

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Governor Peter Shumlin  
**From:** Stephan Morse, Chair, Vermont Economic Progress Council  
**CC:** Patricia Moulton, Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development  
**Date:** March 18, 2016  
**Re:** Round 2 (FY16) Windham County Economic Development Competitive Grants

Below for your consideration are details on the Vermont Council on Rural Development application for a Competitive Grant through the Windham County Economic Development Program. The grant will assist the Town of Vernon with economic development planning in the wake of the loss of VY.

The application was considered only after a Letter of Intent to Apply was approved by the Windham County Advisory Council. The VEPC Board met with the applicant, considered the application against the approval criteria, and respectively recommends funding the project at the level requested.

See grant details for the \$40,000 request from the Vermont Council on Rural Development and approval/disapproval signature block below.

**Applicant:** Vermont Council on Rural Development.  
**Project Name:** Vernon Community Visit  
**Total Project Cost:** \$52,000  
**Grant Request:** \$40,000 (77%)  
**RFP Section Addressed:** 2.2.5 Comm. and Econ. Dev. Organizing for the Town of Vernon  
**Staff Project Description:** Community engagement to begin post-VY economic development planning for Vernon.

**Applicant Project Summary:**

Through the "Vernon Community Visit" project, VCRD will create a forum for community decisions that will drive action in Vernon over the next two years. VCRD's five-month process will unite residents of Vernon to examine issues before the community, prioritize actions to respond to challenges and opportunities, build local task forces and implementation plans for community and economic development projects, and connect to human and financial resources to help them advance community goals.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

VEPC recommends that the project be approved for a grant in the amount of \$40,000.

**Approval/Disapproval:**

WCEDP grant of \$40,000 for VT Council on Rural Development Vernon Community Visit:

**Approve:**  **Do Not Approve:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor Peter Shumlin

3/22/16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date