

FY20 Municipal Planning Grant Projects

[Municipal Planning Grants](#) support local planning and community revitalization initiatives that build strong communities and improve Vermont's quality of life. Grants are awarded annually and administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Since 1998, the program has provided approximately \$13 million to 235 cities and towns. This year, \$468,552 was awarded to 31 municipalities including 3 consortia. The winning FY20 projects are described below.

Berlin – A New Town Center at the Berlin Mall

Prepare a conceptual master plan, and other items necessary for obtaining New Town Center and Neighborhood Development Area designation from the State to help realize the town's vision for a mixed-use town center in the Berlin Mall area. For more information, contact Tom Badowski, zoning@berlinvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$60,010
Grant Funds Awarded: \$22,000

Burke – Economic Opportunities for West Burke

Create an economic development plan and host a visioning session for West Burke village to identify redevelopment and business opportunities. For more information, contact Linda Hackett-Corey, burke@burkevermont.org.

Total Project Cost: \$46,698
Grant Funds Awarded: \$22,000

Castleton – Making the Regulations Work Better

Consolidate and update the town's land use regulations to reflect the recommendations of the 2018 Town Plan. For more information, contact Jonas Rosenthal, zoning@castletonvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$9,650
Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,685

Dorset and Arlington – Multi-town Zoning Re-set

With Dorset as the lead municipality, the Regional Planning Commission will recommend specific zoning updates for 17 villages and towns seeking to improve the quality and diversity of homes in the region. For more information, contact Robert Gaiotti, townmanager@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$15,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$13,500

Fairfield – Facing Change and Re-examining Goals

Apply a focused, accelerated process to update Fairfield's Town Plan and address the recent changes facing the community. For more information, contact Amanda Forbes, amanda@fairfieldvermont.us.

Total Project Cost: \$11,980
Grant Funds Awarded: \$10,880

Fairfax – Looking Back to Better Guide Growth

Assess the recent trajectory of residential development to ensure zoning regulations align with the 2018 Town Plan and the long-term community vision. For more information, contact Amber Soter, zoning@fairfax-vt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$18,618

Grant Funds Awarded: \$16,500

Ferrisburgh – A Vision for Village Neighborhoods

Identify the kind of compact mixed-use neighborhoods that could be encouraged through updated zoning regulations and use illustrations to build a shared vision. For more information, contact Arabella Holzapfel, Arabella.listens@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$9,940

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,946

Highgate – Support for Village Wastewater Solutions

Coordination for the local steering committee to ensure the success of the ANR-funded wastewater feasibility study in Highgate Center, including community outreach, archeological assessment and more. For more information, contact Heidi Britch-Valenta, hbvalenta@highgatevt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$14,345

Grant Funds Awarded: \$12,845

Hinesburg – Graphics to Communicate Development Requirements

Create illustrations of the town's architectural and streetscape design standards to provide clarity for growth in the village area and bolster public confidence in development outcomes. For more information, contact Alex Weinhagen, aweinhagen@hinesburg.org.

Total Project Cost: \$6,590

Grant Funds Awarded: \$5,500

Hyde Park, Waterville, and Eden – Placemaking in Three Villages

A multi-town initiative to develop strategies that enhance public spaces and create vibrant, walkable environments in the villages of Eden, North Hyde Park and Waterville. For more information, contact Seth Jensen, seth@lpcvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$25,024

Grant Funds Awarded: \$22,749

Manchester – Downtown Re-investment Opportunities

Identify and assess downtown sites that are most viable for the kind of vibrant, mixed use development sought by the community. For more information, contact Janet Hurley, j.hurley@manchester-vt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$17,500

Grant Funds Awarded: \$15,750

Middlebury – Zoning to Match the Downtown Vision

Update the zoning regulations for Middlebury's downtown area, encouraging development that furthers the soon-to-be completed Downtown Master Plan. For more information, contact Jennifer Murray, jmurray@townofmiddlebury.org.

Total Project Cost: \$22,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Middlesex – A Walkable Village Design

Design a walkable, bikeable, vibrant Village Center in Middlesex, creating a destination with multimodal access. For more information, contact Sarah Merriman, mdxclerk@comcast.net.

Total Project Cost: \$22,225
Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Newport – A New Plan for the Future

Produce an all-new comprehensive plan incorporating recent planning efforts into a cohesive, inspiring, and visionary document with targeted implementation strategies. For more information, contact Laura Dolgin, laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org.

Total Project Cost: \$24,200
Grant Funds Awarded: \$22,000

North Hero – A Vision for Village Improvements

Prepare a village master plan offering a vision for future improvements for safety and mobility, public spaces, and walk-bike connectivity between community designations. For more information, contact Corinn Julow, townclerk@northherovt.com.

Total Project Cost: \$18,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$16,200

Poultney – A Plan to Navigate Recent Changes

Develop a guiding vision for the town and explore updates to the regulations to support the downtown following closure of Green Mountain College. For more information, contact Paul Donaldson, poultneymanager@comcast.net.

Total Project Cost: \$9,950
Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,000

Randolph – Meeting Urgent Childcare Needs

Assess the childcare needs of the Randolph region, identify a sustainable childcare model to meet those needs and evaluate a municipal property to determine if it can be re-developed into a childcare center. For more information, contact Joshua Jerome, joshua@randolphvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$10,575
Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,518

Reading – A New Look at the Town Plan

Prepare a Town Plan update to address affordable housing, village revitalization, infrastructure, energy and other community concerns. For more information, contact Jason Rasmussen, jrasmussen@swcrpc.org.

Total Project Cost: \$10,680
Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,709

Rockingham – Design for a New Downtown Park

Plan and design a town park/common in downtown Bellows Falls that can be constructed by the Town of Rockingham. For more information, contact Charles Wise, planning@rockbf.org.

Total Project Cost: \$6,750
Grant Funds Awarded: \$6,000

Rutland City – Zoning Updates for Neighborhoods and Gateways

Refine development review standards and processes specifically for the multifamily neighborhoods and commercial gateway corridors to address community concerns. For more information, contact Barbara Spaulding, spauldingra@rutlandvtbusiness.com.

Total Project Cost: \$24,385
Grant Funds Awarded: \$22,000

Sharon – Planning for a Strong Community

Update the Town Plan to reflect the recently articulated community vision and develop actionable recommendations for maintaining a strong rural community. For more information, contact Victoria Littlefield, vlittlefield@trorc.org.

Total Project Cost: \$9,984
Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,076

Sheldon – Strategies for Maximizing Rail Trail Benefits

Identify priority actions to enhance the walkability of Sheldon's newly designated villages and capitalize on the recreational and economic opportunities of the Lamoille and Missisquoi Valley Rail Trails. For more information, Kimberlee Dufresne, tc@sheldonvt.com.

Total Project Cost: \$9,590
Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,718

Shoreham – Village Design for New Homes and Vitality

Prepare a conceptual plan for the Farnum Property in Shoreham Village to encourage mixed-use development including housing. For more information, contact Peter Lynch, petershorehamsb@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$15,380
Grant Funds Awarded: \$13,482

Springfield – Modernizing Regulations for the Downtown

Update zoning and subdivision regulations and improve the permitting process to encourage downtown revitalization and further other Town Plan priorities. For more information, contact Renee Vondle, toszoning@vermontel.net.

Total Project Cost: \$14,400

Grant Funds Awarded: \$13,090

St. Johnsbury and Waterford – Possibilities for Multi-town Public Services

A multi-municipal study to evaluate opportunities for regional cooperation, including consideration of partial or complete consolidation of Fire Protection and Prevention Services. For more information, contact Irene Nagle, inagle@nvda.net.

Total Project Cost: \$34,710

Grant Funds Awarded: \$31,000

Underhill – Determining Housing Needs

Assess the current and projected housing needs for Underhill, particularly with respect to addressing the need for more affordable homes. For more information, contact John Romanoff, kail.romanoff@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$12,550

Grant Funds Awarded: \$11,295

Vernon – A Plan for the Vermont Yankee Site

Collaborate on a plan for site restoration at Vermont Yankee, including an evaluation of geologic conditions that could impact future development. For more information, contact Michelle Pong, vernonta@vernonvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$56,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$22,000

Waitsfield – Wetlands Identification for Village Planning

Identify and map the wetlands and other important natural resources in Irasville and Waitsfield Village to inform master planning for mixed use infill. For more information, contact Trevor Lashua, townadmin@gmavt.net.

Total Project Cost: \$6,050

Grant Funds Awarded: \$4,938

Westfield – Study for Senior Home Redevelopment

Determine the highest and best use of the now-closed community care home in Westfield village and complete an assessment for funding to keep the homes affordable. For more information, contact LaDonna Dunn, townofwestfield@comcast.net.

Total Project Cost: \$22,175

Grant Funds Awarded: \$19,957

Whitingham – Reducing Flooding in Jacksonville

Assistance to oversee a multi-faceted flood resilience project in the Village of Jacksonville including removal and replacement of undersized bridges and culverts. For more information, contact Gig Zboray, gig@whitinghamvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$21,163

Grant Funds Awarded: \$19,239

Winooski – Focus on Historic Preservation

Conduct an historic resource inventory, facilitate a community dialogue about preservation priorities, and develop recommendations for a preservation bylaw. For more information, contact Heather Carrington, hcarrington@winooski.vt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$25,275

Grant Funds Awarded: \$21,975

State Award Funding Totals: \$468,552