

Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships
Awarded Proposals – Fall 2025



Community Need	Proposed Solution	Project Title	Award	Community Partner	UVM Partner
The state lacks real-time understanding of evolving patterns in land use that could inform planning in Vermont.	VT Construction and Landscape Mapping initiative will map housing development to provide data for planning, resource allocation, and community resilience.	V-CALM: Vermont Construction and Landscape Mapping Initiative	\$249,966	Vermont Center for Geographic Information, State of Vermont	Spatial Analysis Lab
There is a need for professional development opportunities and workforce to meet the needs of growing elderly populations in rural towns.	LEAP will increase Vermont’s age-friendly healthcare workforce through geriatric skills training , resource-sharing, and network development for professionals serving older, rural Vermonters.	Strengthening Rural Health Access through Learning and Engagement in Aging Program (LEAP)	\$19,814	Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A), Support and Services at Home (SASH)	Center on Aging
Lack of commercialization resources hinders progress for early-stage start-ups in Vermont.	VIA pairs UVM students as consultants with emerging Vermont businesses to support their development and to grow entrepreneurial talent.	Vermont Innovation Accelerator (VIA)	\$250,000	HULA, Vermont Center for Emerging Technology, Black River Innovation Campus, Gener8tor Rutland	UVM Innovations
This Vermont renewable energy start-up needs testing sites for its thin film solar panels .	Verde Technologies Inc. will demonstrate and research the effectiveness of its thin film solar panels on three Vermont barns .	Empowering Vermont Farms: Thin-Film Solar Demonstration for Barn Energy	\$250,000	Verde Technologies Inc.	College of Engineering & Mathematical Sciences (CEMS)
There is declining capacity among Vermont’s plant nurseries to provide the native tree stock required for reforestation and water quality efforts .	This partnership will build a science-based roadmap for forest nursery capacity building and a network of reforestation hubs in Vermont.	Building Climate Resilient Reforestation Capacity in Vermont’s Rural Communities	\$244,480	Intervale Center, Redstart Forestry, Northwoods Stewardship Center, Vermont Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Vermont Department of Forest Parks and rec, Vermont Fish & Wildlife, the US Forest Service, Weyerhaeuser Company, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science	Watershed Forestry Partnership, Lake Champlain Sea Grant/UVM Extension

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Critical information is missing about the dynamics of sediment in Vermont’s rivers that could inform flood resilience efforts.	Using machine-learning, the project will produce a statewide map of alluvial fans to integrate these landforms more explicitly into hazard assessment and planning for Vermont towns and state agencies.	Mapping alluvial fans to inform flood hazards for Vermont’s rural communities	\$122,158	Vermont Geological Survey, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Rivers Program	CEMS, Water Resources Institute
The future of many Vermont non-profits is uncertain due to capacity and resource constraints .	The project seeks to strengthen Vermont’s non-profit sector by creating a Resource-Sharing Hub to support collaboration in an increasingly challenging landscape.	Strengthening Rural Nonprofits through Shared Services and Collaborations: A Capacity-Building Partnership	\$20,000	Common Good Vermont, United Way of Northwest Vermont	Community Development and Applied Economics
Barriers to housing development continue due to high costs associated with wastewater infrastructure.	Support integration of wastewater management technology in real estate markets through a Toolkit and planning for a Vermont demonstration project of the technology.	Lab partnership for Brightwater Tools’ novel freeze concentration technology	\$20,000	Brightwater Tools, Inc.	Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources
Microplastics continue to degrade water quality in Vermont’s lakes and rivers.	In this second phase, partners will develop a novel, microbot-centric environmental remediation platform to remove microplastics from Vermont waterways .	Microbots for Microplastics Removal in Vermont’s Aquatic Ecosystems	\$249,747	Applied Research Associates	CEMS Mechanical Engineering
Vermont biosciences companies lack an association that could support growth and partnerships.	This is a plan to unify sectors of the Vermont economy working in biosciences, like agriculture, medical, health, biotech, biomanufacturing, and green tech , to identify common needs and promote growth.	Building Bioeconomy Capacity and Growth for all of Vermont	\$20,000	BioLabs Innovation Center at University of Vermont	UVM Career Center

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Vermont schools and families struggle to support effective in-school asthma treatment for children , impacting educational outcomes	This phase two project initiates and evaluates school-based asthma therapy programs in ten rural schools.	Implementing School-based Asthma Therapy for Vermont's Rural Children: Phase 2	\$179,603	Vermont State School Nurse Association	Larner College of Medicine (LCOM), Dept. of Emergency Medicine
Soil compaction is reducing farm productivity and contributing to water quality issues.	In collaboration with Connecticut River Watershed Farmers' Alliance groups, this project will evaluate and disseminate information about novel methods for measuring compaction to support on-farm decision-making .	Collaboratively finding solutions for agricultural soil compaction measurement to improve yields and enhance climate change resilience.	\$106,157	Connecticut River Watershed Farmers' Alliance	UVM Extension/CEMS
Structural barriers are preventing the growth of Vermont's goat dairy industry .	The project will engage partners seeking to build capacity toward goat dairy development in Vermont by identifying research and technical assistance needs.	Goat Dairy Partnership	\$19,122	Vermont Creamery	UVM Extension
Vermont lacks an annual comprehensive assessment of community needs to inform planning.	This project develops an easily accessible, living and interactive “Vermont Analysis of Need” that summarizes key community needs and approaches of the groups working to address them.	Redefining Community Needs Assessment	\$250,000	Local Minutes	UVM Extension
Health care providers practicing in remote and rural areas are often restricted by a lack of IV fluid for surgery and emergency medical care, especially during natural disasters like flooding.	This proposal supports the development and testing of a prototype system used to reclaim and sterilize local water into high-quality saline and irrigation fluids .	Transforming Rural Health Care: Real-Time Medical-Grade Fluid Recycling System to Support Rural Vermont Hospitals	\$250,000	Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEC)	CEMS, LCOM, Center for Biomedical Innovation
Generalized data currently available in Vermont leaves gaps in representational understanding for policymakers, non-profits and businesses.	This data project will address gaps in data to create broader, statewide understanding of populations not always identified in data.	Vermont Community Data Assessment	\$237,198	VT Professionals of Color Network (VT PoC)	UVM Extension, Justice Research Center, VERSO