

From: Coriell, Scott [Scott.Coriell@state.vt.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 10:15 AM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: Gov. Shumlin Announces \$4.3 million in Community Development Grants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2015

Gov. Shumlin Announces \$4.3 million in Community Development Grants
Housing, Disaster Recovery and Accessibility Projects will Strengthen 13 Communities

MONTPELIER – Thirteen Vermont cities and towns will receive more than \$4 million in grants to make them more resilient, affordable, and accessible, Gov. Peter Shumlin announced today. The municipalities will use the funds to build and improve affordable housing, complete disaster repairs, make public spaces accessible to all residents, and revitalize community centers.

“Spring is coming and soon these grants will lead to construction projects across state that will help improve communities, grow jobs, and spur economic growth,” Gov. Shumlin said. “From Lyndon to Wilmington, these projects will help our small towns complete disaster recovery projects, create more affordable housing, and further develop their communities.”

The Governor was joined by Patricia Moulton, Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, who made the awards from the agency’s Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP). Representatives of the municipalities receiving grants attended the Statehouse ceremony to accept the awards. They were accompanied by the public, private, and nonprofit organizations that serve as project partners, a hallmark of the VCDP.

“While targeted to the needs of lower income Vermonters, these projects will benefit their towns in many ways and for years to come.” added Sec. Moulton. “Each will make their community stronger from building new affordable homes in the heart of Hinesburg and ensuring all residents can access the public library in Washington to repairing Brandon’s historic town office building.”

Also at the ceremony were representatives of Senator Patrick Leahy, Senator Bernie Sanders and Congressman Peter Welch. Each member of the congressional delegation has played a key role in securing the funding that makes the program possible. The grants are funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant Program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The program helps Vermonters by developing affordable housing, creating jobs, making town halls and community centers accessible by those with disabilities and providing services for people in need. It has also been the source of approximately \$40 million to help the state recovery from Tropical Storm Irene and other major floods.

The state awards the competitive grants through ACCD’s Department of Housing and Community Development based on the recommendations of the Vermont Community Development Board and final approval by Secretary Moulton.

For information about the Vermont Community Development Program, please see the Agency of Commerce and Community Development website at:

http://acd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/vcdp

Awardee	Grant Amount	Project Description
Town of Athens	\$412,620	Disaster Recovery Grant to replace and upsize three culverts that have been repeatedly washed out and were damaged again by Tropical Storm Irene. Denied by FEMA, this recovery project is the Town's last and will make its roads more resilient to future flooding.
City of Barre	\$19,830	Planning Grant to help the Granite City Coop, a member-owned cooperative, determine the feasibility of establishing a grocery store in downtown Barre.
Town of Brandon	\$500,000	Disaster Recover Grant to repair and rehabilitate the historic town office building which was severely damaged by Tropical Storm Irene.
Town of Brattleboro	\$425,000	Deferred loan to Windham & Windsor Housing Trust for the rehabilitation of 29 units of affordable housing in five rental properties throughout Brattleboro.
Town of Chester	\$108,000	Disaster Recovery Grant to replace an undersized culvert on Cavendish Road damaged during Tropical Storm Irene.
Town of Hinesburg	\$675,000	Deferred Loan to the Champlain Housing Trust and Housing Vermont, in partnership with Snyder Homes, to build 24 new affordable apartments in Hinesburg.
Town of Lyndon	\$500,000	Deferred loan to Rural Edge Housing to complete the major rehabilitation of 28 units of low-income senior housing and the area's senior meals site located in the Historic Darling Inn on Main Street.
Town of Rochester	\$30,000	Subgrant to Rochester Community Care Home, Inc. to develop plans that will bring 15 units of affordable senior housing into compliance with ADA and make life & safety and energy efficiency improvements.

Awardee	Grant Amount	Project Description
Town of Warren	\$275,000	Disaster Recovery Grant for improvements to Main Street in Warren which will improve safety and accessibility as part of the Village's revitalization and recovery from Tropical Storm Irene.
Town of Washington	\$75,000	Grant for improvements to the Calef Memorial Library which will bring it into full compliance with state and federal requirements and enable all citizens to access the facility.
Town of West Rutland	\$850,000	Subgrant to NeighborWorks of Western Vermont to continue their affordable housing revolving loan fund for home repairs and energy improvements, and financial counseling to income eligible households.
Westgate Housing, Inc.	\$141,550	Disaster Recovery Grant to prevent water intrusion in twenty units of affordable housing and ameliorate the mold and mildew resulting from an elevated water table caused by Tropical Storm Irene.
Town of Wilmington	\$300,000	Disaster Recovery Grant to construct 520 feet of accessible sidewalk in downtown Wilmington increasing safety and walkability and the furthering the Town's revitalization after severe damage by Tropical Storm Irene.
Total Grant Awards	\$4,287,000	

Contacts:

Scott Coriell, Office of the Governor (802) 353-1449

Jennifer Hollar, Department of Housing and Community Development, ACCD (802) 793-7346

###