

FY24 Municipal Planning Grant Projects

Municipal Planning Grants support local planning and community revitalization initiatives that ready projects for implementation, 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 over \$15 million to 240 cities and towns. This year, \$673,391 in Municipal Planning Grants were awarded to 31 municipalities, including three consortiums. The winning FY24 projects are described below.

Addison will update its Municipal Plan, incorporating State mandated sections, community input, and focusing on future planning opportunities for town-owned property in the Addison Four Corners area. For more information, contact Jennifer Barrett at jenniferdutoitbarrett@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$16,815

Grant Funds Awarded: \$15,133

Bennington will continue its work towards a new town plan that incorporates diversity, equity, and inclusion, building on previous public engagement to collect more data, conduct further public outreach, and finalize a new plan that addresses 21st-century challenges and makes Bennington a more equitable, resilient, and livable community. For more information, contact Daniel Monks at dmonks@benningtonvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$31,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$27,900

Brattleboro, Rockingham, and Wilmington will create a vision and action plan to strengthen and grow arts and culture assets in the Windham Region. For more information, contact Sue Fillion at sfillion@brattleboro.org.

Total Project Cost: \$50,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$45,000

Chester will conduct a study to determine the feasibility of developing approximately 120 acres of town land for housing on the edge of Chester's Village. The study will include a conceptual plan, implementation, and phasing plans to guide the town as it moves towards future construction. For more information, contact Julie Hance at julie.hance@chestervt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$45,600

Grant Funds Awarded: \$30,000

Concord will hire a Feasibility and Design Team (FDT) of an Architect, Engineers, and Preservation Consultant to assess existing Town facilities and ultimately recommend a path forward for major changes to the Town Offices, Clerk, vault, and public meeting space. For more information, contact Joel Schwartz at jasinvt@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$28,600

Grant Funds Awarded: \$25,000

Fairlee will assemble a comprehensive capital plan for Town-owned buildings, which will include assessments for energy upgrades, renovation, and, if required, new construction. For more information, contact Ryan Lockwood at townadministrator@fairleevt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$40,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$30,000

Hinesburg will commission a flood resilience study that includes hydrological modeling, land use policy recommendations, and suggested infrastructure improvements to improve flood resiliency and stormwater management in the village center. For more information, contact Alex Weinhagen at aweinhagen@hinesburg.org.

Total Project Cost: \$29,700
Grant Funds Awarded: \$26,700

Hyde Park, Cambridge, and Stowe will evaluate policies and actions to promote flood resiliency and guide future growth in a way that mitigates flooding. They will integrate flood resiliency and sustainable land use strategies into Municipal Plan updates for all three towns. For more information, contact Meghan Rodier at meghan@lpcvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$45,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$40,500

Isle La Motte will conduct public engagement and outreach about community facilities and recreation, and will draft sections of the Town Plan based on their findings. For more information, contact Marie D'Angelo at ilmvttreasurer@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$4,286
Grant Funds Awarded: \$3,587

Jamaica will complete a Town Plan update with a focus on addressing housing affordability concerns, flood recovery and resiliency in response to the July 2023 floods, and planning for a community wastewater system in Jamaica Village. For more information, contact Matthew Bachler at mbachler@windhamregional.org.

Total Project Cost: \$27,800
Grant Funds Awarded: \$25,020

Maidstone will overhaul its existing Town Plan to create one that is consistent with State goals and requirements, addresses issues such as housing, flood resiliency, conservation, and energy efficiency, and maximizes public input and participation in the planning process. For more information, contact Christoopher von Alt at cvonalt@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$8,720
Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,848

Mendon will revise its Zoning Bylaws to reflect statewide goals and address the community goals developed in its Town Plan. For more information, contact Sara Tully at mendonadmin@comcast.net.

Total Project Cost: \$10,030
Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,027

Montpelier will complete its new city plan, which will be a digital, web-based plan that will be easier and more accessible for the public to use. The Municipal Planning Grant will facilitate public input and help them finish the website. For more information, contact Michael Miller at mmiller@montpelier-vt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$12,350
Grant Funds Awarded: \$11,000

Mount Holly will create a Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan, which will allow it to identify housing needs, challenges, and opportunities, and to plot a path forward for addressing its housing crisis. For more information, contact William Jon McCann at william.jon.mccann@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$33,360

Grant Funds Awarded: \$29,999

Orange will commission a review of its Town Hall and Town Clerk's Offices to determine the scope of work for a major renovation to improve accessibility and energy efficiency in both buildings, neither of which currently meets ADA standards. For more information, contact Angela Eastman at townclerk@orangevt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$4,542

Grant Funds Awarded: \$4,088

Poultney will conduct a feasibility study to assess a municipal merger between the Town of Poultney and the Village of Poultney. Through public engagement and analysis of existing conditions, a consultant will guide Poultney's local Steering Committee through next steps in this process. For more information, contact Paul Donaldson at poultneymanager@comcast.net.

Total Project Cost: \$11,530

Grant Funds Awarded: \$10,377

Putney will create a Housing Needs Assessment & Action Plan, which will engage stakeholders and build public support for recommendations that will increase access to safe, affordable, healthy, safe, energy-efficient and climate-resilient housing to meet the diverse needs of current and future Putney residents. For more information, contact Phillip Bannister at pipbannister@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$50,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$30,000

Richford will update its Town Plan, with a particular focus on housing and village streetscape. Richford's housing stock has deteriorated, bringing with it reduced Grand List values and infrastructure that is falling into disrepair; a new town plan with broad public outreach will spur new investments that ensure Richford's future vibrancy. For more information, contact Kiley Deuso at townclerk@richfordvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$18,050

Grant Funds Awarded: \$16,245

Roxbury will create a Village Center Revitalization Plan, conducting a comprehensive preliminary planning study to determine Roxbury's needs for water/wastewater infrastructure, economic vitality, housing projects and community health, transportation issues, and clean energy options. This will support a future implementation project. For more information, contact Eli Toohey at toohey@cvregion.com.

Total Project Cost: \$25,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$22,500

Rutland will develop the City's first comprehensive Capital Improvement Program, which will assist the City with appropriately budgeting for major infrastructure-related and capital projects. For more information, contact Barbara Spaulding at spauldingrra@rutlandvtbusiness.com.

Total Project Cost: \$22,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$19,800

Shaftsbury will create an economic development strategy and implementation plan for the town, building upon the economic development aspects of the Town Plan, the Bennington Regional Plan, and the Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. It will focus on increasing and improving jobs, housing options, and infrastructure, and identifying properties with development potential in the downtown core. For more information, contact David Kiernan at administrator@shaftsburyvt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$12,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$10,800

Sheffield will review its existing town plan, and develop a revised town plan that will guide it through the next eight years. The new plan will take into account new information and lessons learned from the covid pandemic, July 2023 flooding, and new State and regional goals and guidance. For more information, contact Alan Robertson at pfalz@kingcon.com.

Total Project Cost: \$7,250
Grant Funds Awarded: \$5,250

South Hero will conduct a feasibility study to develop a conceptual design for a new Town Office, following the discovery of significant structural problems with the current building. This project will assess the best building site, programmatic needs, and create a conceptual design and cost assessment. For more information, contact Susan Arguin at townadmin@southherovt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$25,758
Grant Funds Awarded: \$23,002

Springfield will enroll in the FEMA Community Rating System program, updating its flood hazard zoning regulations and establishing an administrative framework for program activities. For more information, contact Charles Wise at toszoning@vermontel.net.

Total Project Cost: \$21,490
Grant Funds Awarded: \$19,341

St. Albans Town will create a Master Plan for its designated Village Center, which has not been included in prior planning; a Master Plan will ensure that the community has input into the Village Center's future growth and development. For more information, contact Jennifer Gray at j.gray@stalbanstown.com.

Total Project Cost: \$47,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$30,000

St. Johnsbury will conduct a recreation planning study to determine the ideal structure and scope of a future recreation department. Having a sustainable, reliable recreation department and facilities will benefit not only St. Johnsbury residents, but also those in surrounding towns. For more information, contact Chad Whitehead at cwhitehead@stjvt.com.

Total Project Cost: \$34,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$30,000

Strafford will develop a capital budget and program for the Town in order to levelize annual appropriations to reserves for desired capital projects, including vehicles, major road construction, and improved buildings and building systems. For more information, contact Stephanie Slayton at sslayton@straffordvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$16,920
Grant Funds Awarded: \$15,228

Swanton Village will work with a consultant to create a capital improvement plan for all municipal water and sewer infrastructure. The goal is to replace outdated components and create a safer, more resilient and functional system. For more information, contact Heidi BritchValenta at hbvalenta@swanton.net.

Total Project Cost: \$15,500
Grant Funds Awarded: \$13,950

Waitsfield and **Fayston** will create a Village Master Plan for Irasville. It will include current conditions, community attitudes, identification of wetland enhancements, realistic design scenarios, and next steps for phased revitalization and resilience. For more information, contact JB Weir at pza@gmavt.net.

Total Project Cost: \$49,990
Grant Funds Awarded: \$44,811

Winhall will complete a Town Plan update with a focus on strengthening the housing chapter to support additional affordable housing opportunities, and on developing priorities to support the vitality of the village of Bondville. For more information, contact Matthew Bachler at mbachler@windhamregional.org.

Total Project Cost: \$23,350
Grant Funds Awarded: \$21,015

Winooski will conduct an evaluation of the city's housing landscape to use as a tool for future planning, integrating substantial community engagement and data analysis to support equitable access to housing. For more information, contact Jazmine Hurley at jhurley@winooski.vt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$42,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$30,000

State Award Funding Totals: \$673,391