



University
of Vermont

Leahy Institute
for Rural Partnerships

Grant Program – Recommended Proposals, Fall 2024 Cycle

| App ID | Community Partner | UVM Partner Dept/Unit | UVM Partner | Priority Focus Area(s) | Amount | Short Description |
|--------|------------------------------|--|---|---|---------|--|
| 2924 | BDCC | None | None | Policy & Governance | 10,000 | Establish Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies, community-based organization to foster Rural Immigration |
| 2934 | Vermont Electric Cooperative | CEMS | None (maybe Sam Chevalier?) | Resilient Energy Systems | 250,000 | VEC aims to harness investments in data-driven visibility and intelligent orchestration of distributed energy resources to defer or eliminate up to \$80 million in capital investments needed to support electrification of heating and transportation |
| 2941 | Vermont Afterschool | Extension/Vermont 4-H | none | Community Schools, Healthy Ecosystems | 250,000 | Vermont Afterschool is working toward universal afterschool and summer with partners from the Agency of Education, Agency of Human Services, and the Governor's Office. This project would support older youth under that initiative, including career exploration for older youth. |
| 2967 | NEK Biosciences | Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Microscopy Imaging Center, Grossman, Elec/Biomedical Engineering | Kate Cruetzinger, Davi Bock, Doug Taatjes, Amber Doiron | Regenerative Agriculture, Health Ecosystems | 200,000 | The goal of this proposed partnership with UVM is to develop a solid scientific and business foundation for the CorioGraft Wound Healing Gel. This foundation can then be leveraged to attract the significant additional funding required perform a multi-institution CorioGraft Herd Health and Dairy Economic Study and establish a bioprocessing/manufacturing facility in Orleans County, VT. |
| 2968 | Clemmons Family Farm | UVM Extension | Heather Darby | Regenerative Agriculture, Community Schools, Healthy Ecosystems | 250,000 | CFF proposes to plan and develop an African Diaspora Foodways Institute. Up to twelve Vermont-based African diaspora culinary artists and farmers will receive professional development, create business plans, and use Clemmons Farm as a business incubator. This initiative will help grow their businesses and serve as a pilot to diversify Vermont's food and tourism sectors. |

| App ID | Community Partner | UVM Partner Dept/Unit | UVM Partner | Priority Focus Area(s) | Amount | Short Description |
|--------|---|---|---------------------------|---|---------|---|
| 2969 | VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development | UVM Center for Rural Studies | Andrew Brown | Policy & Governance | 250,000 | This initiative will work closely with UVM, state agencies, and TA service providers to create actionable recommendations for an integrated approach to delivering rural technical assistance. This partnership among UVM, the State of Vermont, and TA service providers will co-develop new solutions and models of advancing rural development and resilience that retains and builds upon the rural town and village foundation that we risk losing. |
| 2970 | Vermont Rural Water Association | Water Resources Institute/Rubenstein/CEMS | Beverly Wemple, John Lens | | 10,000 | Vermont Rural Water Association (VRWA), a nonprofit that provides training and technical assistance to drinking water and wastewater systems, seeks to establish a partnership with the University of Vermont's Water Resources Institute (UVM WRI) to implement targeted workforce development initiatives. We propose a two-part project: (1) conduct a survey to better understand workforce challenges specific to Vermont and (2) create educational opportunities to attract a younger, more diverse workforce. |
| 2972 | CCV, VTSU | | Jeff Frolik | | 10,000 | The GMW&L team will develop a curated gap-year for graduating high school students, who are not prepared to directly enter college. GMW&L will match these young adults with Vermont technical companies for a year-long, paid internship. Prior to the internship, participants will attend a summer academy program at UVM. |
| 2976 | CNHS, VCHIP, VSSNA, VAP, VTAAP, VTAAFP, GMC | UVM Larner College of Medicine | Stephen Teach | Healthy Ecosystems, Community Schools, Access to Health Care in Rural Areas | 10,000 | We propose an innovative collaboration among faculty and students, primary and specialty care clinicians, and parents of children with asthma in Vermont's rural schools. The collaborative effort will address priority focus areas of the Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships by improving access to essential healthcare for children with asthma in rural areas and creating a healthier ecosystem for learning in rural community schools |

| App ID | Community Partner | UVM Partner Dept/Unit | UVM Partner | Priority Focus Area(s) | Amount | Short Description |
|--------|--|--|-------------------|--|---------|--|
| 2984 | Vermont Library Association | UVM Emergency Medicine, UVM LCOM, UVM CNHS | Roz King | Transit and Housing Solutions, Remote and Co-Working Practices, Access to Health Care in Rural Areas | 10,000 | VITAL-VT seeks to address these challenges by integrating telehealth services into libraries, creating dual purpose spaces where healthcare is seamlessly woven into everyday community life. This initiative will lower barriers to telehealth access by utilizing the existing connectivity of rural libraries, fostering community engagement, and creating scalable solutions to healthcare delivery. |
| 2989 | Vermont Child Health Improvement Program | UVM LCOM, CCSC | Heidi Schumacher | Community Schools, Access to Health Care in Rural Areas, Policy and Governance | 240,000 | We will provide learning opportunities and curated online resources for Vermont's educational and health practitioners regarding relevant data, evidence-based interventions and bright spots from VT's rural communities to support attendance and youth wellbeing. This will include exploration of blended funding streams, including Medicaid and state and federal investments in Community Schools and school-based health services. We will also explore opportunities for systematic consent and attendance and health data sharing at the local and state levels. |
| 2993 | Vermont Dept. of Public Safety | Division of Safety & Compliance | Michael Schirling | Policy & Governance | 250,000 | This project will create a unified damage reporting portal to gather, analyze, disseminate information, and connect those in need to government and volunteer services including damage reports from residents, businesses, municipalities. The second component to this project is a strategy to train and deploy a broad support team to assist local emergency managers and responders in navigating State and Federal resources in the wake of a disaster. |

| App ID | Community Partner | UVM Partner Dept/Unit | UVM Partner | Priority Focus Area(s) | Amount | Short Description |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|---------|---|
| 3001 | State of Vermont | Water Resources Institute | Joshua Benes | Regenerative Agriculture, Community Schools, Transit & Housing Solutions, Resilient Energy Systems, Healthy Ecosystems | 70,700 | Build leverage for future funding to develop a Vermont Mesonet. A statewide mesonet that acts as a “hub and spoke model” could support research efforts to understand the threat of melting snow and high precipitation in these mountainous areas and translate that to how communities can become more resilient to events by using UVM’s monitoring infrastructure. |
| 3016 | none | UVM SAL | Paige Brochu | Transit & Housing Solutions, Healthy Ecosystems, Policy & Governance | 250,000 | Vermont Construction and Landscape Monitoring initiative seeks to establish a comprehensive system for tracking new home construction across the state. By utilizing advanced machine learning algorithms and highresolution satellite imagery, the project will monitor and identify new housing development. This effort will integrate multiple data sources to create an open-access housing database, updated monthly, which includes construction year information. |
| 3018 | none | UVM EMS | Christopher LaMonda | Access to Health Care in Rural Areas | 57,899 | This grant proposal seeks funding to support 4-8 students in a summer internship program at a rural ambulance service. Through this program, students will gain hands-on EMS experience, address critical healthcare access challenges in rural communities, and engage with the policy and governance aspects of EMS. This initiative not only strengthens the future of EMS but also builds a more robust, healthcare-ready workforce for rural areas in need. |
| 3023 | VT Maple Sugar Makers Association | UVM Extension Maple Program | Mark Isselhardt | Healthy Ecosystems | 200,000 | The University of Vermont Extension Maple Program seeks funding to establish capacity for testing pure maple syrup for essentials elements of quality: Color, Clarity Density and Flavor. Based on existing and successful labs for testing soil fertility and identification of plant diseases, the new testing lab would offer private individuals a resource to have their syrup tested for alignment with Grade A standards. |

| App ID | Community Partner | UVM Partner Dept/Unit | UVM Partner | Priority Focus Area(s) | Amount | Short Description |
|--------|---|---------------------------------|---|--|---------|---|
| 3026 | Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center (CSC) | UVM Center on Rural Addiction | Stacey Sigmon | Access to Health Care in Rural Areas | 67,485 | In 2025, the University of Vermont's Center on Rural Addiction and the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health (CBH) will partner with the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center (CSC) to study the impact of sailing on the highly vulnerable population of patients with OUD who are at elevated risk in Vermont and elsewhere for premature death and other adverse outcomes associated with their opioid use. |
| 3030 | Energy Action Network | UVM PACE | none | Resilient Energy Systems, Healthy Ecosystems | 10,000 | To achieve Vermont's required greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, Vermont needs to train thousands of Vermonters with the skills to electrify our transportation sector, install clean energy solutions, weatherize homes, build net zero commercial buildings, and sustainably manage our working lands, forests and waterways. This project will build on the work of the broad multi-sectoral Climate Workforce Coalition coordinated by Energy Action Network, and will look forward to deepening ties with UVM professors and students in this work. |
| 3040 | Intervale Center | (Proposed) Rubenstein | (Proposed) Kyle Wittinghill, Laura Edling, AMy Seidl, Cherie Morse, Noelia Barrios-Garcia | Healthy Ecosystems | 10,000 | The Intervale Center is seeking funding to deepen student and faculty engagement in our work to coordinate riparian tree and shrub seed collection for conservation nursery stock and floodplain restoration efforts. |
| 3043 | Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund | (Proposed) Spatial Analysis Lab | none | Regenerative Agriculture | 168,872 | We are engaged in a multi-year strategic effort to develop our local and regional supply chains that will remove structural barriers for regional food infrastructure and supply chain development in Vermont and the Northeast. This strategy involves stakeholder engagement across the supply chain, mapping and spatially analyzing infrastructure assets and needs, building and vetting a pipeline of high impact projects with technical experts, structuring, coordinating, and securing funding and financing on behalf of those projects, and providing ongoing project development and operational support through business coaching services. |

| App ID | Community Partner | UVM Partner Dept/Unit | UVM Partner | Priority Focus Area(s) | Amount | Short Description |
|--------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------|--|
| 3044 | Franklin-Grand Isle Watershed Alliance, Connecticut River Farmers Watershed Alliance, Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition | UVM Extension | Heather Darby | Regenerative Agriculture | 200,000 | We propose to develop an On-Farm Research Network in collaboration with the state's three farmer-led watershed groups (Franklin-Grand Isle Watershed Alliance, the Connecticut River Farmers Watershed Alliance, and the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition). The goal will be to evaluate regenerative and climate resilient practices across a multitude of environments to gain information on their impacts on financial and environmental sustainability |
| 3047 | Applied Research Associates, Inc. | (Proposed) CEMS | Dr. Laura Teers, Josh Bongard | Regenerative Agriculture, Healthy Ecosystems | 10,000 | With support of the Leahy Institute of Rural Partnerships and faculty from the University of Vermont (UVM), ARA will work collaboratively to develop a microbot environmental remediation strategy that can be used to remove microplastics from ecosystems. |
| 3053 | Vermont Business for Social Responsibility | none | none | Policy & Governance | 10,000 | VBSR would seek to develop a partnership with UVM that leverages UVM faculty and students to develop a research project focused on community consultation that will inform public policy supporting Vermont's small, rural business with climate resilience. |
| 3059 | Friends of the Winooski River | Ecological Planning Laboratory | none | Community Schools, Healthy Ecosystems, Policy & Governance | 250,000 | Through the Leahy Institute-supported partnership, interns will learn about the programs of community organizations that are working toward flood resilience. They will develop stories connecting these programs to the continuum of response-recovery-resilience in order to demonstrate to residents where actions are being taken to help their communities adapt to the changing climate. In the process, the interns will strengthen the relationships among the community partners, building a long-term network of community-based leadership in response, recovery, and resilience. |

| App ID | Community Partner | UVM Partner Dept/Unit | UVM Partner | Priority Focus Area(s) | Amount | Short Description |
|--------|---|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---|
| 2935 | VTEMS (Vermont DOH, Division of Emergency Preparedness, Response & Injury Prevention) | UVM Larner | Daniel Wolfson | Access to Health Care in Rural Areas | 250,000 | Builds on PREVENT protocol piloted in Burlington and Bennington. Establishing a statewide Learning Collaborative to enhance EMS opioid response programs across Vermont, with a strong focus on rural communities. |
| 2982 | Howard Center Chittenden Clinic, Turning Point Center, | DEM, Department of Internal Medicine, UVM ATC, | Roz King | Access to Health Care in Rural Areas | 10,000 | This proposal aims to develop plans for a statewide hotline modeled after the Poison Control Center, aimed at addressing Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in rural Vermont. SOS-VT will provide dual-facing support to community members and healthcare providers, offering access to information, resources, and expert consultation. |