

Program Overview

Awarded annually and administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the program works to strengthen Vermont communities. Since 1998, the Municipal Planning Grant Program has provided over \$11 million to 234 cities and towns across Vermont to help breathe new life into communities, plan for future growth and development, and improve the quality of life.

This year's Municipal Planning Grants, range from \$3,159 to \$20,000 with total requests exceeding \$780,000. Competitively awarded, 69 total applications were reviewed with 38 recipients selected. Projects range from a proposal to redevelop an older shopping plaza to serve the needs of West Rutland residents and visitors to strengthening local regulations to better serve the farm and forest economies in Berkshire, a rural town on the Canadian border.

FY 2017 Grant Recipients

Barnet, Bennington, Benson, Berkshire, Bradford, Brattleboro, Cabot, Concord, Cornwall, Fairlee, Hardwick, Highgate, Irasburg, Jamaica, Jeffersonville Village, Manchester, Milton, Peacham, Putney, Randolph, Rutland City, Ryegate, St. Albans City, Springfield, Starksboro, Tunbridge, Vernon, Wallingford, Warren, Waterbury, Waterford, Waterville, Weathersfield, West Fairlee, West Rutland, Windsor, Winooski, and Wolcott.

By the Numbers [2011 - 2016]

\$4.1 M

in grant
funds requested

\$366,813

in local
match funds

253

municipal planning
grants awarded

\$2.7 M

in grant
funds awarded

19,578

people engaged
in the planning projects

99%

of **survey respondents** say
MPGs are important to achieve
planning goals



“Vermont’s Municipal Planning Grants make possible incremental steps toward healthy, safe and vital communities throughout Vermont. For Bennington, the grants have and continue to result in tangible and significant improvements to the community, particularly in our downtown. As our communities succeed, Vermont’s reputation as a great place to live and work is made all the more real.”

Michael McDonough, President of the Better Bennington Corporation

For more information, please contact:

Annina Seiler: annina.seiler@vermont.gov or 802.828.1948

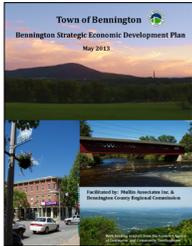
Website: <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/municipal-planning-grant>

Documenting Results

The foundation of any successful and strong community is built on robust collaboration among many types of entities – the state, municipalities, small and large businesses, non-profits, hospitals, higher education, and others. Bennington's 2009 MPG grant supported the interaction and conversations needed to foster creativity and build trust among the various stakeholders. The resulting town plan articulates a shared vision and work plan with specific tasks to strengthen its economy and community. Since then, MPGs have helped drive key projects in the work plan:

Strategic Economic Development Plan

Project Year: 2013 Grant Award: \$15,000

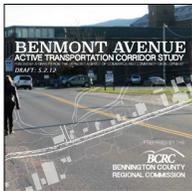


Rather than simply identifying needs and crafting potential solutions without concern for the ability of the community to accomplish them, the plan assigned groups a mix of short, mid, and long term projects to address workforce training needs, make infrastructure improvements, and leverage existing assets to support local business.

Final Plan: <http://www.benningtonplanningandpermits.com/includes/pdfs/Bennington-Strategic-Economic-Development-Plan-With-Appendices.pdf>

Benmont Avenue Active Transportation Plan

Project Year: 2014 Grant Award: \$7,950

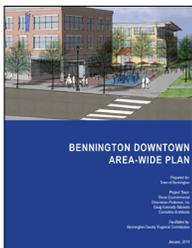


Benmont Avenue is a major thoroughfare for many motor vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians, but as designed it was unsafe. The MPG helped the community identify simple and achievable changes to improve safety and make downtown businesses more accessible for everyone, regardless of whether they travel by bus, bike, foot or car.

Final Plan: <http://www.bcrvvt.com/documents/BenmontStudy20150602.pdf>

Downtown Bennington Area-wide Plan

Project Year: 2015 Grant Award: \$20,000



MPG funding leveraged \$42,000 in federal brownfields funds to identify and revitalize vacant and underused sites in downtown. An innovative 'story map' was produced to communicate the opportunities and public and private investments needed to make it happen. A consortium of local business leaders, institutions and civic-minded investors are now implementing the plan to transform a block of historic downtown buildings into a vibrant, mixed-use downtown space with offices, in-town living, restaurants and shops.

Final Plan: <http://www.rpc.bennington.vt.us/documents/DowntownBenningtonAWPFinal.pdf>

“The Putnam Hotel and the surrounding block represent the most prominent location in downtown Bennington. The MPG helped local investors see that the redevelopment of the Putnam block was the transformative project that downtown and Bennington needed to reverse economic declines and create positive momentum.”

Jim Sullivan, Executive Director, Bennington County Regional Commission

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