

**State of Vermont
Standard Grant Agreement**

Agreement #

Part 2 – Grant Agreement

1. Parties: This is a Grant Agreement between State of Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS), (hereinafter called “State”) And Municipality of with principal place of business at , **Vermont 05** (hereinafter called “Grantee”). It is the grantee’s responsibility to contact the Vermont Department of Taxes to determine if, by law, the grantee is required to have a Vermont Department of Taxes Business Account Number.
2. Subject Matter: The subject matter of this Grant Agreement is the Municipal Energy Resilience Program-Capacity Building Mini-Grant authorized by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 172 Sec. 3(c)(1)(B).
3. Award Details: Amounts, dates and other award details are as shown in the attached *Grant Agreement Part 1-Grant Award Detail*. A detailed scope of work covered by this award is described in Attachment A.
4. Amendment: No changes, modifications, or amendments in the terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement shall be effective unless reduced to writing, numbered, and signed by the duly authorized representative of the State and Subrecipient.
5. Term and Effective Date: This agreement shall become effective from the date of signing by both parties and remain in effect until all funds awarded to the Grantee have been spent and all of the Grantee’s reporting requirements to the State have been satisfied, unless superseded by a future agreement which may better reflect the timeline of monitoring and reporting required by the State.
6. Cancellation: This Grant Agreement may be suspended or cancelled by either party by giving written notice at least 60 days in advance.
7. Attachments: This Grant consists of 12 pages including the following attachments that are incorporated herein:
 - Grant Agreement-Part 1 – Grant Award Detail
 - Grant Agreement Part 2 – Grant Agreement
 - Attachment A – Scope of Work To Be Performed
 - Attachment B – Payment Provisions
 - Attachment C – Customary State Grant Provisions
 - Attachment D – Other Provisions
8. Order of Precedence: Any ambiguity, conflict or inconsistency in the Grant Documents shall be resolved according to the following order of precedence:
 - 1) Grant Agreement Part 1 and Part 2
 - 2) Attachment C
 - 3) Attachment D
 - 4) Attachment A
 - 5) Attachment B



WE THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THIS GRANT AGREEMENT.

By the State of Vermont:

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Department of Buildings and General Services

By the Grantee:

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

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ATTACHMENT A: SCOPE OF WORK

Grant Timeline:

- Ongoing: Grantee coordination and communication period begins with their Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) regarding program outreach and education. RPCs will contact towns to gather information and assist in grant applications.
- March 7, 2023: Applications open. Grantee may receive application assistance from their RPC.
- December 31, 2024: All grant awards must be obligated by BGS to grantees.
- December 31, 2026: All grant awards must be expended by BGS to grantees.
- Fiscal Year End (ongoing): Report due for funds spent by the Grantee. If funds are spent over multiple fiscal years, reports will be submitted annually.

The Grantee shall,

Facilitate community meetings and communication about municipal energy resilience.

Community meetings and communication. Grantee may use the funding to hold community meetings and send various forms of communication about their energy resilience plan, both project-specific for this funding opportunity, as well as for municipal operations. Examples include holding community gatherings and forums, creating a webpage, social media, or mailings to support the grantee's energy resilience goals and objectives, and/or forming an Energy Committee.

Identify qualified local project(s). Grantee may use the funding to incentivize a community volunteer or group to lead a project or provide capacity to municipal officials leading the project. The funding may also be used to hire a consultant to assist the covered municipality in identifying candidate project(s) for future energy resilience assessments and projects.

Grant application assistance. Grantee may use the funding to hire a consultant to assist with the drafting of the grant applications for the energy resilience assessment(s) and projects(s).

Communication, coordination, and technical assistance. Grantee is strongly encouraged to work with their Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) on all elements of the MERP including the up to \$4,000 community education grants. The RPCs have received funding as part of this program and are required to aid with education and outreach, planning, grants applications, and technical assistance to their respective covered municipalities.

Reporting. Grantee shall deliver a report that includes the efforts made with use of these funds, once concluded, by June 30th, 2024. If the efforts are ongoing (i.e. last more than one year, for example if funding a municipal energy committee), then this report will be completed annually for the expenses incurred during that fiscal year.

ATTACHMENT B: PAYMENT PROVISIONS

In accordance with Act 172 Sec. 3(c)(1)(B), BGS shall administer the Municipal Energy Resilience Program and award grants for the following: “(B) not more than \$4,000.00 to each covered municipality to facilitate community meetings and communication about municipal energy resilience”.

Grantee shall be awarded their entire grant amount within 30 days of the execution of this agreement, assuming that Covered Municipality has taken all necessary steps to receive the award as required by the State of Vermont Agency of Administration- Financial Services Division (FSD). Upon completion of this agreement Grantee will receive a Grant Number to be utilized in all correspondence, invoicing and reporting with both BGS and FSD. Upon signature by the Grantee and State, the Grantee shall receive a copy of the fully executed agreement, at which point FSD will begin the process of delivering funds.

Grantee commits to submitting a report detailing a narrative summary along with funds spent at the end of the respective fiscal year. If community capacity building efforts are ongoing, a report will be submitted for each fiscal year that funds are spent.

No additional expenses may be sought by the Grantee from the State beyond the funding provided under this grant agreement.

ATTACHMENT C: STANDARD STATE PROVISIONS FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

1. **Definitions:** For purposes of this Attachment, "Party" shall mean the Contractor, Grantee or Subrecipient, with whom the State of Vermont is executing this Agreement and consistent with the form of the Agreement. "Agreement" shall mean the specific contract or grant to which this form is attached.
2. **Entire Agreement:** This Agreement, whether in the form of a contract, State-funded grant, or Federally-funded grant, represents the entire agreement between the parties on the subject matter. All prior agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, and understandings shall have no effect.
3. **Governing Law, Jurisdiction and Venue; No Waiver of Jury Trial:** This Agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Vermont. Any action or proceeding brought by either the State or the Party in connection with this Agreement shall be brought and enforced in the Superior Court of the State of Vermont, Civil Division, Washington Unit. The Party irrevocably submits to the jurisdiction of this court for any action or proceeding regarding this Agreement. The Party agrees that it must first exhaust any applicable administrative remedies with respect to any cause of action that it may have against the State with regard to its performance under this Agreement. Party agrees that the State shall not be required to submit to binding arbitration or waive its right to a jury trial.
4. **Sovereign Immunity:** The State reserves all immunities, defenses, rights or actions arising out of the State's sovereign status or under the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution. No waiver of the State's immunities, defenses, rights or actions shall be implied or otherwise deemed to exist by reason of the State's entry into this Agreement.
5. **No Employee Benefits For Party:** The Party understands that the State will not provide any individual retirement benefits, group life insurance, group health and dental insurance, vacation or sick leave, workers compensation or other benefits or services available to State employees, nor will the State withhold any state or Federal taxes except as required under applicable tax laws, which shall be determined in advance of execution of the Agreement. The Party understands that all tax returns required by the Internal Revenue Code and the State of Vermont, including but not limited to income, withholding, sales and use, and rooms and meals, must be filed by the Party, and information as to Agreement income will be provided by the State of Vermont to the Internal Revenue Service and the Vermont Department of Taxes.
6. **Independence:** The Party will act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees of the State.
7. **Defense and Indemnity:** The Party shall defend the State and its officers and employees against all third party claims or suits arising in whole or in part from any act or omission of the Party or of any agent of the Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement. The State shall notify the Party in the event of any such claim or suit, and the Party shall immediately retain counsel and otherwise provide a complete defense against the entire claim or suit. The State retains the right to participate at its own expense in the defense of any claim. The State shall have the right to approve all proposed settlements of such claims or suits.

After a final judgment or settlement, the Party may request recoupment of specific defense costs and may file suit in Washington Superior Court requesting recoupment. The Party shall be entitled to recoup costs only upon a showing that such costs were entirely unrelated to the defense of any claim arising from an act or omission of the Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement.

The Party shall indemnify the State and its officers and employees if the State, its officers or employees become legally obligated to pay any damages or losses arising from any act or omission of the Party or an

agent of the Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement.

Notwithstanding any contrary language anywhere, in no event shall the terms of this Agreement or any document furnished by the Party in connection with its performance under this Agreement obligate the State to (1) defend or indemnify the Party or any third party, or (2) otherwise be liable for the expenses or reimbursement, including attorneys' fees, collection costs or other costs of the Party or any third party.

- 8. Insurance:** Before commencing work on this Agreement the Party must provide certificates of insurance to show that the following minimum coverages are in effect. It is the responsibility of the Party to maintain current certificates of insurance on file with the State through the term of this Agreement. No warranty is made that the coverages and limits listed herein are adequate to cover and protect the interests of the Party for the Party's operations. These are solely minimums that have been established to protect the interests of the State.

Workers Compensation: With respect to all operations performed, the Party shall carry workers' compensation insurance in accordance with the laws of the State of Vermont. Vermont will accept an out-of-state employer's workers' compensation coverage while operating in Vermont provided that the insurance carrier is licensed to write insurance in Vermont and an amendatory endorsement is added to the policy adding Vermont for coverage purposes. Otherwise, the party shall secure a Vermont workers' compensation policy, if necessary to comply with Vermont law.

General Liability and Property Damage: With respect to all operations performed under this Agreement, the Party shall carry general liability insurance having all major divisions of coverage including, but not limited to:

- Premises - Operations
- Products and Completed Operations
- Personal Injury Liability
- Contractual Liability

The policy shall be on an occurrence form and limits shall not be less than:

- \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence
- \$2,000,000 General Aggregate
- \$1,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate
- \$1,000,000 Personal & Advertising Injury

Automotive Liability: The Party shall carry automotive liability insurance covering all motor vehicles, including hired and non-owned coverage, used in connection with the Agreement. Limits of coverage shall not be less than \$500,000 combined single limit. If performance of this Agreement involves construction, or the transport of persons or hazardous materials, limits of coverage shall not be less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit.

Additional Insured. The General Liability and Property Damage coverages required for performance of this Agreement shall include the State of Vermont and its agencies, departments, officers and employees as Additional Insureds. If performance of this Agreement involves construction, or the transport of persons or hazardous materials, then the required Automotive Liability coverage shall include the State of Vermont and its agencies, departments, officers and employees as Additional Insureds. Coverage shall be primary and non-contributory with any other insurance and self-insurance.

Notice of Cancellation or Change. There shall be no cancellation, change, potential exhaustion of aggregate limits or non-renewal of insurance coverage(s) without thirty (30) days written prior written

notice to the State.

9. **Reliance by the State on Representations:** All payments by the State under this Agreement will be made in reliance upon the accuracy of all representations made by the Party in accordance with this Agreement, including but not limited to bills, invoices, progress reports and other proofs of work.
10. **False Claims Act:** The Party acknowledges that it is subject to the Vermont False Claims Act as set forth in 32 V.S.A. § 630 *et seq.* If the Party violates the Vermont False Claims Act it shall be liable to the State for civil penalties, treble damages and the costs of the investigation and prosecution of such violation, including attorney's fees, except as the same may be reduced by a court of competent jurisdiction. The Party's liability to the State under the False Claims Act shall not be limited notwithstanding any agreement of the State to otherwise limit Party's liability.
11. **Whistleblower Protections:** The Party shall not discriminate or retaliate against one of its employees or agents for disclosing information concerning a violation of law, fraud, waste, abuse of authority or acts threatening health or safety, including but not limited to allegations concerning the False Claims Act. Further, the Party shall not require such employees or agents to forego monetary awards as a result of such disclosures, nor should they be required to report misconduct to the Party or its agents prior to reporting to any governmental entity and/or the public.
12. **Location of State Data:** No State data received, obtained, or generated by the Party in connection with performance under this Agreement shall be processed, transmitted, stored, or transferred by any means outside the continental United States, except with the express written permission of the State.
13. **Records Available for Audit:** The Party shall maintain all records pertaining to performance under this agreement. "Records" means any written or recorded information, regardless of physical form or characteristics, which is produced or acquired by the Party in the performance of this agreement. Records produced or acquired in a machine readable electronic format shall be maintained in that format. The records described shall be made available at reasonable times during the period of the Agreement and for three years thereafter or for any period required by law for inspection by any authorized representatives of the State or Federal Government. If any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the three-year period, the records shall be retained until all litigation, claims or audit findings involving the records have been resolved.
14. **Fair Employment Practices and Americans with Disabilities Act:** Party agrees to comply with the requirement of 21 V.S.A. Chapter 5, Subchapter 6, relating to fair employment practices, to the full extent applicable. Party shall also ensure, to the full extent required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, that qualified individuals with disabilities receive equitable access to the services, programs, and activities provided by the Party under this Agreement.
15. **Set Off:** The State may set off any sums which the Party owes the State against any sums due the Party under this Agreement; provided, however, that any set off of amounts due the State of Vermont as taxes shall be in accordance with the procedures more specifically provided hereinafter.
16. **Taxes Due to the State:**
 - A. Party understands and acknowledges responsibility, if applicable, for compliance with State tax laws, including income tax withholding for employees performing services within the State, payment of use tax on property used within the State, corporate and/or personal income tax on income earned within the State.
 - B. Party certifies under the pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date this Agreement is signed, the Party is in good standing with respect to, or in full compliance with, a plan to pay any and all

taxes due the State of Vermont.

- C. Party understands that final payment under this Agreement may be withheld if the Commissioner of Taxes determines that the Party is not in good standing with respect to or in full compliance with a plan to pay any and all taxes due to the State of Vermont.
- D. Party also understands the State may set off taxes (and related penalties, interest and fees) due to the State of Vermont, but only if the Party has failed to make an appeal within the time allowed by law, or an appeal has been taken and finally determined and the Party has no further legal recourse to contest the amounts due.

17. Taxation of Purchases: All State purchases must be invoiced tax free. An exemption certificate will be furnished upon request with respect to otherwise taxable items.

18. Child Support: (Only applicable if the Party is a natural person, not a corporation or partnership.) Party states that, as of the date this Agreement is signed, he/she:

- A. is not under any obligation to pay child support; or
- B. is under such an obligation and is in good standing with respect to that obligation; or
- C. has agreed to a payment plan with the Vermont Office of Child Support Services and is in full compliance with that plan.

Party makes this statement with regard to support owed to any and all children residing in Vermont. In addition, if the Party is a resident of Vermont, Party makes this statement with regard to support owed to any and all children residing in any other state or territory of the United States.

19. Sub-Agreements: Party shall not assign, subcontract or subgrant the performance of this Agreement or any portion thereof to any other Party without the prior written approval of the State. Party shall be responsible and liable to the State for all acts or omissions of subcontractors and any other person performing work under this Agreement pursuant to an agreement with Party or any subcontractor.

In the case this Agreement is a contract with a total cost in excess of \$250,000, the Party shall provide to the State a list of all proposed subcontractors and subcontractors' subcontractors, together with the identity of those subcontractors' workers compensation insurance providers, and additional required or requested information, as applicable, in accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54).

Party shall include the following provisions of this Attachment C in all subcontracts for work performed solely for the State of Vermont and subcontracts for work performed in the State of Vermont: Section 10 ("False Claims Act"); Section 11 ("Whistleblower Protections"); Section 12 ("Location of State Data"); Section 14 ("Fair Employment Practices and Americans with Disabilities Act"); Section 16 ("Taxes Due the State"); Section 18 ("Child Support"); Section 20 ("No Gifts or Gratuities"); Section 22 ("Certification Regarding Debarment"); Section 30 ("State Facilities"); and Section 32.A ("Certification Regarding Use of State Funds").

20. No Gifts or Gratuities: Party shall not give title or possession of anything of substantial value (including property, currency, travel and/or education programs) to any officer or employee of the State during the term of this Agreement.

21. Copies: Party shall use reasonable best efforts to ensure that all written reports prepared under this Agreement are printed using both sides of the paper.

22. Certification Regarding Debarment: Party certifies under pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date that this Agreement is signed, neither Party nor Party's principals (officers, directors, owners, or partners)

are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or excluded from participation in Federal programs, or programs supported in whole or in part by Federal funds.

Party further certifies under pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date that this Agreement is signed, Party is not presently debarred, suspended, nor named on the State's debarment list at:

<http://bgs.vermont.gov/purchasing/debarment>

- 23. Conflict of Interest:** Party shall fully disclose, in writing, any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest.
- 24. Confidentiality:** Party acknowledges and agrees that this Agreement and any and all information obtained by the State from the Party in connection with this Agreement are subject to the State of Vermont Access to Public Records Act, 1 V.S.A. § 315 et seq.
- 25. Force Majeure:** Neither the State nor the Party shall be liable to the other for any failure or delay of performance of any obligations under this Agreement to the extent such failure or delay shall have been wholly or principally caused by acts or events beyond its reasonable control rendering performance illegal or impossible (excluding strikes or lock-outs) ("Force Majeure"). Where Force Majeure is asserted, the nonperforming party must prove that it made all reasonable efforts to remove, eliminate or minimize such cause of delay or damages, diligently pursued performance of its obligations under this Agreement, substantially fulfilled all non-excused obligations, and timely notified the other party of the likelihood or actual occurrence of an event described in this paragraph.
- 26. Marketing:** Party shall not refer to the State in any publicity materials, information pamphlets, press releases, research reports, advertising, sales promotions, trade shows, or marketing materials or similar communications to third parties except with the prior written consent of the State.
- 27. Termination:**
 - A. Non-Appropriation:** If this Agreement extends into more than one fiscal year of the State (July 1 to June 30), and if appropriations are insufficient to support this Agreement, the State may cancel at the end of the fiscal year, or otherwise upon the expiration of existing appropriation authority. In the case that this Agreement is a Grant that is funded in whole or in part by Federal funds, and in the event Federal funds become unavailable or reduced, the State may suspend or cancel this Grant immediately, and the State shall have no obligation to pay Subrecipient from State revenues.
 - B. Termination for Cause:** Either party may terminate this Agreement if a party materially breaches its obligations under this Agreement, and such breach is not cured within thirty (30) days after delivery of the non-breaching party's notice or such longer time as the non-breaching party may specify in the notice.
 - C. Termination Assistance:** Upon nearing the end of the final term or termination of this Agreement, without respect to cause, the Party shall take all reasonable and prudent measures to facilitate any transition required by the State. All State property, tangible and intangible, shall be returned to the State upon demand at no additional cost to the State in a format acceptable to the State.
- 28. Continuity of Performance:** In the event of a dispute between the Party and the State, each party will continue to perform its obligations under this Agreement during the resolution of the dispute until this Agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms.
- 29. No Implied Waiver of Remedies:** Either party's delay or failure to exercise any right, power or remedy under this Agreement shall not impair any such right, power or remedy, or be construed as a waiver of any such right, power or remedy. All waivers must be in writing.

30. State Facilities: If the State makes space available to the Party in any State facility during the term of this Agreement for purposes of the Party's performance under this Agreement, the Party shall only use the space in accordance with all policies and procedures governing access to and use of State facilities which shall be made available upon request. State facilities will be made available to Party on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, with no warranties whatsoever.

31. Requirements Pertaining Only to Federal Grants and Subrecipient Agreements: If this Agreement is a grant that is funded in whole or in part by Federal funds:

A. Requirement to Have a Single Audit: The Subrecipient will complete the Subrecipient Annual Report annually within 45 days after its fiscal year end, informing the State of Vermont whether or not a Single Audit is required for the prior fiscal year. If a Single Audit is required, the Subrecipient will submit a copy of the audit report to the granting Party within 9 months. If a single audit is not required, only the Subrecipient Annual Report is required.

For fiscal years ending before December 25, 2015, a Single Audit is required if the subrecipient expends \$500,000 or more in Federal assistance during its fiscal year and must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133. For fiscal years ending on or after December 25, 2015, a Single Audit is required if the subrecipient expends \$750,000 or more in Federal assistance during its fiscal year and must be conducted in accordance with 2 CFR Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200, Subpart F. The Subrecipient Annual Report is required to be submitted within 45 days, whether or not a Single Audit is required.

B. Internal Controls: In accordance with 2 CFR Part II, §200.303, the Party must establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award to provide reasonable assurance that the Party is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in "Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government" issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the "Internal Control Integrated Framework", issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

C. Mandatory Disclosures: In accordance with 2 CFR Part II, §200.113, Party must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the State, all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in the imposition of sanctions which may include disallowance of costs incurred, withholding of payments, termination of the Agreement, suspension/debarment, etc.

32. Requirements Pertaining Only to State-Funded Grants:

A. Certification Regarding Use of State Funds: If Party is an employer and this Agreement is a State-funded grant in excess of \$1,001, Party certifies that none of these State funds will be used to interfere with or restrain the exercise of Party's employee's rights with respect to unionization.

B. Good Standing Certification (Act 154 of 2016): If this Agreement is a State-funded grant, Party hereby represents: (i) that it has signed and provided to the State the form prescribed by the Secretary of Administration for purposes of certifying that it is in good standing (as provided in Section 13(a)(2) of Act 154) with the Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, or otherwise explaining the circumstances surrounding the inability to so certify, and (ii) that it will comply with the requirements stated therein.

(End of Standard Provisions)

ATTACHMENT D: OTHER GRANT AGREEMENT PROVISIONS

1. **Cost of Materials:** Grantee will not buy materials and resell to the State at a profit.
2. **Use of Funds:** The Grantee shall use these funds solely for the purpose of this Grant Agreement.
3. **Identity of workers:** The Grantee will assign the following individuals to the services to be performed under the provisions of this Agreement, and these individuals shall be considered essential to performance. Should any of the individuals become unavailable during the period of performance, the State shall have the right to approve any proposed successors, or, at its option, to cancel the remainder of the Agreement.
 - a. Name:
 - b. Title:
 - c. Phone:
 - d. Email:
4. **Work Product Ownership:** Upon full payment by the State, all products of the Grantee's work, including outlines, reports, charts, sketches, drawings, art work, plans, photographs, specifications, estimates, computer programs, or similar documents, become the sole property of the State of Vermont and may not be copyrighted or resold by Grantee.
5. **Prior Approval/Review of Releases:** Any notices, information pamphlets, press releases, research reports, or similar other publications prepared and released in written or oral form by the Grantee under this Grant Agreement shall be approved/reviewed by the State prior to release.
6. **Ownership of Equipment:** Any equipment purchased by or furnished to the Grantee by the State under this Grant Agreement is provided on a loan basis only and remains the property of the State.
7. **Special Conditions:** Under this heading the granting agency will specify special conditions imposed by the Federal Granting Agency.