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 $13 million to 237 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 $8,960 to $23,527 with total requests exceeding $851,165. Competitively awarded, 50 total applications were reviewed with 24 recipients selected.

Funded projects range from streetscape and village center master planning, to a water system study, infrastructure needs for increasing childcare, public art plan, 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.

“Excellent program for small rural towns, who don’t have the resources to investigate or research solutions to community needs. My experience is that needs far outpace resources.”

2019 MPG Survey Respondent

For more information, please contact:
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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
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**

St. Johnsbury
With strong community interest in redeveloping the downtown Passumpsic riverfront for recreational uses, St. Johnsbury discovered opportunities to gain public access to the river from the downtown and developed an action plan for future projects, now underway incrementally. **Grant Award: $8,000**
**Project Year: 2016**

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**

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