



Create Better Places Grant Program to Spark Community Revitalization

WHAT: Establish a scalable, 50/50 matching community grant program that strategically coordinates the efforts of several funders who support place-based economic development projects like walking and biking trails, public art, parks, and farmers markets.

WHY: Existing grant programs have incompatible timelines and administrative requirements which often means it can take several years to secure the funding needed to launch projects. The Better Places proposal aims to simplify the funding process by creating a one-stop-shop for funders to collaborate and provide communities a more nimble, flexible source to quickly fund, and launch local placemaking projects.

WHO: This proposal supports local leaders across the state working on projects to improve the livability and quality of life in their communities. The [new funding platform is aimed at smaller 'quick build' projects](#), that create a shared community focus, help build social capital, and empower local leaders. Tackling small projects together can restore confidence, rebuild capacity, and renew local pride of place – critical elements proven to spark larger community transformations that attract businesses, new workers, residents, and visitors to Vermont.

HOW: Through a partnership between state, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations, the Better Places proposal utilizes an innovative 'crowdgranting' funding model to support community development efforts in Vermont's downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods. Specifically, the proposal:

- Establishes enabling legislation to create the Better Places program to accelerate local projects that improve streets and parks, walking and biking trails, and vacant properties.
- Streamlines and integrates grantmaking of multiple funders so residents, businesses, and community organizations achieve more immediate results.
- Empowers local leaders to play an active role in shaping their communities, building social capital, local pride, and community leadership.

FUNDING: \$250,000 in grant funds will leverage an additional \$250,000 from program partners and private philanthropies.

For more information, please contact:

Chris Cochran: chris.cochran@vermont.gov

802-595-5410