

**Application Evaluation Rubric  
Seed Grant Program  
Fall/Winter 2023-2024 Cycle**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Scoring Scale</b>
<i>Engage in a partnership with the University of Vermont and its students, faculty, and resources.</i>	Does the proposed partnership integrate explicit partners within the UVM network? This can include faculty, research centers/institutes, and university offices.	5-The proposal clearly expresses how the applicants seek to partner with different entities across UVM  1-The proposal does not articulate how the applicants will partner with UVM
	Does the proposed partnership plan for the inclusion of students, either through internships, participation in service-learning courses, or other opportunities for UVM's student body?	5-The proposal clearly expresses how student engagement via internships, service learning, and other educational opportunities is incorporated into the partnership  1-The proposal does not articulate how student engagement applies to the proposed partnership
<i>Align with Leahy Institute for Rural Partnership themes.</i>	Does the proposed partnership align with one or more of the ten Leahy Institute thematic areas?	5- The proposal aligns with one or more of the Leahy Institute's thematic areas, and articulates an innovative approach to problem-solving in that area  1-The proposal does not clearly articulate alignment with at least one Leahy Institute theme
<i>Show a deep understanding of what is challenging Vermont's rural communities and economies and propose impactful solutions.</i>	What is the intended impact on the rural communities targeted through the proposal? What is the impact at the community level, county level, state level in Vermont? Who are the recipients of anticipated outcomes?	5-The proposal clearly identifies the different impacts that the partnership will have for different groups across scales, and considers the different tiers of effects that this partnership can have on the larger communities  1-The proposal does not clearly articulate intended outcomes, and is vague in who is impacted
<i>Consider principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in project outcomes and evaluation.</i>	Does the proposed partnership incorporate principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice into the intended outcomes?	5- The proposal clearly articulates how the partners plan to incorporate principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in their programming  1-The proposal does not meaningfully incorporate these principles

		Bonus (1 pt) - The proposal includes a significant partnership with a disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE)
<i>Demonstrate feasibility and scalability in project design.</i>	Is this project feasible? Does the project have strong potential for creating lasting partnerships that positively impact rural communities in Vermont?	5- The proposal clearly identifies how the partnership will achieve its intended outcomes and has a plan for sustained operations beyond the grant  1-Evidence of the proposal's intended impact is vague and unclear
	Does the proposed partnership and its outcomes show significant potential for growth in funding, activity, or participation beyond the Leahy Institute funding? Does the proposal include plans for future funding opportunities to sustain the work?	5-The proposal includes a clear growth trajectory, including additional sources of funding, additional partnerships, and possible replicability of programming  1-The proposal does not include a clear growth plan