

## **Vermont League of Cities and Towns Grant Opportunities List, August 2008**

VLCT is pleased to make available for Vermont municipalities a list of grant funding sources that we are aware of. We have made our best effort to ensure that this list is up to date. However, programs do change and funding can run out. Please check with the organizations listed for availability of funds and application deadlines.

New grant opportunities and important grant deadlines are generally noted in the *VLCT News*. Please continue to watch the newsletter for these announcements.

### **Economic Development Council of Northern Vermont, Economic Development Fund.**

Provides credit financing for ventures that contribute to economic and community development. The Fund seeks investments that increase employment, stabilize cyclical industries, improve wage scales and strengthen industrial sectors. <http://www.edcnv.org/>

**Lake Champlain Basin Program Local Implementation Grants.** Annual grants for local watershed projects related to the implementation of the Opportunities for Action management plan for the Lake Champlain Basin. <http://www.lcbp.org/grants.htm>

**Orton Family Foundation.** Five-year grant program, begun in July 2008, to support the Foundation's Heart and Soul Community Planning Initiative. The Vermont and Colorado-based Orton Foundation is committing \$10 million in cash and staff time to the initiative. <http://www.orton.org>

**Preservation Trust of Vermont, Preservation Grants.** Grants available to rehabilitate historic buildings. [http://www.ptvermont.org/preservation\\_grants.htm](http://www.ptvermont.org/preservation_grants.htm)

**Preservation Trust of Vermont, Robert Sincerbeaux Fund Grants.** Project development grants up to \$500 for hiring a consultant to provide technical assistance for projects. [http://www.ptvermont.org/sincerbeaux\\_fund.htm](http://www.ptvermont.org/sincerbeaux_fund.htm)

**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Community Facility and Rural Business Enterprise Grants.** Community Facility grants can be used by rural communities to develop or improve essential public community facilities. Rural Business Enterprise grants fund the purchase of technical assistance and equipment for small and emerging businesses, as well as their construction and expansion. <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm>

Also available from USDA:

- **Water and Waste Loans and Grants**, for major improvements to tanks, sources, and treatment facilities (<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/programs.htm>);
- **Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants**, for repairs in small towns ([http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia/cp\\_util\\_ww-ECWAG.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia/cp_util_ww-ECWAG.html)); and
- **Solid Waste Management Grants**, for waste reduction technical assistance, promoting recycling, improving planning and management of waste sites or for reducing or eliminating water pollution ([http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/fact\\_swaste.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/fact_swaste.htm)).

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program.** Provides equipment to first responders in selected rural and smaller communities who are typically not eligible for funding through the department's Urban Areas Security Initiative grant program. See also Vermont Department of Public Safety. <http://www.rkb.us/>

**U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Vermont Better Backroads Grants.** Funds to correct an existing road erosion problem or conduct a road erosion inventory and create a capital budget plan to fix the problems. <http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/rc&d/bbcoverpage.html>

**Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, Renewable Energy for Agriculture Grant Program.** Provides grants to farmers or businesses working with farmers to advance renewable energy technology on farms. <http://www.vermontagriculture.com/energy/grants.html>

**Vermont Agency of Transportation, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program.** Funds the design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of bicycle and pedestrian projects statewide. Projects must have completed a conceptual alignment analysis or feasibility study to be eligible. <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Sections/LTF/LTF.htm>

**Vermont Agency of Transportation, Enhancement Grants.** Funds for a freestanding enhancement program and for environmental enhancements to traditional transportation projects. <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Sections/LTF/LTF.htm>

**Vermont Agency of Transportation, Safe Routes to School.** SR2S provides an opportunity for schools and communities to work together to solve some of Vermont's transportation, environmental, and health challenges. <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Sections/LTF/SRTS/VTSRTS.htm>

**Vermont Agency of Transportation and Vermont Local Roads Program, Stormwater Mitigation Grants.** Provides financial assistance to Vermont municipalities for projects to reduce water pollution generated by, or directly associated with, existing public roads and road maintenance activities. [http://personalweb.smcvt.edu/vermontlocalroads/New/stormwater\\_grant/grant\\_summary.htm](http://personalweb.smcvt.edu/vermontlocalroads/New/stormwater_grant/grant_summary.htm)

**Vermont Arts Council, Cultural Facilities Grants Program.** Helps Vermont municipalities enhance, create or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural activities for the public. <http://www.vermontartscouncil.org/Default.aspx?tabid=217>

**Vermont Community Development Program, Vermont Innovation Kitchens.** Vermont municipalities (with the exception of Burlington) may apply for a loan or grant for up to \$750,000; the funds can then be passed through to organizations working to grow and strengthen Vermont food markets. <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/VCDP/VIK%20brochure.pdf>

**Vermont Council on Rural Development, Rural Broadband Program.** Helps rural communities with local efforts to acquire affordable broadband service for their areas. <http://www.vtrural.org/vermont-broadband.php>

**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division.** This department offers several grants. <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/grants.htm>

- **Grants for Food Composting Programs:** increase food and other source-separated organic composting.
- **Solid Waste Management Grants:** help establish and implement programs to provide education and collection programs for household hazardous waste, conditionally exempt small quantity generator waste, and mercury-added consumer products.
- **Farm and Residential Underground Heating Oil Tank Removal Grant:** to farm and residential tank owners for the removal, replacement or upgrade of underground heating oil tanks.

**Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Wildlife Grants.** State Wildlife grants support proposals that help implement Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan (including habitat conservation, habitat mapping, species conservation, inventory and baseline development, species inventories). [http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/SWG\\_Grants.cfm](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/SWG_Grants.cfm)

**Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Vermont Watershed Grants.** Provides grants for watershed-related projects, including monitoring, education, conservation, recreation, and/or historic enhancement. [http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/support\\_watershed.cfm](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/support_watershed.cfm)

**Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Land & Water Conservation Fund.** Funding to acquire land for outdoor recreation and open space purposes and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. <http://www.vtfpr.org/reclwcf/index.cfm>

**Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Recreation Trails Grant Program.** Funds planning, mapping, and construction of trails in Vermont, as well as related educational efforts. <http://www.vtfpr.org/recgrant/trgrant.cfm>

**Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Forest Legacy Program.** Federal grant program to protect important forestlands from conversion to non-forest uses. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, working with the USDA Forest Service, is the lead agency for Vermont's Forest Legacy Program. <http://www.vtfpr.org/lands/flp.cfm>

**Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Urban and Community Forestry Program.** The Trees for Local Communities Cost-Share Program funds planning and education, planting, and maintenance of trees. [http://www.vtfpr.org/urban/for\\_urbcomm\\_grants.cfm](http://www.vtfpr.org/urban/for_urbcomm_grants.cfm)

**Vermont Department of Health.** Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grants can be used to strengthen substance abuse prevention services infrastructure and reduce underage drinking, and high risk alcohol and marijuana use by persons aged 25 and younger. <http://healthvermont.gov/adap/prevention/SPF/StrategicPreventionFramework.aspx>

**Vermont Department of Historic Preservation, Barn Grants.** Funds to repair and preserve historic agricultural buildings. <http://www.historicvermont.org/financial/barn.html>

**Vermont Department of Historic Preservation, Certified Local Government Matching Grants (CLG).** CLG grants can be used as seed money to attract funding from local government or other sources. <http://www.historicvermont.org/financial/clg.html>

**Vermont Department of Historic Preservation, Historic Preservation Grants.** Funds to preserve and repair buildings that promote public appreciation of Vermont's cultural heritage. <http://www.historicvermont.org/financial/hp2.html>

**Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Growth Center Planning Grants.** Provides financial assistance to a town or towns already in the process of growth center planning with the intention of applying for growth center designation. <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Admin/Grants.htm>

**Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Municipal Education Grant Program.** Funds on-site training for local land use boards. <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/index.htm>

**Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Municipal Planning Grants.** Funds for technical assistance for town planning, implementation of plans and ordinances, encouragement of citizen participation and education, and innovative demonstrations of planning projects. Examples of projects funded are rewriting town plans, updating zoning bylaws, and making GIS updates. <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/index.htm>

**Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Vermont Community Development Program.** Funding for community development projects, such as affordable housing, economic development, brownfield remediation, community public facilities, public services, planning and feasibility studies, handicapped accessibility, and many others. <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/VCDP/index.htm>

**Vermont Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security Grants.** Funding for planning, training, exercises, equipment, and citizen corps programs. <http://www.dps.state.vt.us/homeland/grant.html>

**Vermont Secretary of State, Help America Vote Act.** Up to \$3,000 in federal funds (towns with over 5,000 voters may request more) for training or purchases that will improve the administration of federal elections. <http://vermont-elections.org/elections1/hava.html>

You can find additional state, federal, and foundation grant opportunities in the resources listed below.

### ***State Grants***

- <http://www.vpic.info/>. Vermont Planning Information Center (VPIC) is broken down by category, with a brief description of each individual grant.
- <http://www.acrpc.org/pages/activities/grants/state.htm>. The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's website offers examples of activities funded, award amounts, matching funds necessary and due dates.
- <http://crs.uvm.edu/municipal/>. The Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont offers links to Vermont funds, federal funds, and general grant information.

### ***Federal Grants***

- <http://www.cfda.gov>. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance offers a comprehensive list of grants, organized by subject and agency. In addition, there are helpful tips on how to apply for assistance and information on writing grants.
- <http://www.grants.gov/>. Grants.gov offers one-stop shopping for federal grants. The *Find Grant Opportunities* feature allows you to search for federal government grant opportunities and to be notified of future grant opportunities.
- <http://www.fedgrants.net/>. FedGrants includes a notification service for eligible applicants to receive electronic information on pertinent grants.

### ***Foundation Grants***

- <http://foundationcenter.org/>. The Foundation Center is a good starting point, though you have to pay for some of its information.
- <http://www.vermontcf.org/apply-for-a-grant/>. The Vermont Community Foundation is a useful site to research existing foundations and their grant requirements.