

## 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 \$13 million to 235 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 \$4,900 to \$31,000 with total requests exceeding \$825,000. Competitively awarded, 54 total applications were reviewed with 31 recipients selected. Funded projects range from evaluating the potential for inter-town fire-fighting, recovering from the loss of a major local institution, to making way for the types of homes Vermonters now need, this year's grants give local leaders a boost, helping them tackle challenges with confidence. Grants will help other towns adopt useful and relevant municipal plans, update their regulations, and revitalize communities.

Website: <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/municipal-planning-grant>

## FY 2020 Grant Recipients

Berlin, Burke, Castleton, Dorset, Fairfax, Fairfield, Ferrisburgh, Highgate, Hinesburg, Hyde Park, Manchester, Middlebury, Middlesex, Newport, North Hero, Poultney, Randolph, Reading, Rockingham, Rutland, Sharon, Sheldon, Shoreham, Springfield, St. Johnsbury, Underhill, Vernon, Waitsfield, Westfield, Whitingham, Winooski

## By the Numbers [2015 - 2019]

**\$3.7 M**

in grant  
funds requested

**\$371,711**

in local  
match funds

**192**

municipal planning  
grants awarded

**\$2.3 M**

in grant  
funds awarded

**120,274**

people engaged  
in the planning projects

**99%**

of **survey respondents** say  
MPGs are important to achieve  
planning goals



“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 Downtown Streetscape Improvement Plan

Project Year: 2018 Grant Award: \$16,000

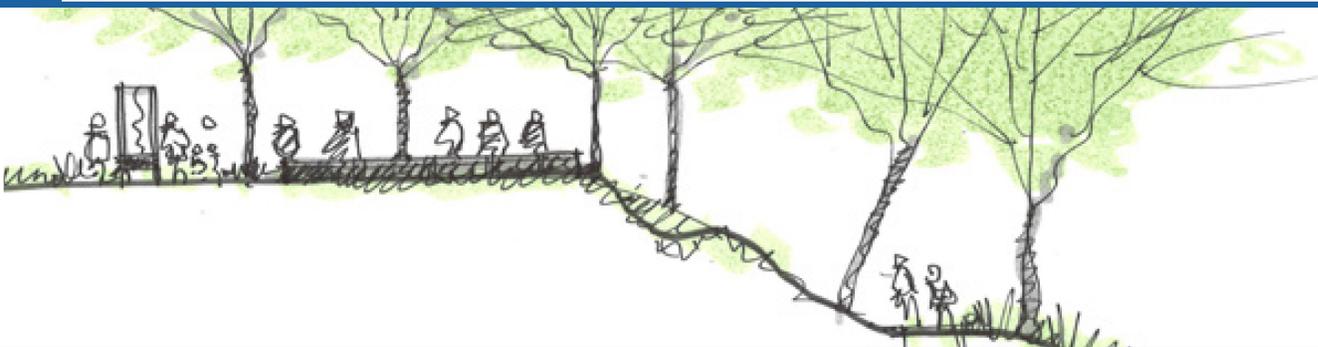


With the goal of increasing economic activity in the downtown, Fair Haven is taking steps large and small to implement the vision of making the downtown more walkable and vibrant for businesses and visitors.

**Final Plan:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MuuLhHgdknJFTmuJXhGuOYk0F0r5Inq2/view>

### St. Johnsbury Riverfront Conceptual Access Study

Project Year: 2016 Grant Award: \$8,000



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.

**Final Plan:** <http://www.nvda.net/files/st-j-riverfront-concept-study.pdf>

### Vernon Village Center Master Plan

Project Year: 2018 Grant Award: \$20,000



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.

**Final Plan:** <https://vernonvermont.org/vernon-center-conceptual-master-plan-is-complete/>

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