Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships
Awarded Proposals, 2026

University of Vermont | Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships

App ID	Project Title	UVM Partner	Community Partner	Short Project Description	Amount Requested
10251	Vermont Resuscitation Academy Lighthouse: Building a Rural Center of Excellence to Improve Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Survival	Larner College of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine	Vermont Department of Health, Division of Preparedness, Response, and Emergency Medical Services (PRE)	UVM Emergency Medicine is partnering with Vermont EMS agencies and the Vermont Department of Health Office of EMS to build a rural system that improves out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival using the national Resuscitation Academy Lighthouse model.	$250,000
10468	Bridging Knowledge Gaps to Accelerate Process-Based Restoration in Vermont	College of Arts and Sciences	Vermont Land Trust	UVM researchers partner with natural resource practitioners to identify knowledge gaps limiting process-based restoration in rural landscapes. This research-to-action collaboration involving students will help restore resilient ecosystems.	$19,900
10471	Investing in Vermont's Children: Expanding Safe Access to Schools in Rural Communities	Transportation Research Center	Local Motion	A graduate researcher with UVM's Transportation Research Center and Local Motion will create a statewide tool connecting schools, housing, and active transportation to identify barriers and guide investments that improve access to rural schools.	$249,997
10475	Diving deeper: connecting Vermont's students to lake science	Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources	ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain	We will develop a plan to use (1) ship-to-school interactive technology to bring lake research and career possibilities into middle school classrooms, and (2) hands-on research to cultivate pathways for high school students to excel in marine science	$20,000
10477	Multi-species milk testing and dairy viability: Integrating research and Extension on campus and across supply chains	UVM Extension	Intervale Center, Center for an Agricultural Economy, Ayers Brook Goat Dairy, Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center, Tran Land Dairy Consulting, Vermont Creamery	This project proposes a multi-species milk quality initiative that integrates applied on-farm research, campus education, and direct technical assistance to enhance how each partner contributes to Vermont's changing agricultural landscape.	$249,820

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10480	Protecting the Brain When Minutes Matter: Development of a Point-of-Care Brain Cooling Device for Patients with Cardiac Arrest in Rural Communities	Larner College of Medicine; UVM Health Network	Simbex	We will work with VT EMS clinicians to design the second-generation NeuroCool point-of-care brain cooling device, build the device, create an EMS training manual, select 4 rural EMS sites for testing, and submit an IRB protocol to conduct the study.	$249,162
10490	Fueling Vermont Forward: A Renewable Diesel Pilot for Hard-to-Electrify Fleets	Office of Sustainability	Vermont Clean Communities	The project will pilot renewable diesel with public and private fleets to evaluate cold-weather performance, fuel supply, economic and policy challenges, while generating data to support rural and hard-to-electrify sectors.	$236,109
10499	Healthy and Connected: Innovative Approaches to Health Access in Rural Vermont through Increased Workforce Stability and Loneliness Reduction	Center on Aging	Vermont Association of Senior Centers and Meal Providers (VASCAMP), Vermont Aging Network Consortium (VANC), Age Strong VT, Community Colleges of Vermont (CCV), Southern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA), Vermont State Universities – Castleton (VTSU-Castleton)	This project will expand intergenerational programs and age-friendly workforce training across rural Vermont to improve access to care and support thriving communities, advancing the shared goal of Age Strong Vermont and the Leahy Institute.	$229,660
10500	Vermont Climate Impact Clinic (VCIC)	Climate Measurements Center of Excellence	Vermont Climate Action Office	The Vermont Climate Impact Clinic leverages UVM science expertise with local decision-making, helping Vermont municipalities and state agencies assess risks, fill data gaps, build resilience, and train the next generation of climate leaders.	$250,000
10507	Brightwater Tools & UVM Recovering Wastewater Value (Year 2)	College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences	Brightwater Tools, Inc.	Brightwater Tools and UVM are demonstrating how costly liquid waste streams can transform to a valuable, localized resource. This creates a sustainable, circular-economy model for Vermont's food, beverage, and agricultural sectors.	$249,955

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10518	School Food Systems Change: Making the case for farm to school and early childhood with VT decision makers	Food Systems Research Institute	Shelburne Farms, Vermont Farm to School & Early Childhood Network	UVM Food Systems Graduate Program and Shelburne Farms will support the VT Farm to School & Early Childhood (VFTSEC) Network with evaluation of the impacts of Farm to School, state policy advocacy, and planning the NE Farm to Institution Summit.	$136,142
10540	Of Cows and Humans: A Novel Platform to Treat Staph Infections in Dairy Cows and Humans	Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences	Pumbedisa	Antibiotics are losing their potency because pathogens develop resistance. We aim to solve this problem by developing a new platform to treat staph infections. We direct bacteria to the body's own trash compactor system, the lysosome.	$71,200
10545	Catalyzing the Vermont Bioeconomy: Driving Sustainable Investment, Talent, and Growth	Graduate College	BioLabs	This program bridges Vermont's bioscience gaps by sourcing regional innovations, building a specialized investor network, and using mentored student co-ops to de-risk early-stage technologies and build a thriving bioeconomy.	$249,975
10553	Building Health from the Ground Up: A Worker Centered, Gender Inclusive Approach to Sustainable Housing in Rural Vermont	Osher Center for Integrative Health, University of Vermont	Vermont Works for Women	This capacity-building partnership seeks to identify strategies to meet Vermont's housing needs in ways that support affordable, energy-efficient homes, thriving workers, equitable career pathways, strong communities, and a healthy environment.	$20,000
11214	Outdoor Employer Seasonal Workforce Training and Collaboration	Rubenstein School of the Environment and Natural Resources	Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance	Building on Climate Outdoor Workforce research, VOBA and UVM will design and pilot shared-employment and training models to expand year-round career pathways for rural seasonal workers, strengthening Vermont’s outdoor economy and climate resilience.	$250,000
11216	Building the Clinical Workforce to Increase Access to Rural Mental Health Care for Youth and Families	College of Education and Social Services	Spectrum Youth & Family Services	Spectrum and the UVM graduate Counseling Program will expand the Catamount Community Clinic to provide training for future mental health counseling in Vermont, expanding access to treatment in rural communities across Chittenden, Franklin & Grand Is.	$250,000

11325	Redefining Community Needs Assessment – Vermont Assessment of Assets, Angles and Needs (VAAAN)	UVM Extension	Vermont 211	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.	$250,000

Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships
Extended Impact Proposals, 2026

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10377	The Vermont Mesonet: Extended Impact	Water Resources Institute	National Weather Service, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), Office of Disaster Recovery, Vermont Department of Public Service, Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets	The Leahy Institute's Extended Impact program will support the transition of the Vermont Mesonet from a pilot to a permanent initiative. This funding will ensure that we are competitive at securing external federal, state, and philanthropic awards as we develop this statewide network that will better prepare Vermonters for the increased frequency of extreme weather events.	$250,000
10310	Extending Capacity for the Catamount Community Schools Collaborative to Sustain and Expand Rural CS Implementation in VT	College of Education & Social Services, Catamount Community Schools Collaborative	Vermont Agency of Education	We remain committed to the key activities initiated through our original proposal, and will utilize the extended impact grant funds to extend those original efforts in three ways (1) Continue our ongoing research and evaluation efforts related to rural CS implementation; (2) Continue to support the engagement of UVM students (undergraduate and graduate) and faculty in directly supporting CS related work in rural VT CS; (3) Continue to support our existing CS partner sites to execute CS pillar specific goals/projects that will sustain and/or advance their CS implementation efforts; and (4) provide planning grants to new districts/schools interesting in engaging in planning activities to initiate CS work within their districts.	$250,000
10367	Vermont Innovation Accelerator	UVM Innovations	Multiple Vermont businesses	Funding will enable the VIA program to continue its expansion, providing students with competitive paid experiential learning opportunities that advance their academic and professional development. At the same time, the grant would remove financial barriers for community partners, allowing organizations throughout the state to benefit from high-quality student expertise at no cost while strengthening the university's public impact mission.	$250,000
10372	Expanded Maple Syrup Quality Testing Lab at the University of Vermont Extension	Proctor Maple Research Center	Vermont maple syrup producers	The funding from the Extending Impact grant will advance the work of the Maple Syrup Quality Testing Lab in three key ways: expanding the lab's testing capabilities to include more complex analyses for producers; strengthening our reach through collaboration with communication experts to increase awareness of the lab's services among Vermont producers; and supporting the development of new educational materials and procedures to help producers/stakeholders better understand how to maintain the quality of Vermont's maple syrup crop.	$250,000