. Each year, grants of up to \$20,000.00 are awarded by the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to help preserve and repair buildings that will promote the public's awareness and appreciation of Vermont's cultural heritage. Town halls, municipal buildings, churches, historical societies, granges, and many other kinds of buildings have been funded. Eligible work includes restoration and repair of roofs, structural elements, windows, foundations, and other components of historic buildings.

For more information, contact:

Caitlin Corkins

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Phone: 802-828-3047

Email: Caitlin.Corkins@vermont.gov

Website: http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/preservation/grants/historic_preservation

Historic Barn and Agricultural Buildings Grant Program

Established in 1992 and administered by the Division for Historic Preservation, the Barn Grant program offers competitive 50/50 matching grants to assist owners with the repair of historic agricultural buildings (barns, corn cribs, silos, grist mills, etc.) across the state. Grants of up to \$15,000.00 are awarded by the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the restoration and repair of endangered agricultural buildings, which can be in private ownership. Historic barns may qualify whether they are in active agricultural use or non-agricultural use. Eligible work includes restoration and repair of roofs, structural elements, windows, foundations, and other important components of historic agricultural buildings.

For more information, contact:

Caitlin Corkins

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Phone: 802-828-3047

Email: Caitlin.Corkins@vermont.gov

Website: http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/preservation/grants/barn

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GENERAL SERVICES

Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program

The human services and educational facilities grant program provides competitive grants to municipalities and non-profit organizations for capital costs associated with major maintenance, renovation, or development of facilities for the delivery of human services and health care, or for the development of educational opportunities in Vermont communities. This program provides last gap funding for shovel-ready projects and all permits must be in hand before submitting the application. The program requires a 1:1 financial match of funding, and grants are awarded up to \$25,000.00. The application deadline is July 31st each year and recipients are announced in the fall.

Recreational Facilities Grant Program

The recreational facilities grant program provides competitive grants to municipalities and non-profit organizations for capital costs associated with the development and creation of community recreational opportunities in Vermont communities. This program requires that there be demonstrated community support for the project, both in financial and grassroots engagement. This program provides last gap funding for shovel-ready projects and all permits must be in hand before submitting the application. The program requires a 1:1 financial match of funding, and grants are awarded up to \$25,000.00. The application deadline is July 31st each year and recipients are announced in the fall.

Regional Economic Development Grant Program

The regional economic development grant program is open to municipalities and non-profit organizations for capital costs associated with major maintenance, renovation, or planning related to the development of facilities reasonable expected to create or retain job opportunities in Vermont communities. Projects must promote financial engagement in either an individual community or recognized community service area. This program provides last gap funding for shovel-ready projects and all permits must be in hand before submitting the application. The program requires a 1:1 financial match of funding, and grants are awarded up to \$25,000.00. The application deadline is July 31st each year and recipients are announced in the fall.

For more information, contact:

Department of Buildings and General Services

Phone: 802-828-3519

Email: Judy.Bruneau@vermont.gov

Website: <http://www.bgs.vermont.gov/commissioner/building-communities-grants> or at http://www.bgs.vermont.gov/commissioner/forms_publications