

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 \$15 million to 240 cities and towns across Vermont to help breathe new life into communities, plan for future growth and investment, and improve the quality of life.

This year's Municipal Planning Grants range from \$3,857 to \$45,000 with total requests exceeding \$1,272,985. Competitively awarded, 57 total applications were reviewed with 31 recipients selected.

Funded projects range from capital improvement and village streetscape plans, to housing inventories, flood resiliency studies, regional cultural plans, and amending zoning rules to expand housing choice using the [Enabling Better Places neighborhood zoning guide](#). Grants continue to help towns revitalize by adopting useful and relevant municipal plans and capital infrastructure and facility plans, charting the way for strong communities and a better future.

FY 2024 Grant Recipients

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ■ Addison | ■ Jamaica | ■ Roxbury | ■ Strafford |
| ■ Bennington | ■ Maidstone | ■ Rutland City | ■ Swanton |
| ■ Brattleboro | ■ Mendon | ■ Shaftsbury | ■ Village |
| ■ Chester | ■ Montpelier | ■ Sheffield | ■ Waitsfield |
| ■ Concord | ■ Mount Holly | ■ South Hero | ■ Winhall |
| ■ Fairlee | ■ Orange | ■ Springfield | ■ Winooski |
| ■ Hinesburg | ■ Poultney | ■ St. Albans | |
| ■ Hyde Park | ■ Putney | ■ Town | |
| ■ Isle La Motte | ■ Richford | ■ St. Johnsbury | |

“Municipal Planning Grants connect people to their priorities and organize communities for action; they jumpstart local projects.”

— 2023 Planning Survey Response

By the Numbers [2020-2024]

 **\$4.6m**
in grant funds requested

 **\$2.8m**
in grant funds awarded

 **\$538,064**
in local match funds

 **160**
municipal planning grants awarded

 **386,163**
people engaged in the planning process

 **99%**
of survey respondents say MPG's are important to achieve planning goals



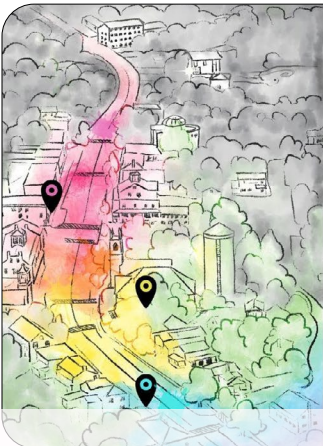
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A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Illustrated plans for specific locations galvanize public engagement around concrete changes and communicate with a broad range of people. The resulting visual plans and drawings help the community envision possibilities, align goals, and give the municipality useful leverage for obtaining public facility funding. The following projects, funded by Municipal Planning Grants, used simple illustrations to big effect.



Fair Haven Downtown Streetscape Improvement Plan



Vergennes Public Art Corridor



Vernon Village Center Master Plan

Fair Haven

With the goal of increasing economic activity in the downtown, Fair Haven is taking steps large and small to implement the vision of making the downtown more walkable and vibrant for businesses and visitors.

Grant Award: \$16,000

Project Year: 2018

Vergennes

Through robust public engagement with artists, businesses, and students, Vergennes developed a public art plan for a pedestrian art corridor along Main Street, from the City's gateway to the Otter Creek bridge. They commissioned an illustration from Dawn Wagner to brand and promote the project.

Grant Award: \$9,000

Project Year: 2022

Vernon

Residents sought to envision a village center that brings residents together and reflects the identity of the community. The resulting plan for the village sets the stage for Vernon's post-Vermont Yankee redevelopment.

Grant Award: \$20,000

Project Year: 2018