

American Rescue Plan Act
State Fiscal Recovery Funds

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT • OCTOBER 2023

GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL REPORT



VERMONT



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TO MY FELLOW VERMONTERS:

With an influx of billions of dollars in federal aid during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, my team and I proposed an effort to strategically invest these historic, one-time federal funds in transformative projects and initiatives that will address long-standing challenges and unaddressed needs—from workforce shortages and an aging population, to growing economic inequity between regions, to significant infrastructure needs. This work aims to close the economic gap between regions, lift communities that have been left behind for too long and give all parts of the state the tools—and flexibility—to achieve their vision for a stronger future.

The more than \$1 billion the State was able to direct from the American Rescue Plan Act has helped us act on this community investment and revitalization plan in a way that had not been possible before. And as you'll see in this report, we continue to make progress across the state.

We've focused these funds on five buckets: housing, economic development, broadband, water/sewer/stormwater infrastructure, and climate change mitigation. This is the foundational infrastructure that sparks economic revitalization. We're prioritizing tangible and timely projects, so Vermonters will see and feel the impact. That's how we make transformative change for communities across the state, helping those towns and villages that have seen little or no growth for decades, restoring county economic centers, and revitalizing communities in all 14 counties.

As you'll see in this report, with our concerted effort to focus on geographic equity—spreading economic opportunity to more areas of the state—we've made progress in dispersing dollars to the counties that need this funding most. However, I acknowledge we have much more to do.

In July, Vermont was hit with historic and catastrophic flooding that destroyed homes, devastated businesses and submerged downtowns. My team, working with municipalities and partners across the state, is committed to helping every community and family recover. It will be critical to integrate our flood recovery efforts with the community revitalization work of the last few years. Doing so will make sure impacted Vermonters, and all our communities, bounce back faster, stronger and more securely, and that we don't squander the opportunity for transformational change in Vermont.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Scott".

Governor Phil Scott

“This year, we can shorten the distance between reality and opportunity; give every community the chance to catch up; to act on a vision for their future and help them see it through; to attract new people and new jobs; put more kids in their schools; restore their downtowns; reclaim their character; and renew their identity.”

— Governor Phil Scott, 2023 Inaugural Address

INTRODUCTION

Signed into law in March 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) directed an unprecedented \$1.05 billion in aid to Vermont under the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program (SFR). SFR has and continues to deliver funding to support Vermont’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and capital to make long-term investments in our communities. Together with federal and local partners, in the years since receiving our allocation of SFR funds, the State of Vermont has helped thousands of businesses recover from the pandemic, laid hundreds of miles of high-speed fiberoptic cable and constructed and renovated thousands of affordable housing units.

Led by Governor Scott and his Cabinet members, Vermont’s dedicated state and local government employees have worked on the ground and behind the scenes to leverage SFR funds for transformative recovery efforts. As we move away from the depths of COVID-19, we continue to direct SFR funds to bold forward-looking initiatives that focus on long-term recovery and advancement efforts.

In last year’s report we noted that 58 SFR programs were active. This year, we have launched an additional 36 new programs, bringing the total number of SFR programs completed or underway in our state to 94.

Guided by Governor Scott’s vision, our SFR investment strategy targets five strategic areas of investment



Economic, Workforce, and Community Development



Housing



Water, Sewer, and Wastewater Infrastructure

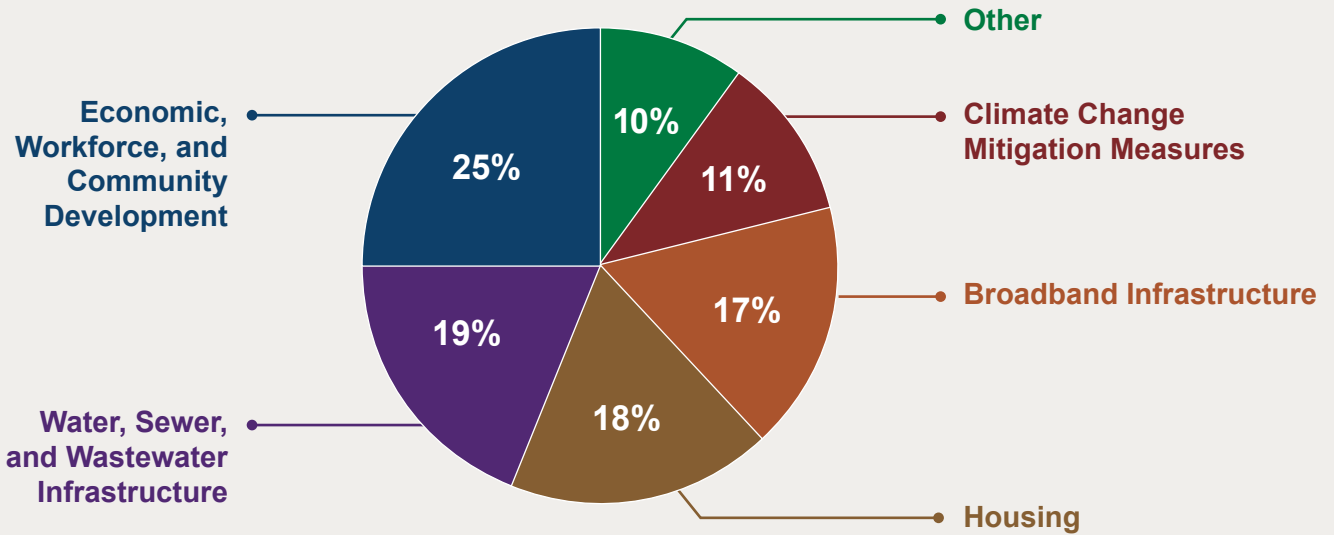


Climate Change Mitigation Measures



Broadband Infrastructure

The allocation of funds across our five strategic areas is representative of our commitment to comprehensive statewide recovery and advancement.



Over the last year, SFR funds have complemented our ongoing investment in increasing economic equity across all counties, promoting equitable outcomes for all Vermonters, and revitalizing communities. Historically underserved groups that we aim to serve with SFR-funded programs include low- and moderate-income households, residents in rural areas and small towns with economic and demographic trends that put them at a disadvantage compared to other communities, and people of color. SFR funds are providing support across Vermont’s diverse array of industries, communities, and landscapes.

To help ensure equitable community building and investment, Vermont takes a multifaceted approach to the distribution of funding that considers:



Geographic Equity

Supporting communities with demographic declines and diminishing local government capacity, so economic opportunity reaches all areas of the state.



Economic Equity

Prioritizing programs that move Vermonters up the economic ladder to ensure we are not leaving members of our community behind.



Racial Equity

Designing programs with prioritization mechanisms to actively target support towards BIPOC communities and businesses.

Vermont's SFR-funded programs are designed and implemented with the communities they serve in mind. Our programmatic staff strive to gather meaningful input from program participants and partners to shape current programs and inform future iterations. Outreach efforts, like our statewide county tour, are vital to our understanding of the tangible issues felt by Vermont's communities and barriers to securing these important federal funds. Pursuing thoughtful community engagement strategies throughout this process has also proven important to helping work towards greater equity in the distribution of funds and the impacts these investments will have on diverse groups of people and communities.



Photo provided by Isora Lithgow Creations

Community Engagement Strategies



Feedback

We solicit feedback from diverse stakeholders to inform SFR programs, including through community listening sessions and surveys.



Outreach

Outreach efforts flow through various channels such as partner organizations, stakeholder networks, social media platforms, email newsletters, and state government websites.



Education

Educational opportunities such as webinars and workshops for program applicants and participants are an important element of our SFR program community engagement efforts.

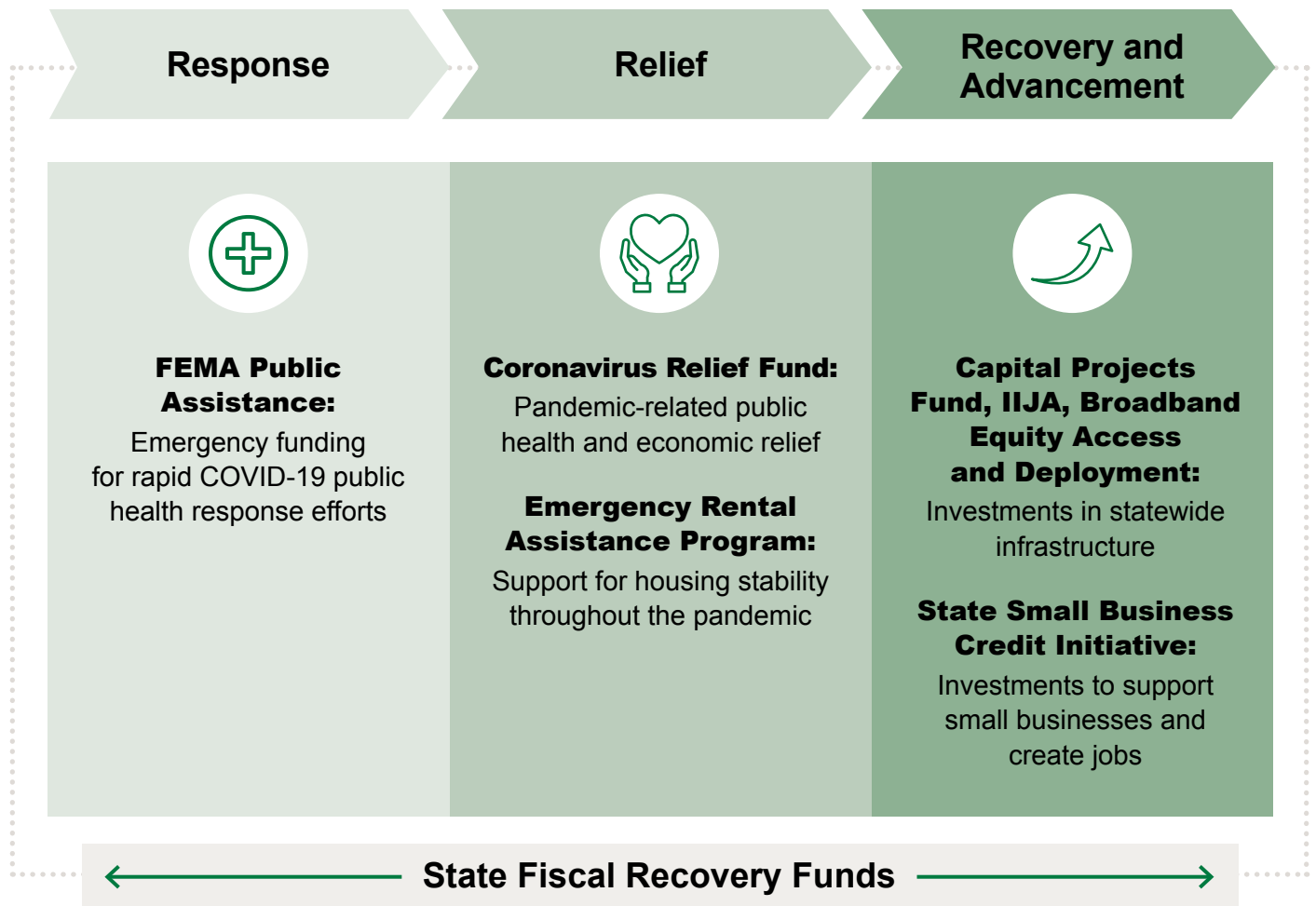


Partnerships and Collaboration

We drive inter-agency and cross-organization collaboration in the delivery of SFR programs to maximize impact, ensure a holistic view, enhance effectiveness, and incorporate multiple perspectives.

Our use of SFR funds is part of a larger, statewide effort to align numerous federal and state funding sources to help Vermont both recover from the pandemic and advance towards a more prosperous future. SFR programs complement efforts undertaken with many other funding streams to maximize this extraordinary level of federal aid.

Statewide Recovery Strategy



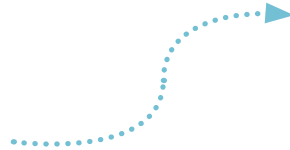
The commitment of Vermonters who work each day to build a better collective future is the driving force of these transformational projects. Our small state has accomplished big things in a very short period, but there is much more to be done in the years ahead. With continued resolve—especially in the face of catastrophic flood damage—these innovative and impactful initiatives will continue to transform Vermont for the better.

ECONOMIC, WORKFORCE, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the early stages of the pandemic, Vermont leveraged SFR funds to mitigate the pandemic's immediate impacts on individuals and businesses. These initial efforts provided much needed resources that enabled small business owners to stay afloat and retain and rehire staff, consequently preventing Vermonters from permanently losing their jobs.

1,507

businesses newly supported
in the past year



2,076

businesses and nonprofits
supported with SFR funds in total

SFR funds are used to directly target small businesses and nonprofits in communities throughout the state.

Economic Recovery Bridge Program:



Provided direct relief to bridge financial gaps for businesses and nonprofits that were impacted by the pandemic.

- ▶ **133 businesses and nonprofits supported so far**
- ▶ **\$31.5K distributed per entity, on average**

Short-Term Forgivable Loan Program:



Provides assistance in the form of short-term forgivable loans to businesses and nonprofits experiencing continued working capital shortfalls as a result of the pandemic.

- ▶ **201 businesses and nonprofits supported so far**, 12% of which are minority-owned and 36% of which are women-owned
- ▶ **\$92.0K distributed per entity, on average**

Dairy Risk Management Program:



Provides aid directly to dairy farms that participate in the USDA Dairy Margin Coverage program.

- ▶ **725 entities supported so far**
- ▶ **\$3.5K distributed per farm, on average**



Vermont Dairy Farm

As our recovery efforts advance successfully, we have been able to focus SFR funds towards more forward-looking efforts that will foster a strong environment for small businesses, develop a skilled workforce, and create new jobs.

Immediate Recovery Efforts



Grants to businesses to prevent closure and retain workers

Forward-Looking Investments



Workforce initiatives that train and upskill Vermont's workforce, investments in small businesses that fund bold capital projects, and community revitalization projects that will help welcome more workers and families

We are taking steps to train a more skilled and effective workforce. Vermont's unemployment rate has been steadily decreasing to pre-pandemic levels as statewide initiatives help businesses to recover and rebuild. Along with creating new jobs, we want to provide the opportunity for Vermonters to enhance their skills and advance into new careers.

We are using SFR funds to make large investments in the advancement of Vermont's economy. Initiatives like the Community Recovery and Revitalization program are funding businesses, creating new jobs, creating new and revitalized housing units, and bolstering childcare services.



Highlight

4,899

workers are completing SFR-funded job training programs

Community Recovery and Revitalization Program

Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Economic Development

The Community Recovery and Revitalization Program (CRRP) provides funding for projects that help businesses and communities recover from the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and allow them to weather future disruptions. These funds retain and expand existing businesses and nonprofits.

Eligible uses of these funds include:

- 1 Capital improvements** related to the renovation or creation of childcare and affordable housing
- 2 Municipal water supply and wastewater projects** that support businesses and affordable housing expansion
- 3 Capital projects that assist nonprofits and small businesses** in industries most impacted by the pandemic
- 4 Projects that encourage economic recovery and revitalization** in economically disadvantaged areas (**Qualified Census Tracts**)

CRRP Projects



American Legion, Brighton



Gilman Housing Trust, St. Johnsbury



Windham Dental, Brattleboro

Program Highlights:

So far, nearly **\$20M** has been approved to support **54 projects** in **13 counties**.

Prioritized application window for BIPOC organizations and organizations that primarily serve BIPOC populations.

28% of funds have been dedicated towards low-income populations.



Photo provided by Isora Lithgow Creations

BIPOC Business Development and Workforce Program

This program aims to promote racial equity by providing technical assistance for members of the BIPOC business community. The program will leverage existing community resources and collaboration with community partners to provide outreach, support, training, networking, and resource navigation for BIPOC business owners and workers.



New Initiative: Libraries Capital Project

(Funded with CPF funds)

- ▶ Over \$16 million in Capital Projects Fund (CPF) aid will be used to support capital improvements to public libraries across the state, to ensure the public has access to high-speed internet and important educational services
- ▶ Communities with higher levels of ethnic and linguistic diversity will be prioritized, as will populations with the highest need for internet access and educational/job training
- ▶ Projects that address issues of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility will also be prioritized

HOUSING

According to the **Vermont Housing Finance Agency**, over one third of Vermont households are cost burdened by housing costs, meaning their monthly housing costs (rent, mortgage, insurance, taxes, and/or utilities) consume more than 30% of their income.



Over 1/3 of Vermont's households are cost burdened by housing costs.

Housing insecurity places tremendous pressure and stress on vulnerable populations, making it difficult for these individuals to improve their economic standing and impacting their mental and physical wellbeing. We recognize the immense impact of housing scarcity and are committed to leveraging SFR funds to directly combat this issue through targeted support towards low- and moderate-income residents.



Our commitment of SFR funds towards housing has grown this past year

\$159 million



\$170 million

ECONOMIC EQUITY IN FOCUS

We are targeting SFR assistance towards economically disadvantaged families throughout Vermont who are in greatest need of support. Thus far, SFR funds are being used to construct and preserve nearly 1,600 affordable housing units and to improve the quality and safety of more than 1,500 additional homes inhabited or owned by low- and moderate-income Vermonters through weatherization and water and wastewater system repairs.

1,598 affordable housing units preserved and under construction



repairs and improvements made to **1,573** housing units inhabited by low- and moderate-income Vermonters

Our SFR housing programs strategically target housing support towards the populations with the most significant gaps in availability and affordability.

Missing Middle Income Homeownership Development Program:

- ▶ Provides financial incentives and resources to support the construction or rehabilitation of modest homes for purchase by middle income households
- ▶ Long-term affordability will be addressed through affordability subsidies that will remain with the home for future buyers and/or a housing subsidy covenant that maintains affordability for 99 years
- ▶ **Approximately 119 housing units in development**



Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program:

- ▶ Funds are available to park owners to assist with small-scale capital needs to infill vacant lots
- ▶ Home repair awards offer homeowners funding to cover the costs of repairing existing homes to prevent displacement
- ▶ Manufactured home foundation awards can help prospective and current homeowners pay for a foundation and related expenses

Housing Recovery Program:

- ▶ This program makes capital awards available to secure and rehab existing housing and to construct new housing to rehouse the homeless, improve and expand shelter capacity, and create affordable and mixed-income housing statewide
- ▶ **993 affordable housing units funded/preserved**, 368 of which are designated for families experiencing homelessness

Washington County Mental Health: Through the Mental Health Housing and Community-Based Facilities Service Expansion Program, SFR funds were used to improve accessibility, insulation, and safety in the eight-bed Level III residential care home.



Vermont Housing Improvement Program

Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Housing and Community Development

The Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP) tackles two critical issues in the state: the declining quality of rental units and the lack of suitable housing for people experiencing homelessness. VHIP offers grants of up to \$50,000 per unit for repairs needed to bring vacant rental units up to Vermont Rental Housing Health Code guidelines, add new units to an existing building, or create an accessory dwelling unit on an owner-occupied property.

VHIP Multi-Unit Rehabilitation Project in Bennington



Program Enrollment Requirements:

Owners enrolled in this program are required to work with Coordinated Entry Lead Organizations to identify suitable tenants exiting homelessness, maintain HUD Fair Market Rent prices for a minimum of five years, and provide a 20% match of grant funds.

Program Highlights: **\$27.25M**

has been dedicated towards this program, with 227 units currently under construction and many more to come.

DHCD works with homeownership centers, landlord associations, municipalities and coordinated entry organizations to expand outreach and solicit feedback from served communities.

VHIP targets assistance to households exiting homelessness and households that are actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement program to secure stable, affordable housing.

WATER, SEWER, AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

SFR funding has given us the opportunity to make significant investments in our statewide water and sewer infrastructure to bring upgrades and repairs to areas of greatest need and build future resiliency. As a rural state with a diverse geography, our needs vary across communities, with some residents served by municipal or regional water and sewer systems, and others served by private wells and septic systems. The implementation and improvement of municipal water systems can help address local drinking and surface water quality issues and prevent homeowners and businesses from the financial burden of addressing these issues individually. We have made a concerted push to ensure SFR funds are used to benefit all Vermonters, prioritizing essential projects that provide immediate and lasting solutions.

We are implementing a diverse array of water, sewer, and wastewater programs with SFR funds:



Technical assistance, financial assistance, and construction costs for water infrastructure solutions at manufactured home communities



Grants to landowners to support installation of modern stormwater treatment practices



Municipal pollution abatement and control projects



Stormwater runoff control projects that help clean Vermont's lakes



Municipal wastewater pretreatment projects that increase capacity and reduce energy consumption needs

GEOGRAPHIC EQUITY IN FOCUS

In rural areas, communities are often faced with affordability and capacity challenges when attempting to provide critical repairs to failing municipal wastewater and drinking water systems. To combat this issue, we are directly targeting water and sewer infrastructure investments to Vermont's extensive rural population so they can pursue the necessary improvements to these systems.

Village Water and Wastewater Initiative

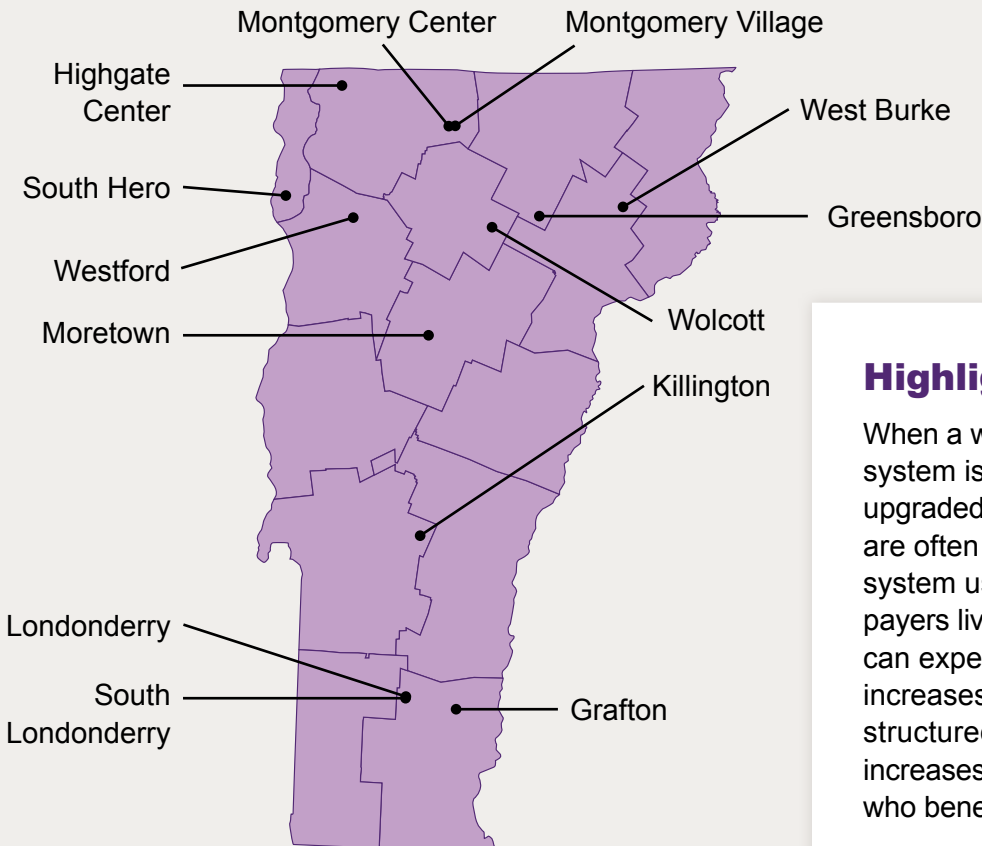
Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation

Villages form the heart of Vermont’s rural communities; yet more than 200 villages lack community wastewater disposal systems and more than 100 lack a public municipal water system. This can hamper economic development as municipal water systems help address local drinking and surface water quality issues that would otherwise exert a financial burden on homeowners and businesses. While many communities have explored municipal water and wastewater solutions, most do not proceed with the projects due to inability to charge affordable user rates that would cover the cost of the project.

SFR funds have enabled us to invest \$30 million to help municipalities develop new public drinking water systems and community wastewater disposal systems where the critical infrastructure is lacking. This program provides targeted financial and technical assistance to municipalities in need. SFR funds have been leveraged alongside other funding sources, such as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, to ensure the most impact. This investment bridges the affordability gap, protects public health, increases affordable housing, supports economic development, and incentivizes compact growth in Vermont’s villages and neighborhoods.

Program funding supports 13 projects in 9 counties throughout the state.

Current and Planned Program Locations



Highlight



When a water/wastewater system is installed or upgraded, the debt payments are often spread equally among system users. However, rate payers living below the poverty level can experience unaffordable rate increases. This program will be structured to help mitigate rate increases for low-income rate payers who benefit from the new systems.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

According to analysis from Pew Research Center, low-income households were disproportionately impacted by the economic shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. These households also have the potential to be disproportionately impacted by future natural disasters, which we have seen during the July 2023 flooding. Building climate resiliency at the household level can help to mitigate these future impacts while economically benefiting families in the near-term as well. We continue to contribute SFR funds towards projects that improve household economic standing while providing tangible benefits to the environment.



The **Efficiency Vermont Weatherization Incentive Program** and the **Home Weatherization Program** have weatherized **1,264 housing units** (increased from 47 weatherized units in 2022), providing an estimated energy cost saving of 28.8% per household (for participants in the Home Weatherization Program).



ECONOMIC EQUITY IN FOCUS

Weatherization services target homes owned or occupied by Vermonters with incomes below 80% of the area's median income (AMI) and multifamily properties where the owner or a portion of the units have incomes below 80% AMI.

The **Electric Vehicle Charging Program** will build DC fast charging equipment at locations in Derby, Randolph, Rutland City, Springfield, St. Johnsbury, and Wilmington, supporting local economic development and transportation needs. Projects will increase both tourism traffic and access to electric vehicle charging for populations with greater challenges in obtaining charging access at home.



The **Municipal Energy Resilience Program** is providing grants that will be used to reduce emissions and increase efficiency of heating, ventilation, and weatherization systems in municipal buildings. 86 mini grants have been planned and provided so far.

We are leveraging \$25 million in SFR funds for the **Home Electrical and Heat Pump Program**, which provides financial and technical assistance to income-eligible households to enable the installation of energy saving technologies and replace failing heat pump water heaters. 40% of this funding will go towards households under 80% AMI.





Barre Town Stormwater Mitigation Project

SFR funds are also being used to mitigate the impact of future natural disasters and build climate resilience in areas at greatest risk of harm. Vast areas of Vermont are vulnerable to erratic flooding, which, as experienced in 2011 with Hurricane Irene and more recently, with the flooding of July 2023, can produce drastic amounts of destruction and damage. We contributed over \$11 million of SFR funds to the Flood Resilient Communities Fund, which will help prepare the state for future natural disasters.



Tying in Flood Recovery

\$10 million of SFR funds will be leveraged to assist homeowners and renters who need to replace flood-damaged and flood-destroyed appliances and equipment. Newly installed appliances and equipment will improve household energy efficiency and reduce emissions.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Flood Resilient Communities Fund

Department of Public Safety






The Flood Resilient Communities Fund was established with the intention of improving landscape and community resilience and reducing the future public safety and water quality impacts of climate-related flood hazards in Vermont.

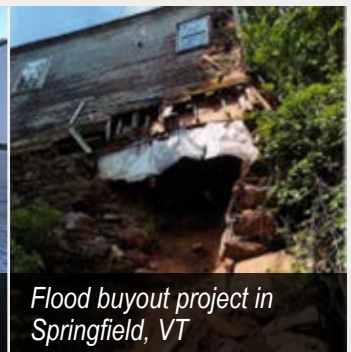
The program focuses on buyouts of flood-vulnerable properties and floodplain restoration. This program provides matching grants to government entities, non-profit entities, and individuals to mitigate flood hazards by addressing water and sewer infrastructure needs.

This program promotes a focus on equitable outcomes by prioritizing projects that impact communities and homeowners with the greatest economic need and projects that mitigate repetitive loss among low-income and marginalized portions of the population.

Projects are currently being implemented in all of Vermont's 14 counties.

In addition to reducing future flood risk, projects must have the co-benefit of improving water quality. Eligible projects include:

-  Planning or education and outreach initiatives
-  Project scoping
-  Natural resource projects
-  Flood-vulnerable structure and buyout projects
-  Community flood risk reduction assessments



60 acres
conserved in FY2022



nearly 140 acres
conserved as of FY2023

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

COVID-19 emphasized the importance of reliable and affordable access to a high-speed internet connection. As the pandemic removed millions of Americans from their offices and schools, Vermont families were forced to rely upon their home internet to continue their careers and education, as well as access health care. With a significant portion of Vermont’s population living in rural areas, access to quality and reliable internet at home is even more critical.

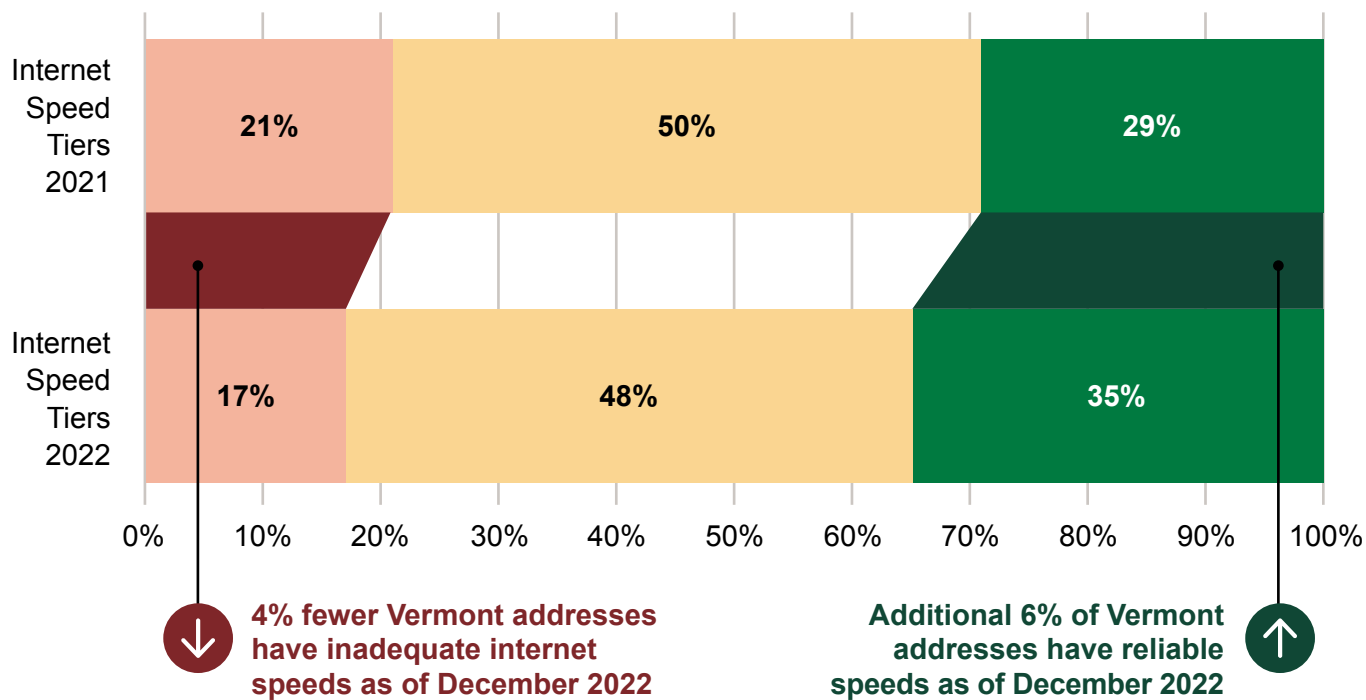
We continue to push forward to expand high-speed broadband internet access to unserved and underserved locations in the state. SFR funds are vital in these efforts to lay down thousands of miles of fiber and bring universal internet access to Vermonters.

Highlight



Thus far, \$110 million in SFR funds have been distributed for broadband expansion projects across the state. These funds will be instrumental in helping Vermont lay thousands of miles of fiberoptic cable, bringing high-speed internet access to tens of thousands of locations throughout the state.

Internet Speed Changes (2021–2022)



Unserved or underserved areas (inadequate speed)
less than or equal to 4/1 Mbps

Served (adequate speed)
25/3–100/20 Mbps

Served (meets Vermont's goal of reliable speed)
100/100 Mbps

Our broadband expansion efforts are driven by a community partnership model that will bolster the statewide effort to achieve universal broadband and bridge the digital divide in underserved communities. This approach includes partnering with Communication Union Districts (CUDs) that allow two or more Vermont towns to bond together as a municipal entity to build communications infrastructure together. Through these partnerships, we engage with community members across the state to ensure that broadband is implemented equitably and reaches underserved communities and smaller towns.

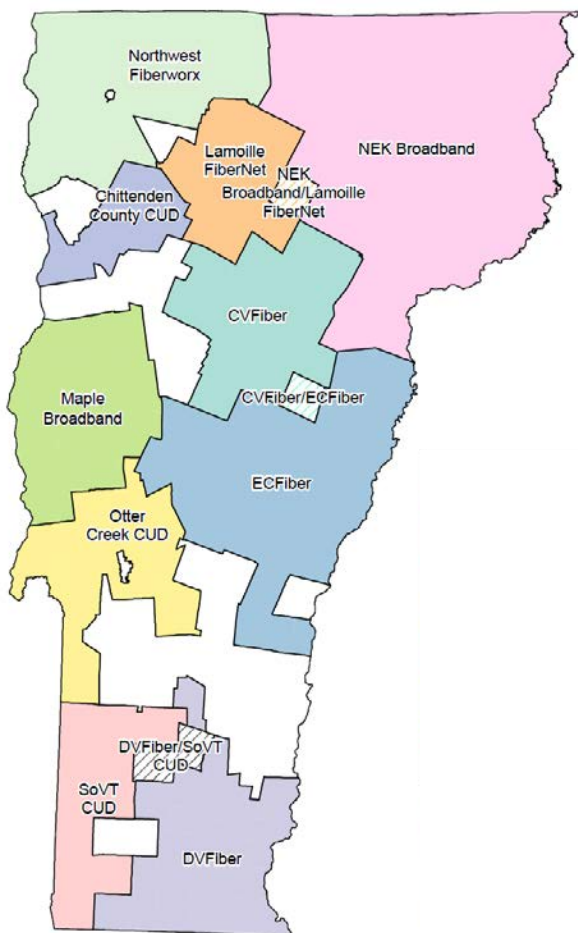


GEOGRAPHIC EQUITY IN FOCUS

CUDs are instrumental to Vermont’s mission to provide universal internet access. As publicly managed organizations, CUDs will serve areas with extremely low population densities, rather than only targeting projects that cover areas more conducive to traditional business incentives.

The areas encompassed by CUDs represent 96% of the unserved addresses in Vermont. Focusing funding toward CUDs will encourage the provision of high-speed internet connection to these households and businesses across the state that have the greatest need.

Map of CUD Jurisdiction

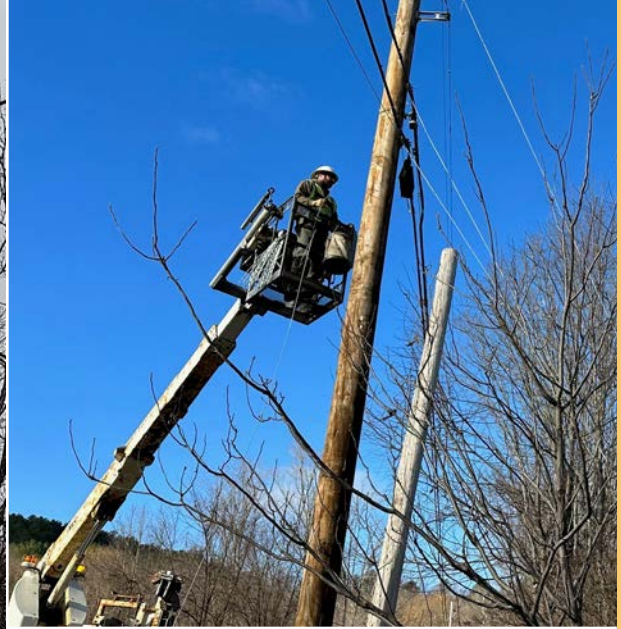


6 of 10

As of July 2023, six of the ten CUDs have begun construction on broadband expansion efforts, with the remaining CUDs expected to commence construction by early 2024.

CUD Progress

- ▶ NEK Broadband has installed 185 miles of fiber that pass 1,946 addresses and expects to lay 60 more miles of fiber by the end of 2023
- ▶ In cooperation with its partners, SoVT has laid nearly 600 miles of fiber across the CUD and continues to push forward with broadband expansion efforts
- ▶ Maple Broadband has installed 125 miles of fiber and plans to make service available to 1,646 addresses by the end of Q1 2024



Broadband construction work. Photos courtesy of DVFiber.



Vermont was recently awarded over

\$95 million

by the U.S. Treasury's Capital Projects Fund (CPF) to be used for the broadband expansion effort.

These funds will help us accomplish our goal of providing high-speed internet access to even more unserved and underserved addresses throughout the state.

When Vermont's broadband expansion efforts are complete, we expect to have laid over 7,000 miles of fiber optic cable, reaching around 64,000 total addresses. This monumental effort would not be possible without the support of SFR and CPF funds and the hard work of Vermonters.



Over
7,000 miles
of fiber optic cable



Around
64,000
total addresses

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS FOR COMMUNITIES

Increasing economic prosperity and opportunity across the state so all areas of the state can be lifted is a top focus of the work funded by SFR.

To support this goal, in the last year, we developed and launched the **Vermont Community Index (VCI)** with the support of SFR funds. Prompted by our continued focus on equity for full participation in and access to the benefits of federal funds across the state, the VCI is a data-based tool designed to identify Vermont county subdivisions (i.e., municipalities) and labor market areas (LMAs) that may benefit from additional support accessing federal funds. The VCI aims to respond to the unique needs of our rural state by taking an innovative, data-based approach to promote the equitable distribution of funds. In the coming years, we plan to use the tool to assess geographic equity and promote access to and awareness of federal funding opportunities.

How does the index work?

A community's index score represents the average of its capacity and need.



Capacity

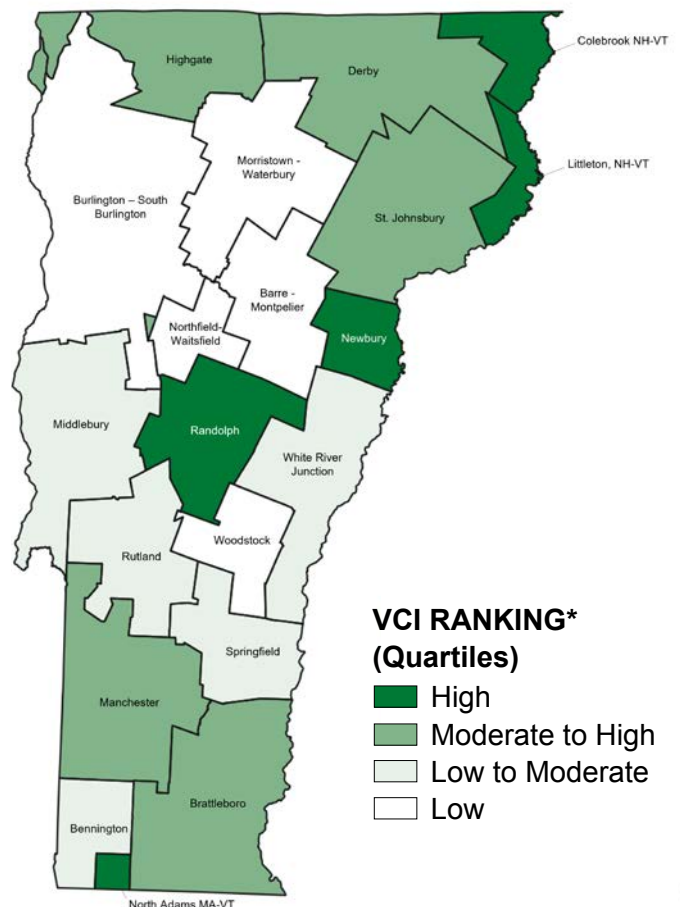
- Population change
- Population density
- Number of colleges and universities
- Presence of municipal managers or administrators
- Municipal budget per capita



Need

- Racial and ethnic diversity
- Education levels
- Broadband access
- Changes to property values
- Housing cost burdened homeowners
- Changes to per capita income
- Individuals with income above 150% FPL
- Change in labor force participation

LMA Map



** Higher VCI ranking correlates with greater need and lower capacity*

Over the past year, the Scott Administration conducted statewide outreach to promote community revitalization opportunities currently available through SFR-funded infrastructure programs. This effort focused on reaching under-resourced communities that don't have full time municipal staff to help them better pursue and secure the transformative funding available. Conversations with Vermonters across the state helped inform our understanding of what types of support different communities need.



Over the past eight months, we visited and held forums in Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham and Windsor counties to hear from community leaders about their unique infrastructure needs.

Every conversation shaped our perception of what communities need:



support determining projects to prioritize



sustained project management assistance

Using the input received from this tour, and demand data based on number of applications received for our programs, we worked with the Legislature to develop a rural technical assistance program to enhance program accessibility for towns lacking local capacity to compete for programs and funds. We also increased funding to the most sought-after programs to respond to demand.



Administration



Community Engagement Informs Collective Action



Legislature



Rural Technical Assistance Program



Increased Access to Funds and Growth Opportunities for Disadvantaged Communities

FY 2023 SNAPSHOT

\$1.05B SFR funds allocated– \$550.9M SFR funds awarded

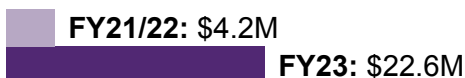
Economic, Workforce, and Community Development: \$134.9M awarded in total



Housing: \$161.6M awarded in total



Water, Sewer, and Wastewater Infrastructure: \$26.8M awarded in total



Climate Change Mitigation: \$44.1M awarded in total






Broadband Infrastructure: \$111.1M awarded in total



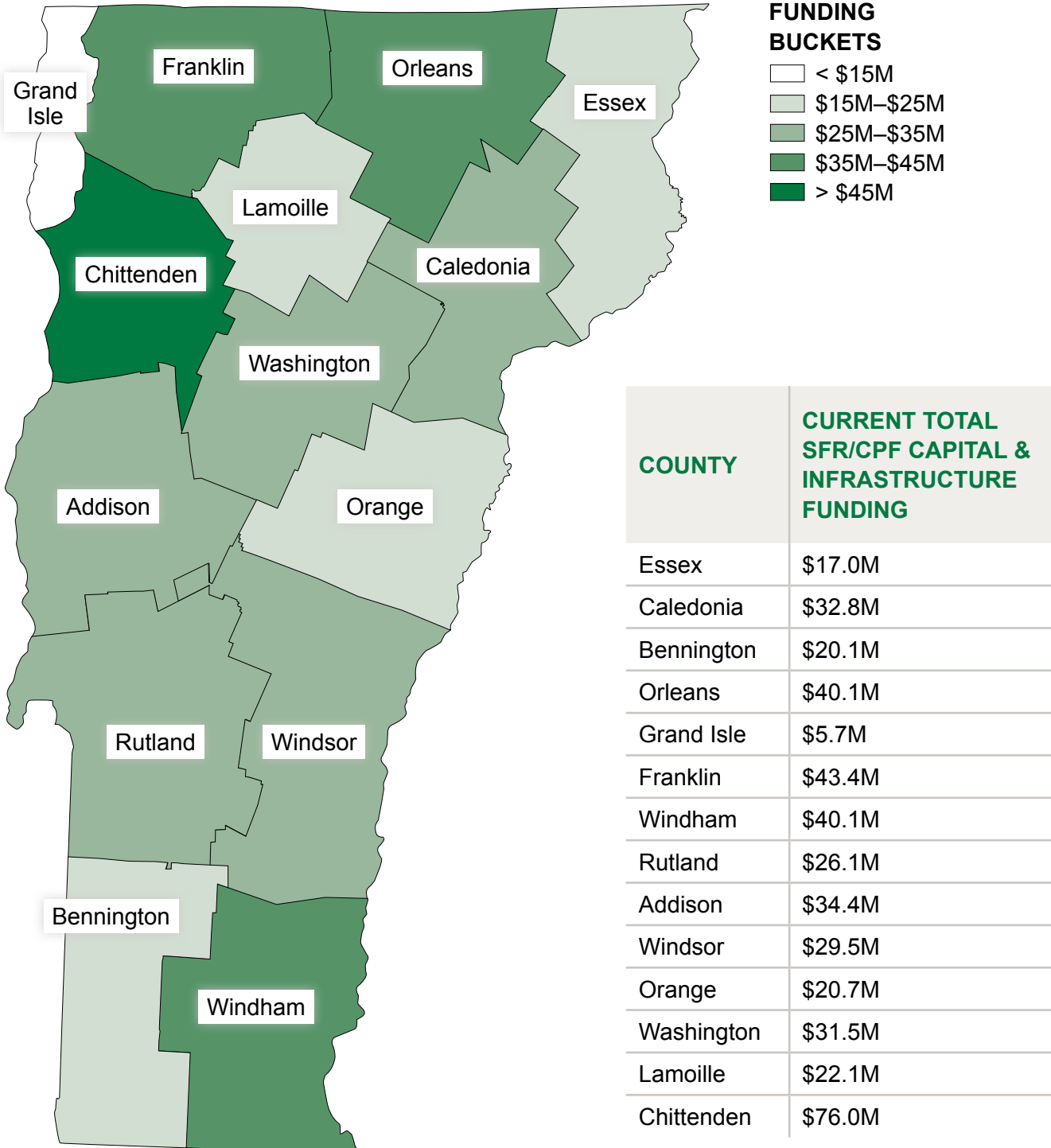
* Remaining funds awarded for other activities, including food assistance programs, assistance to schools, PPE expenses, and some programs that were recategorized from FY21 and FY22.

Year-over-year advancement in key metrics

	Total as of FY22	Total as of FY23	Increase
 Businesses & Non-profits Served	569	2,076	265%
 Workers Completing Sectoral Job Training Programs	2,682	4,899	83%
 Number of Affordable Housing Units in Construction, Preserved, or Restored	768	1,954	154%

Planned Capital & Infrastructure Projects

This past year, we've invested even more in key infrastructure projects throughout the state, with every county receiving a significant influx of SFR and CPF funding to support infrastructural development and improvement in each of Governor Scott's strategic areas of investment. As we strengthen our ongoing commitment to geographic equity, we plan to leverage the Vermont Community Index (VCI) to channel infrastructure funding to areas that have been historically underserved. The counties below are listed in order of greatest need, as informed by the VCI.



ARPA FUNDING RESOURCES

For more information on ARPA-funded programs in Vermont, please visit the [Federal Pandemic Funding Resources page](https://finance.vermont.gov/covid-19-funding) (<https://finance.vermont.gov/covid-19-funding>). Materials provided on this page include guidance, resources, and archival information related to programs that have been and are being developed to disburse these funds, including:



Grants for Municipalities

Many of the State's ARPA programs target funding towards Vermont's communities. Some programs also provide opportunities for municipalities to apply for funding to support their schools, pursue water and sewer projects, expand housing, and promote energy resilience.

For more information and program contacts, please visit [Grants for Municipalities](https://finance.vermont.gov/ARPA-municipalities) (<https://finance.vermont.gov/ARPA-municipalities>).



Grants for Businesses and Nonprofits

ARPA funds have been leveraged by Vermont businesses and nonprofits to promote economic recovery from losses experienced during the pandemic.

For more information and program contacts, please visit [Grants for Businesses and Nonprofits](https://finance.vermont.gov/ARPA-businesses) (<https://finance.vermont.gov/ARPA-businesses>).



Grants for Individuals

In response to impacts of the pandemic felt at the individual and household level, ARPA funding has been made available to individual Vermont taxpayers to support economic recovery efforts.

For more information and program contacts, please visit [Grants for Individuals](https://finance.vermont.gov/ARPA-individuals) (<https://finance.vermont.gov/ARPA-individuals>).

