



Certified Local Government Program

2025 CLG Grant Application

**FFY 2025 grant funding provided by the
National Park Service/Historic Preservation Fund**

Grant Period: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2027

**Vermont Certified Local Government Program
2025 Grant Application Form**

Application Deadline: On or before 4:30 PM, Monday, December 16, 2024.

What to Submit: All application materials must be submitted prior to the application deadline. A complete application consists of the following items, in the following electronic formats:

- Application Form, signed by the applicant, the Chair of the CLG Commission, and the Chief Elected Local Official (or designee). Submit a scanned PDF of the complete application with all signatures.
- Proposed Budget Form, signed by the Chief Elected Local Official (or designee). Submit the following:
 - a scanned PDF of the signed Proposed Budget Form, and
 - an MS Word version of the Proposed Budget Form.
- Any supporting materials, such as photographs, reports, assessments, etc. that support and inform the proposed project. Submit these materials as PDFs.

How to Submit the Application: Please submit all the above items as attachments to an email message, identified as follows:

Email Subject Line: *[Name of CLG Community] – 2025 CLG Grant Application*

Attachments: *[Name of CLG Community] – Application Form (PDF)*
 [Name of CLG Community] – Proposed Budget Form (PDF & Word)
 [Name of CLG Community] – Supporting Materials (PDF)

Where to Submit: All application materials should be submitted electronically via email to Lindsay.Pacheco@vermont.gov

**If you have any questions about the application process, please contact
Laura V. Trieschmann at 802-505-3579 or laura.trieschmann@vermont.gov**

**Vermont Certified Local Government Program
2025 Grant Application Form**

To complete this Grant Application, simply click in the gray text boxes and type your responses. Please keep your responses as concise as possible and specific to the proposed project.

Name of CLG Community: Rockingham

Name of CLG Coordinator: Walter Wallace

Telephone: 802-463-3964 x1112

Email: clg@rockbf.org

Mailing Address: 7 The Square, Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Name of Municipal Treasurer: Kathleen Kelly

Telephone: 802 463-4336 x 1102

Email: clerk@rockbf.org

Project Name: CLG Program Support, Stewardship, and Interpretation

Will this project be administered by a designated third party? Yes or No

If yes, name of organization: _____

Project Category: Please check the appropriate category below and provide the requested information as indicated or on a separate page.

Priority I Projects

Top priority in the selection of projects and award of grant funds is given to Priority I projects.

Survey Project. *Please describe in Project Summary:*

- purpose of the project;
- area to be surveyed (indicate on map);
- estimated number of properties to be surveyed;
- estimated number of acres to be surveyed;
- status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey; and
- plans for completion of survey.

National Register Project. *Please describe in Project Summary:*

- purpose of the project;
- building or historic district to be nominated (indicate on map);
- property type or theme for Multiple Property nomination;
- for a historic district, the number of contributing properties within the district;
- status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey;
- plans for completion of survey; and
- status of survey through the National Register process.

Preservation Planning Project. *Please describe in Project Summary:*

- purpose of the project;
- area to be covered by the plan (describe and indicate on map);
- status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey; and
- status of survey through the National Register process.

- Information and Education Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
 - purpose of the project;
 - audience, methods and products;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey;
 - status of survey through the National Register process; and
 - status of historic preservation planning.

- Pre-Development Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
 - purpose of the project;
 - property or area to be covered by the plan (describe and indicate on map);
 - scope of work and products;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey;
 - status of survey through the National Register process; and
 - status of historic preservation planning.

Priority II Projects

Awarded only if grant funds remain after all Priority I projects have been selected.

- Development Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
 - purpose of the project;
 - property or area to be covered by the plan (describe and indicate on map);
 - scope of work and products;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey;
 - status of survey through the National Register process; and
 - status of historic preservation planning.
 - Please include a location map showing the footprint of the building, the parcel boundaries, and any areas of possible ground disturbance resulting from the project.

Project Summary (please address the items noted in the Project Category selected above):

Purpose

The 2025 CLG *Information, Education, and Stewardship* grant will allow the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to continue to fulfill its mission –

- Continue to advise the Town Selectboard, Town Manager, Development Director, and Planning Director on how best to integrate historic preservation into town policies and actions
- Promote historic preservation in the community by providing conservation and restoration technical support to owners of historic properties through consultations, and with attention paid to the historic narratives of our rural spaces, villages, hamlets, and

neighborhoods through a speaker series and dedicated events such as an Old House Award program

- Support the stewardship and interpretation of historic districts and sites including the Rockingham Meeting House (RMH) national historic landmark

The CLG grant subvents costs for HPC administration, programming, and consultation. The HPC Coordinator works 20 hours per week and maintains an office at Rockingham Town Hall. Regular office hours are scheduled at the Town Hall as well as by appointment. The Coordinator administers the CLG grant, serves as staff for the HPC, organizes programs, provides preservation assistance to the Town and community, and liaises with Vermont state agencies regarding activities such as Section 106 reviews and with the National Park Service as required.

The HPC will continue to bring focus to historic resource stewardship and interpretation during the 2025 CLG grant cycle, notably:

- **Rockingham Meeting House (RMH):** On-going curation of this National Historic Landmark and help to direct the RMH Preservation Project, a \$3m funded effort for major conservation and restoration work through a mix of federal, state, town, and private philanthropy funding streams. The HPC and coordinator directs the project and is responsible for administering National Park Service *Save America's Treasures* and a *Semiquincentennial* grants; administering a state preservation grant; coordinating town funding related to RMH; and is involved in a capital fundraising campaign.
- **Stephen J. Belaski Fort Ethan Allen WPA Murals:** "Surrender of Burgoyne" and "Taking of Canon from Fort Ticonderoga" are being reallocated by the U.S. General Services Administration to the Town of Rockingham. They were painted by a Bellows Falls artist in a make-shift studio at Rockingham Town Hall in 1940, holding significant historical and artistic value . Both are in poor condition and require extensive conservation. The HPC is guiding and raising funds for conservation, aligned with the town's cultural preservation efforts and serves as a focal event for the 2026 Semiquincentennial of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, "Vermont 250."
- **Oak Hill Cemetery Chapel:** Assess condition, seek funding for conservation, and develop long-term maintenance and use plan for this town-owned property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In concert with the Rockingham Cemetery

Audience, methods and products

The project targets residents of Rockingham and its villages and hamlets, neighboring towns, and out-of-state visitors. A secondary audience is the selectboard, other town commissions and interested individual property owners. Public engagement is systematically accomplished in the following ways:

- **Historic Preservation Public Awareness:** The HPC launched a public awareness campaign in the winter and spring 2022 to draw attention to historic buildings and landscapes in Rockingham. A well-received element of this effort is advertising via on-screen slides on movie nights at the Bellows Falls Opera House (BFOH). For approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of that evening's movie the gathering audience is exposed to a slide show advertising local businesses and non-profit organizations, including the HPC. The 2025 grant request includes support to continue the effort (basic slide currently in use is attached as a supporting document). To secure a discounted rate it is the intent to pay the advertising cost to cover the period January 2026 through September 2027.
- **Historic Preservation Speaker Series:** Organizing educational events to promote awareness and appreciation of historic preservation.
- **Old House Awards Program:** For 27 years the HPC has sponsored an annual Old House Award Program to honor those property owners in Rockingham who have worked hard and often at great expense to maintain the exterior historic character of their buildings, thereby preserving the historic landscapes of villages, hamlets, and rural byways. This continues to be a major vehicle for public awareness of the importance of historic preservation in our community.
- **Preservation Technical Support:** Providing technical and historic preservation assistance to the Town and its residents.
- **Promotion and Outreach:** Advancing awareness of historic preservation efforts and their benefits, including flood mitigation strategies for historic properties.
- **Educational Programming:** Creating materials tailored for schools to foster education on historic preservation.
- **State Agency Coordination:** Engaging with Vermont state agencies on activities such as Section 106 reviews and other compliance-related tasks.

- **Grant Management:** Preparing proposals and overseeing grants from the National Park Service and Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

Status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey

There are four town/state historic districts and upwards of twenty town historic sites in Rockingham. These districts and sites were audited in 2021. Recommendations and information from that audit have been approved by the HPC in re-writing the Historic Resources chapter of the 2024 Rockingham Town Plan, setting historic preservation goals and objectives to amend existing and establish new districts or stand-alone sites.

Status of survey through the National Register process

There are 11 NR historic districts established in Rockingham and numerous NR individual sites. These districts and nominations were audited in 2021. See comment above for NR action related to the Town Plan. The HPC is also monitoring the Kchi Pontegok Project, funded by the National Park Service Underrepresented Communities grant (NPS-URC). The project is reviewing the current Bellows Falls Multi-use NR Historic Site petroglyph contributing site element for update or re-nomination as a stand-alone NR site.

The HPC identified the Bellows Falls Downtown Historic District (NR, 1982) and the Bellows Falls Island Multi-Use District (NR, 1990) as in need for updates. Funding is being sought to pay for this work through a separate CLG grant proposal.

Status of historic preservation planning

- Develop a long-term capital budget for RMH conservation to support an established cyclical maintenance plan
- Conservation and long-term care of two WPA murals painted by Stephen Belaski, in concert with the U.S. General Services Administration, Division of Fine Arts, WPA Mural Inventory Project
- Perpetual care of historic elements of cemeteries and graveyards, in concert with the Rockingham Cemetery Committee
- Flood mitigation and historic preservation, working to protect historic districts and sites, and to work with the Four Museums of Rockingham to protect collections
- Develop historic design standards, TBD

- Infill development in residential neighborhoods, TBD
- Zoning by-laws and historic preservation, TBD

Please Answer the Following Questions:

1. *How will the public be informed about the purpose of this project and the value of historic preservation? (note: public information and education is a required component of all CLG grant projects)*

Through its Historic Preservation Public Awareness Campaign and a variety of other activities: the Rockingham Old House Awards program, public presentations, press releases via local media outlets, on-screen public service announcements at the Bellows Falls Opera House, special programming on public access FACT-TV, WOOL 91.5 FM (Bellows Falls-based Pacifica Radio affiliate with a national reach), and on the town website. The commission continues to advocate for historic buildings in danger of demolition through neglect. The HPC works with the town Development Office on the feasibility of historically significant buildings repurposing and contributing to future community economic development.

2. *Describe the impact that this project will have on historic resources. Will it be significant and long lasting?*

The Rockingham CLG program contributes directly to a range of preservation activities in all of Rockingham’s historic districts: Bellows Falls Downtown, Bellows Falls Neighborhood, Saxtons River, Parker Hill, and Old Rockingham Village. The Information and Education project will continue to facilitate the redevelopment of historic commercial and industrial structures and landscapes within the Bellows Falls Downtown and the Saxtons River NR historic districts which will benefit both existing businesses and attract more customers to the area through marketing of historic tourism. On-going support of homeowner efforts to preserve historic homes in the Bellows Falls Neighborhood and the Parker Hill NR historic districts as well as the Bartonville and Cambridgeport state and town historic districts contributes to property values and marketability of residential real estate as well as contribute to historic tourism. Historic preservation SMART goals and objectives are enshrined in the Rockingham Town Plan and used to benchmark outcomes. The key activity for the next 12-18 months is preservation of the RMH.

3. Does this project focus on disaster preparation, mitigation, and resilience? If yes, please explain how.

Yes -or- No

If yes, please describe:

Crosswalk historic preservation with the Rockingham flood mitigation plan. There is concern that some NR districts are at risk of major flooding events. HPC members have engaged with National Park Service and FEMA trainings about the effects of climate change on historic properties. This includes training in the new SOI Standards for Historic Preservation related to adaptation to flood events. The HPC is working with the Bellows Falls Historical Society, the Saxtons River Historical Society, and the Rockingham Free Public Library to develop collaborative rapid response teams to react to flooding or other natural disasters that threaten collections and sites.

Climate change themes are interwoven in the Rockingham Meeting House Preservation Project to make sure restoration strategies address climate change impacts on the site ecosystem.

4. *Describe the project schedule assuming starting date of **May 2025** and completion date of **August 1, 2027**. List dates for subcontracting with consultants, on-site meetings, delivery of draft products, such as survey and National Register forms, and public meetings, as applicable. All products, including a final project report and auditable financial documentation, are due by the completion date.*

Historic Preservation Commission meets the first Monday of each month with occasional special meetings scheduled as needed. Speaker series dates TBD.

DATE	Task/Product Completed
1/23/2025	SHPO notifies applicants of grant awards
5/2025	Executed Grant Agreement
6/1/2025	Subcontract with Drone Service to produce drone imagery
09/2025	Historic New England annual dues payment
10/2025	2025 Old House Award Program
12/1/2025	First Progress Report Due
4/1/2026	Second Progress Report Due
01/2026	Subcontract with Bellows Falls Opera House for HP awareness slide show
12/1/2026	Third Progress Report Due
4/1/2027	Fourth Progress Report Due
8/1/2027	Completion Date: Deadline to submit final project report, final product, and request reimbursement
9/30/2027	Deadline for SHPO to process payment requests and disburse grant funds

5. *Who will participate in the project and what will they do? Relate the personnel listed in the budget (CLG staff and commissioners, consultants, volunteers) to their role in completing the project.*

- **Walter Wallace, HPC Coordinator:** administers CLG grant and coordinates historic preservation activities and projects
- **Gary Fox, Development Director:** supervises HPC Coordinator, coordinates historic preservation activities in relation to community development goals and objectives outlined in the town plan
- **HPC Members, John Leppman, MD (Chair), Karen Jarret, Annette Spaulding, Elijah Zimmer:** Oversees the Coordinator's activities, ensures grant criteria have been met, sets priorities for grant activities, selects consultants, and makes recommendations to the Rockingham Select Board for awarding of contracts pertaining to historic preservation activities.
- **Community Partnerships:** Bellows Falls Historical Society; Saxtons River Historical Society; Rockingham Meeting House Association; Rockingham Free Public Library. Each group plays a vital role in CLG work by maintaining archives and artifact collections, sharing resources, supporting historical research, and providing venues and technical support for educational programs. The HPC works with Destination Bellows Falls on historic preservation awareness.

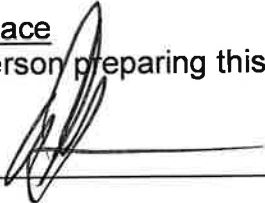
6. *What are the dates of the local government's fiscal year? July 1 to June 30*

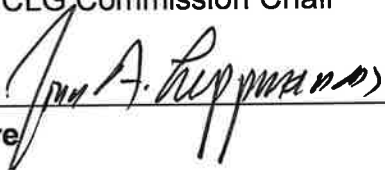
7. *If applicable, what are the dates of the designated third-party administrator's fiscal year?*
to _____ or not applicable


Signature page follows

Signatures: After completing the application, print it out and have each of the three signatories sign and date this page. Then scan the complete application as a PDF and email it as an attachment along with the other required application materials.

THIS APPLICATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES ARE ENTERED BELOW:

<u>Walter Wallace</u> Name of person preparing this application	<u>HPC (CLG) Coordinator</u> Title
	<u>12/16/2024</u>
Signature	Date

<u>John Leppman</u> Name of CLG Commission Chair	
	<u>12/16/24</u>
Signature	Date

<u>Scott Pickup</u> Name of Chief Elected Local Official (or Designee)	<u>Municipal Manager</u> Title
	<u>12/16/24</u>
Signature	Date

Name of CLG Community: Rockingham

Name of CLG Project: CLG Program Support, Stewardship, and Interpretation

18,949.20

Federal Share: \$18,950 + Local Share: \$12,632 (cash & in-kind match) = Total Project Amount: \$31,582

Note: the Federal Share cannot exceed 60% of the total project amount, and the Local Share must be at least 40% of the total project amount.

CASH EXPENDITURES 1 (expenses to be reimbursed by the grant)				
Salaried Employees	# Hours & Rate	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Name, Title</i>				
Walter Wallace, HPC coordinator	20 hours per week x 52 weeks @ \$25.00 p/h	\$26,832		
Gary Fox, Development Director	25 hours per year @ \$30.00	\$775		
Total Cash Expenditures for Salaried Employees		\$27,607		

CASH EXPENDITURES 2 (expenses to be reimbursed by the grant)				
Contracted Services	Description of Services	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Vendor</i>				
Rockingham Entertainment Development, Ltd. o/b/o Bellows Falls Opera House	On movie nights (5x per week) provide on-screen slides advertising historic preservation activities sponsored by the HPC to support historic preservation awareness in the community as	\$2000		
Speakers Program	\$175 speaker's fee x 3 events	\$525		
Guardian Drone Service	Produce drone imagery of the Rockingham Meeting House and surrounding area to update Rockingham ArcGIS StoryMap and enhance wayfinding. Footage to be continuous from start of flight to end capturing the Meetinghouse and all surrounding areas including 1774 Parsonage Farm and Parker Hill Village site). Basic editing with some text and	\$500		

	music overlay. (Audio is to be provided prior to editing)			
	Total Cash Expenditures for Contracted Services	\$3,025		

CASH EXPENDITURES 3 (expenses to be reimbursed by the grant)				
Other Expenses	Description of Costs	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Vendor</i>				
Old House Awards Program	Pays for plaques and reception production for annual award winners as selected by the commission	\$800		
Historic New England Membership	Annual institutional membership. Commissioners and Town staff are able to access professional development in CLG historic preservation work. Membership provides visibility to the Rockingham HPC through their website as well as access to technical preservation services to Rockingham residents. Provides free passes to Rockingham residents through the public library to visit HNE sites	\$150		
	Total Cash Expenditures for Operating Services	\$950		

IN-KIND EXPENDITURES 1 (services to serve as match for the grant)				
Donated Time	# Hours & Rate	Proposed	Actual	Variance


<i>Name</i>				
Commissioners - HPC Monthly Meetings, committee work, and Professional Development / conference participation	160 hours @ \$38 per hour for five commissioners	\$6080		
Total In-Kind Expenditures for Donated Time		\$6080		

IN-KIND EXPENDITURES 2 (services to serve as match for the grant)				
Donated Services	Description of Costs	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Vendor</i>				
Total Cash Expenditures for Donated Services		0		

LOCAL CASH MATCH (cash to serve as match for the grant)				
Cash Match	Description of Match	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Source</i>	Town Funds	\$6552		

	Proposed	Actual	Variance
Total of All Cash & In-Kind Expenditures	\$31,582		

Certification: I certify that the matching share proposed for this project does not include funding from other Federal sources, and that these funds are not being used as match against any other Federal grant application.



 Chief Elected Local Official or Designee

12/16/24

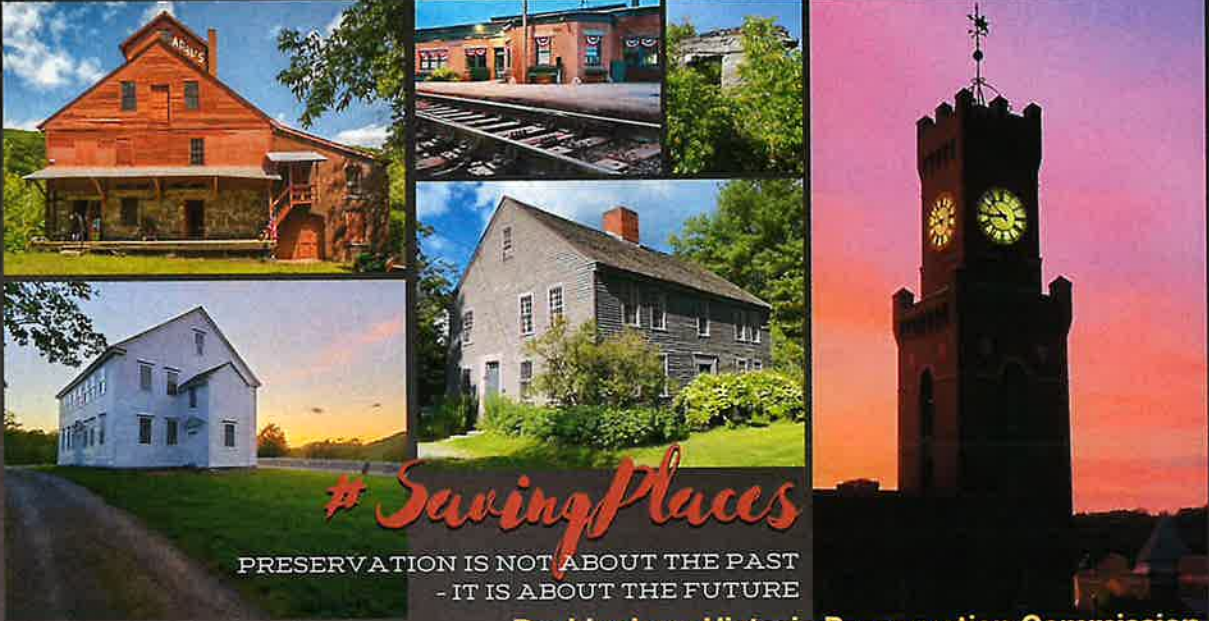
 Date

Rockingham 2025 CLG Grant Proposal

Supporting Materials

1. Bellows Falls Opera House Historic Preservation On-screen slide

Bellows Falls Opera House Historic Preservation On-screen slide



Saving Places

PRESERVATION IS NOT ABOUT THE PAST
- IT IS ABOUT THE FUTURE

Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission

A National Park Service Certified Local Government funded in part by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation rockbf.org/historic-preservation-commission cdj@rockbf.org