

Southern Vermont Economy Project

USDA Presentation
July 23, 2019

Strategies, Accomplishments, and Impacts
Utilizing the USDA RCDI Grant Program

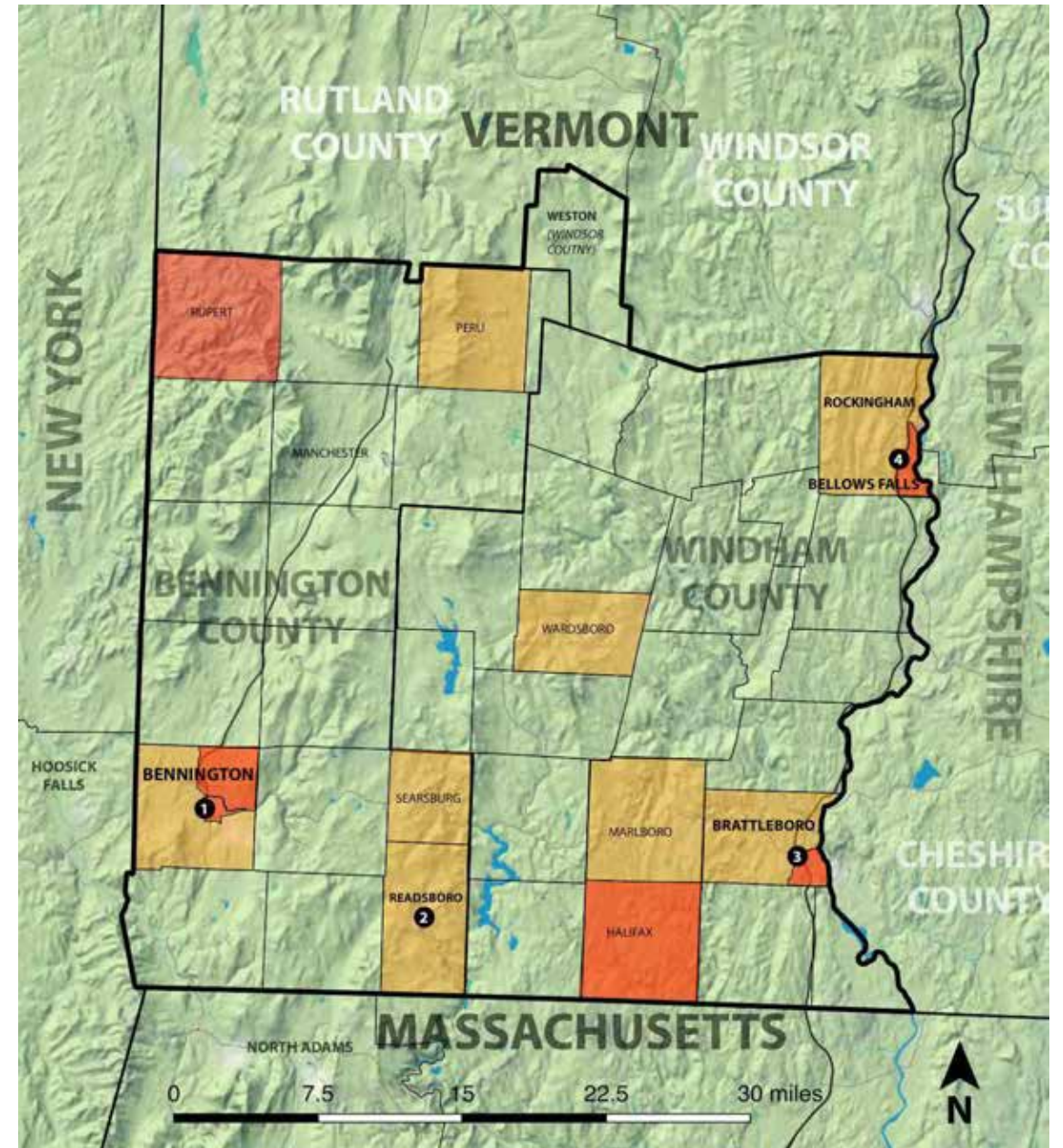


Background: SVEP

- USDA RCDI awarded \$230,000 in 2016 to BDCC
- Matched \$230,000
- Served the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone and specifically the 11 distressed towns
- 14 recipients including nonprofits, a municipality, and regional organizations
- Goal: build capacity within recipients around economic and workforce development

Southern Vermont Zone: Distressed Towns

- Rupert
- Peru
- Searsburg
- Readsboro
- Bennington
- Rockingham
- Bellows Falls
- Wardsboro
- Marlboro
- Halifax
- Brattleboro



Recipients

- Regional Organizations:

- Bennington County Regional Commission
- Bennington County Industrial Corporation
- Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce
- Windham Regional Commission
- Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce
- Strolling of the Heifers
- Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies
- Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce

- Municipality:

- Town of Bennington

- Nonprofits:

- Bennington Downtown Alliance
- Readsboro Hometown Redevelopment
- Bellows Falls Area Development Corporation
- Rockingham Arts and Museum Project
- Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance



Challenges Identified

- **Uneven support** for economic development, which leads to multiple local organizations supporting some towns, and almost no support in others
- **Duplication or weak coordination** and promotion of region-wide programs for business and workforce development

Goal and Outcomes

- Original **Goal**:
 - Improve the capacity for conducting economic development projects within 14 recipient organizations serving some of the counties' most challenged villages and towns
- Intended **Benefits and Outcomes**:
 - Increased **capacity** through workshops and trainings
 - Reduced redundancy through **communication**
 - Increased **efficiency** through **collaboration**
 - Stronger Economic Development **network**
 - Increased ability to **act regionally**

Project Barriers Identified

- **Geography** became a big hurdle to attendance (distance, weather conditions)
- **Varying skill levels** made it difficult to provide the same training for everyone
- **Paper work** in relation to recipient reimbursement created a burden
- **Lack of established network** in the Southern Vermont region

Adjustments

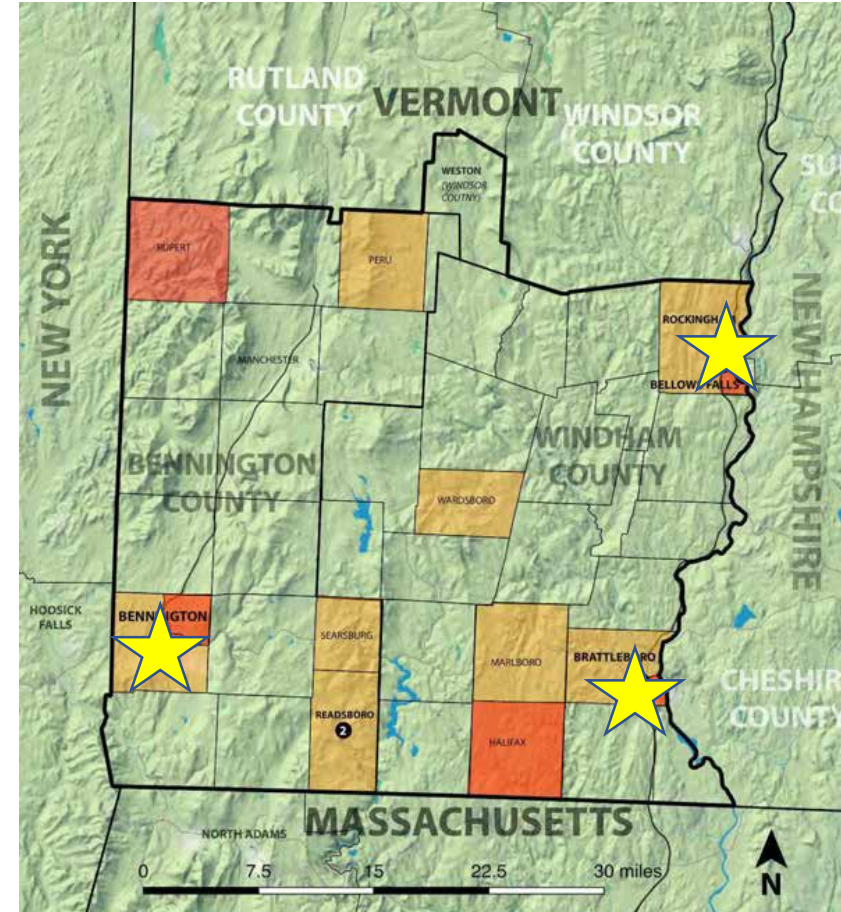
- Listened to recipients and responded with changes to content and format of trainings
- More personal engagement between recipients and BDCC staff person
- Multiple training formats
- Reduced paperwork
- Sponsored recipients' professional development and training delivery
- Captured opportunities for collaboration

Outcomes

- Some individual recipients gained **technology**
- BDCC hosted **trainings** available for free or very low cost **to recipients and other interested participants**
- Recipients gained **abilities** to host their own trainings
 - Small Business Marketing (**Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce**)
 - Future-Ready Economic Development Organizations (**Bennington County Industrial Corporation**)
 - Bellows Falls Downtown Development Tours (**Bellows Falls Area Development Corporation, Rockingham Arts and Museum Project**)
 - Creative Economy Forums (**Rockingham Arts and Museum Project, Town of Bennington**)
 - Form-based Code Workshop (**Bennington County Regional Commission**)

Virtual Conferencing Equipment

- Locations Installed: **Bellows Falls** and **Bennington** (Brattleboro had equipment previous to grant)
- Providing **value**:
 - **connecting** with other recipients
 - Receiving **technical assistance**



Training Topics

- Connectivity
- Zoning
- Housing
- Creative economy
- Marketing
- Grant writing
- Financing projects and small businesses
- Labor and workforce

Outcomes: Additional participants

- Bennington College
- Bennington Senior Center
- Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center
- Brattleboro Reformer
- BUHS
- CCV
- Cersosimo Lumber Company
- Community Asylum Seekers Project
- Deerfield Valley News
- Downtown Brattleboro Alliance
- GNAT
- Hale Resources
- HeartStorm Farmstead
- Keene State College
- LineSync Architecture
- Manchester Community Library
- Mount Snow
- NeighborWorks
- NECCA
- Northshire Grows
- Parks Place
- Peoples United Bank
- Pettee Memorial Library
- Putney Food Shelf
- Putney Food4Kids
- Readsboro Historical Society
- Retreat Farm
- River Valley Technical Center
- SEON
- Shires Housing
- Smokey House Center
- Southern Vermont Area Health and Education Center
- Stevens & Associates
- Southwestern Vermont Health Care
- Swallowtail Farm
- The Gathering Place
- The Reluctant Panther
- The Tutorial Center
- The Windham Foundation
- TPW Real Estate
- USDA
- VELCO
- Vermont Center for Photography
- Vermont Community Foundation
- Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
- VMEC
- VT Department of Public Service
- VT Small Business Development Center
- VTel
- WBTN
- Wilmington Works
- Windham and Windsor Housing Trust
- Youth Services
- 10F Design
- 1Berkshire
- 376 Main Partners
- Abacus Automation
- Advance VT
- AN Deringer
- Arlington Area Renewal Project
- Bennington County
- Habitat for Humanity
- Bennington County Head Start
- Bennington Museum
- Bennington Rescue Squad
- BeWell.md
- BEYourStart
- Bobolink Communications LLC
- Brattleboro Country Club
- Brattleboro Housing Partnerships
- Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
- Brattleboro Savings and Loan
- Bread Loaf Corporation
- Bromley Mountain
- Castleton University
- Catamount Connections
- Centerline Architects
- Center for Women and Enterprise
- Chroma Technology
- Citizens Bank
- Community Capital of Vermont
- Community House Inc.
- Community Workshop
- Costello, Valente, and Gentry Law
- Country Business
- Discovery Group
- Dorset Partners
- Dorset Theatre Festival
- Dover Entertainment Studios
- DRM
- Dupuis Construction
- Echo Farm Puddings
- Edward Jones
- Efficiency Vermont
- Food Connects
- First Stop Board Barn
- Front Porch Forum
- Gonnerman Consulting
- Grace Cottage Hospital
- Great Eastern Radio
- Green Mountain Power
- Groundworks Collaborative
- Hale Mountain Research LLC
- Hannah Grimes Center
- HCRS
- Heritage Family Credit Union
- Hermit Thrush Brewery
- Lamoille County Planning Commission
- Landmark College
- Latchis Corporation
- M&S Development
- Marlboro College
- Meg Streeter Real Estate
- Merck Forest and Farmland
- Milk Money
- Mocha Joe's Roasting Company
- Mondo Media Works
- MSC Consultancy
- MSK Engineering
- Mumford Management Group LLC
- Omega Optical, Inc
- OSEC
- Peak Resorts
- Penniless Projects
- Preservation Trust of Vermont
- Ranieri Partners LLC
- Rich Earth Institute
- REDC
- Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Shapeshifters
- SIT
- SBA
- Southern Vermont Deerfield Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Southwest Vermont Career Development Center
- Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Springfield Regional Development Corporation
- Stone Environmental
- Temblor Creative Group
- The Bank of Bennington
- The High Meadows Fund
- The Inn at Manchester
- The Richards Group
- Thrive LLC
- UVM Extension
- USPS
- VABIR
- VEDA
- VEPC
- Vermont Adult Learning
- VBSR
- Vermont Community Loan Fund
- Vermont Country Deli
- VT DOL
- VT Department of Taxes
- VEOC
- Vermont Futures Project
- Vermont Housing Finance Agency
- Vermont Innovator Magazine
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns
- Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance
- Vermont Public Radio
- Vermont Rural Ventures & Housing Vermont
- Vermont STEMcorps
- Vernon Elementary School
- Viking Farms LLC
- Voc Rehab
- VSECU
- VT PTAC
- VTDigger
- West River Educational District
- Weston Playhouse
- Windham Central
- Windham Movement Apparel
- Windham Southeast Supervisory Union
- WW Building Supply

Additional participants
also serve the
distressed
communities

Outcomes: Additional municipal participants

- Town of Brattleboro
- Town of Brookline
- Town of Dorset
- Town of Grafton
- Town of Killington
- Town of Ludlow
- Town of Manchester
- Town of Newfane
- Town of Pownal
- Town of Vernon
- Town of Whitingham
- Town of Wilmington
- Town of Rockingham
- Town of Dover
- Town of Dummerston
- Town of Guilford
- Town of Jamaica
- Town of Londonderry
- Town of Landgrove
- Town of Marlboro
- Town of Putney
- Town of Readsboro
- Town of Sandgate
- Town of Shaftsbury
- Town of Stratton
- Town of Sunderland
- Village of Saxtons River
- Town of Wardsboro

Outcomes by Capacity Type

- Technology
- Connectivity
- Working Lands
- Housing
- Grant Writing
- Leadership and Engagement
- Workforce and Entrepreneurship

Technology



Virtual Conferencing Equipment



Digital Marketing Boot Camp, Wilmington



Digital Marketing Boot Camp, Wilmington

Tips and Tools for Small Business Marketing, Bennington



Connectivity Summits

2017 Connectivity Summit, Dover



Clay Purvis, VT Department of Public Service, addressing the attendees about the state of Vermont's connectivity

2018 Connectivity Summit, Mount Snow





2018 Connectivity Summit, Mount Snow

USDA RD Jon-Michael Mui
providing individual TA to the
Town of Dover

Participants working on a survey for their towns to use to find out from their residents what their connectivity coverage is actually like



2nd Connectivity Summit, Mount Snow

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Meetings

Joint SeVEDS/RED CEDS Meeting, Wilmington





Public CEDS Meeting, Bennington



Public CEDS Meeting, Bennington



Public CEDS Meeting, Manchester



Public CEDS Meeting, Bellows Falls



Public CEDS Meeting, Brattleboro



Final Public CEDS Meeting, Wilmington

Working Lands Housing



Financing the Working Landscape, Weston



Ben Doyle, USDA RD Assistant State
Director VT/NH, facilitates a panel
of financing experts

Financing the Working Landscape, Weston

Financing the Working Landscape, Weston






Grant Writing



Grant Writing Workshop, Bellows Falls

A photograph showing a group of people seated at a table, likely attending a workshop. In the foreground, a woman with long brown hair tied back, wearing glasses and a green scarf, is looking towards the right. Behind her, another woman with long blonde hair is also looking in the same direction. The background is slightly blurred, showing a blue curtain and a red and white striped wall.

Sarah Waring, of Vermont Community Foundation,
partnered with SVEP, along with Vermont Housing
and Conservation Board to put on this full day
workshop

Grant Writing Workshop, Bellows Falls



Grant Writing Workshop, Bellows Falls



Grant Writing Workshop, Bellows Falls



Grant Writing Workshop, Bellows Falls



PHILANTHROPIC

- Philanthropist - Issue
- com. fdn - PLACE
- com. sponsorship - TRUST
- Flexible

GOVT

- Reimburse
- MATCH
- TIME
- PAPERWORK

Social Resp. Investing
PAC Service
International

Small
Comm. Grant
Reimb. 1/20

Grant Writing Workshop, Bellows Falls

Leadership and Engagement

ont Council on
Development



VCRD Leadership Summit, Castleton



Value in getting recipients out of their town and even their region to network and see how other areas are accomplishing economic development projects

VCRD Leadership Summit, Castleton





Downtown Development Tour, Bennington



Downtown Development Tour, Brattleboro

Workforce and Entrepreneurship



Entrepreneurship session, Southern Vermont Economy Summit, Mount Snow



Workforce session, Southern Vermont Economy Summit, Mount Snow

Entrepreneurship session, Southern Vermont Economy Summit, Mount Snow



Rich Grogran, the then Executive Director of Community Capital of Vermont, donated his time and expertise for the Summit, and is an example of SVEP bringing the experts and resources INTO our region and to our recipients

Notable Achievements

Relationships and Connections

- **Individual technical assistance:** Project coordinator working 1-on-1 with recipients to meet them where they are
 - Helping with **paperwork**
 - Helping use **technology**
 - Helping **develop a learning initiatives**
 - Helping **deliver value** to their beneficiaries
- Organizational development, networking, and engagement
 - Grant partner **meetings**
 - **Organizational events** including board members and community members
 - Providing a **platform** for recipients to reach beneficiaries— eg. Windham Regional Commission (one of the recipients) providing their expertise during the Grant Writing Workshop to their beneficiaries in attendance
- Relationship and connection building that makes Southern Vermont stronger— **the part that is difficult to see and measure**

Relationships and Connections



BDCC Individualized TA to BCRC



Bennington Development Group Meeting, Bennington

BCRC Annual Meeting, Arlington



BCIC Annual Meeting, Bennington



Leveraging capacity to increase project impact

- Additional BDCC staff
 - Delivering TA and trainings
- Regional partners
 - Providing free space, expertise
- State and federal partners
 - Providing funding, expertise
- Private Sector
 - Volunteers, sponsorship

Utilizing Experts

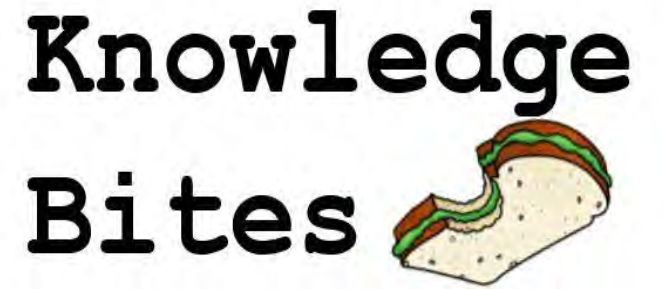
Examples:

- Economists
 - Boston Fed
 - Urban3 LLC
 - And more**
- State-wide non profits
 - AARP
 - Vermont League of Cities and Towns
 - Vermont Community Foundation
 - And more**
- State officials
 - Gary Holloway, Downtown Designation Program
 - Ted Brady, Dept Secretary, VTACCD
 - Clay Purvis, VT Dept of Public Service
 - And more**

- Experts brought INTO our region and to our recipients– miles logged by experts is a measurable outcome
- Most experts provided in kind services, donated their time, or helped to sponsor trainings

**Complete list of expert panelists, trainers, and technical assistance providers contained within USDA RCDI progress reports

Knowledge Bites Webinar Series



Three Problems:

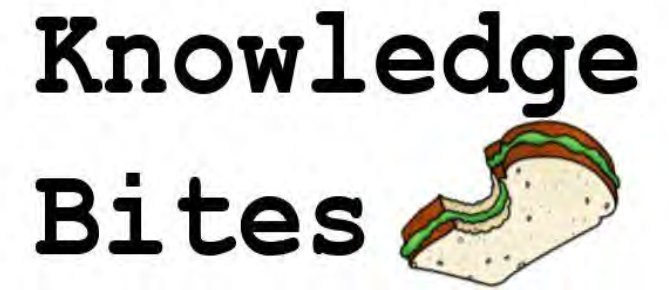
1. Lack of **awareness** of resources available
2. Lack of **direct access** to resources and experts
3. Lack of **time** to commit to travel and training

Specific problems/challenges



Specific opportunities/resources

Knowledge Bites Webinar Series



- Understanding Labor Market Information (LMI) Data and Resources
- USDA Rural Development Housing Programs
- Windham County Economic Development Program RFP Submission Process
- Southern Vermont Internship Programs
- Engaging Your State Delegation
- Structured Problem Solving
- Leveraging the VT Downtown/Village Designation Program
- VT Small Business Development Center
- Easing Pain Points for Growing Organizations
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Project Submission Process
- Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program
- Vermont Training Program
- Windham Region Brownfields Reuse Program (WRBRI) and ACCD Brownfield Revitalization Fund
- Town Officers Education Conference
- The Consumer Assistance Program
- ThinkVermont.com
- Promoting a Business or Town on VermontVacation.com
- SBA HUBZone Program and PTAC Assistance
- Talent Pipeline Management
- Targeted Expertise Recruitment and Retention Program
- INSTIG8 Program
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)
- Community Access TV stations: BCTV and FACT TV
- Building Communities Grants Programs
- Community Access TV stations: CAT TV and GNAT
- VT Planning Advance Program
- Act 185 Clean Water Revolving Fund
- Vermont Electric Vehicle Supply (EVSE) Program
- Submitting a Project to the 2019 Southern Vermont Zone CEDS
- “Future-Ready” Economic Development Organizations
- Registering on SAM.gov and acquiring a DUNS number
- Vermont Mobile Wireless Drive Test
- Community Facility Technical Assistance Program



Knowledge Bites Session 18:
What is PTAC and how do I



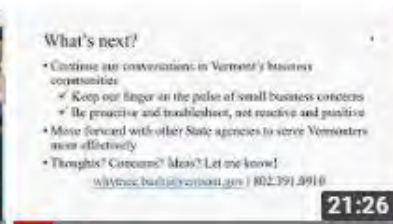
Knowledge Bites Session 17:
How can I promote my



Southern Vermont Housing
Summit



Knowledge Bites Session 16:
How do I utilize



Knowledge Bites Session 15:
Where do I go to find clarity



Knowledge Bites Session 14:
What is the TOEC?



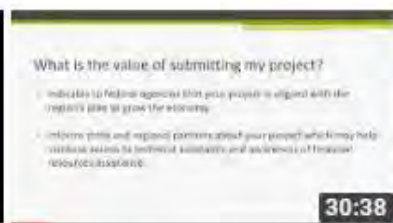
Knowledge Bites Session 12:
Do I qualify and how do I



Knowledge Bites Session 13:
How do I utilize the region



Knowledge Bites Session 11:
How can the VEGI program



Knowledge Bites Session 10:
How do I submit a project to



Knowledge Bites Session 9:
What do I do when my



Knowledge Bites Session 8:
What does it take to start a



Knowledge Bites Session 7:
How do I utilize the State



Knowledge Bites Session 6:
How do I solve problems



Knowledge Bites Session 5:
How do I engage with my VT



Knowledge Bites Session 4:
How do I find an intern for my



Knowledge Bites Session 3:
How do I response to the



Knowledge Bites Session 2:
USDA Rural Development has

By recording each webinar, SVEP is able to provide an archive of all the webinars, available at anytime online for those interested in learning more about the resources, programs, and funding

Southern Vermont Economy Summits 2017, 2018, 2019

- Economic literacy
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Entrepreneurial resources
- Connectivity
- Workforce
- Community development
- Financing and project development
- Rural business development (succession, start ups, financing)

Comparing the 2017 Summit agenda (shown here) and the 2019 Summit agenda (on the next slide) exemplifies the **growth in capacity** of BDCC to host such a large event and of the **growth in interest and appetite of participants** for learning and knowledge around economic development



SCHEDULE

9:00 Arrival & Registration

9:30 Welcome & Introductory Remarks
WITH SECRETARY MICHAEL SCHIRLING, VERMONT ACCD

10:15 Coffee Break

10:30 Keynote Presentation
WITH DR. ROBERT K TRIEST, FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON

11:15 Feature Presentation
WITH KEVIN STAPLETON, VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

12:10 Lunch

1:10 Workshop Sessions
DATA AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY
RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2:40 Coffee Break

2:50 Afternoon Panel Discussion
FOSTERING CONDITIONS FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL GROWTH

3:50 Closing Remarks

4:00 Governor's Reception & YP Recognition
WITH THE HONORABLE PHIL SCOTT, GOVERNOR, STATE OF VERMONT

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:30am - 8:30am	Connectivity Breakfast	Raponda South
8:00am - 9:00am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	Somerset Lobby
8:45am - 9:15am	Summit Welcome	Somerset Ballroom
SESSION 1		
9:20am - 10:20am	<i>Workforce Workarounds in a Tight Labor Market</i>	Raponda West
	<i>Wired: Envisioning a Tech-Enabled Rural Economy</i>	Raponda Central
	<i>Development 101: Financing Great Community Projects</i>	Deerfield South
	<i>"Brave Little Region": Lessons from Rural Regional Economic Development Efforts</i>	Deerfield North
10:20am - 10:30am	Networking + Coffee	Somerset Ballroom
10:30am - 11:15am	Keynote: <i>Mapping the Dollars and Sense of Land Use Patterns</i> Joe Minicozzi, AICP, Urban3, LLC Sponsored by TPW Real Estate and Stevens & Associates	Somerset Ballroom
11:15am - 11:45 am	Emerging Leaders of Southern Vermont Recognition	Somerset Ballroom
Noon - 1:00pm	Lunch & Networking	Somerset Ballroom
SESSION 2		
1:15pm - 2:15pm	<i>What is a Future Ready Workforce and How Do We Get It?</i>	Raponda Central
	<i>Import/Export and Accessing Global Markets</i>	Deerfield North
	<i>What Makes for a Resilient Community?</i>	Deerfield South
	<i>Regional Economics 201: Master Class</i>	Raponda West
2:15pm - 2:30pm	Networking & Coffee	Deerfield Lobby
SESSION 3		
2:30pm - 3:30pm	<i>"Exit Stage Left": Succession Planning For Owners, Founders, and Business Leaders</i>	Raponda Central
	<i>Funding Small Business Growth in Southern Vermont</i>	Deerfield North
	<i>Redevelopment ROI: Taxes, Incentives, and Tools</i>	Deerfield South
	<i>Not Your Grandfather's Chamber: Redefining the CoC for a New Generation</i>	Raponda West
3:30pm - 4:00pm	2019 SoVermont CEDS Celebration and Project Announcements	Somerset Ballroom
4:00pm - 5:30pm	Reception & Networking	Somerset East

Comparing the 2017 Summit agenda (on previous slide) and the 2019 Summit agenda (shown here) exemplifies the **growth in capacity** of BDCC to host such a large event and of the **growth in interest and appetite of participants** for learning and knowledge around economic development



Southern Vermont Economy Summit received
award from IEDC for Excellence in Economic
Development

Southern Vermont Economy Summits



2019 Southern Vermont Economy Summit



2018 Southern Vermont Economy Summit



2018 Southern Vermont Economy Summit



2019 Southern Vermont Economy Summit



2019 Southern Vermont Economy Summit



2018 Southern Vermont Economy Summit



2019 Southern Vermont Economy Summit



2019 Southern Vermont Economy Summit

EXIT



2018 Southern Vermont Economy Summit



2018 Southern Vermont Economy Summit

Outcomes by the Numbers

- 6 recipient-led trainings
- 32 webinars
- 89 trainings
- 480 hours in individual technical assistance
- 1070 attendees
- 7409 Knowledge Bites page visits (11th most visited page on BDCC site)

Successes: Examples of Expanded Capacity

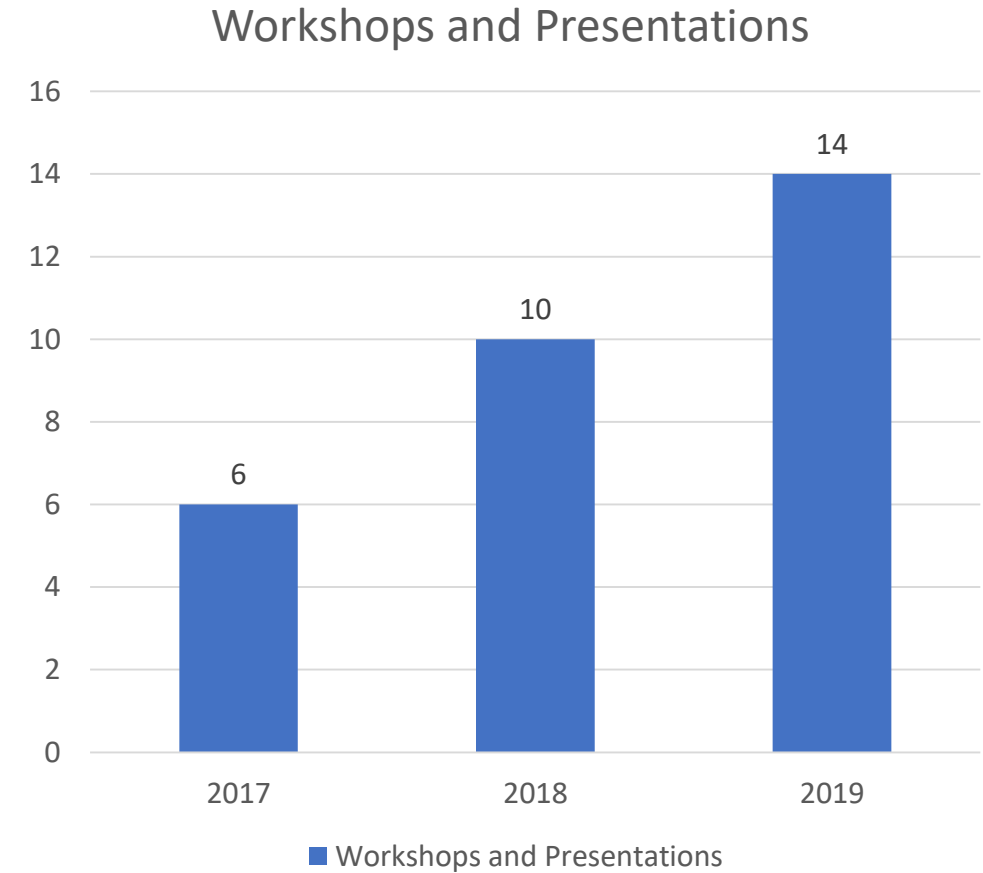
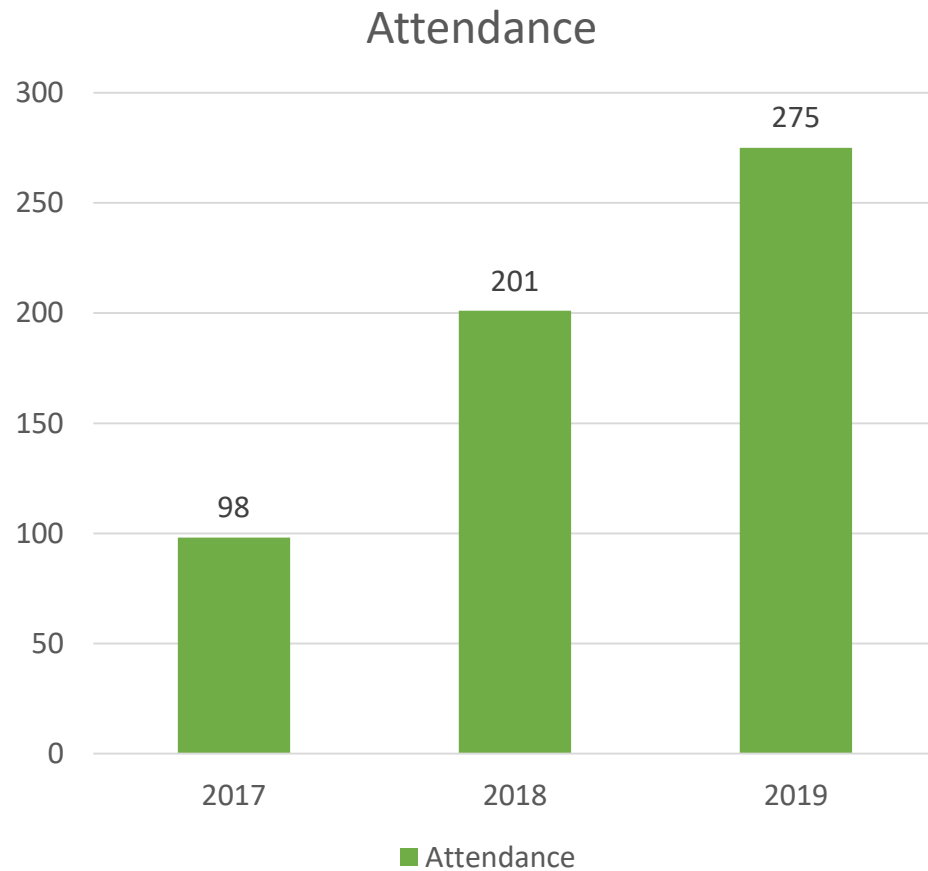


First ever two county CEDS



Additionally, we collected **71 CEDS projects** through the CEDS Project Process from the Southern Vermont Zone, many that can potentially be **supported by USDA**

Growth in Summit attendance and content



Public interest and understanding

SVEP utilized the region's **Community TV stations** to disseminate knowledge around economic development and information about trainings





EVERYDAY PEOPLE:

Sarah Lang

August 10, 2017 • 00:27:56 • 43 Views

ID#10773 • Sarah Lang of the Southern Vermont Economy Project stops by.



EVERYDAY PEOPLE:

Sarah Lang and Zon Eastes

February 8, 2018 • 00:30:10 • 53 Views

ID#11053 • Sarah Lang, from So. VT Economic Project, and Zon Eastes, from VT Creative, join Robert to discuss initiatives that involve the arts and the economic development.



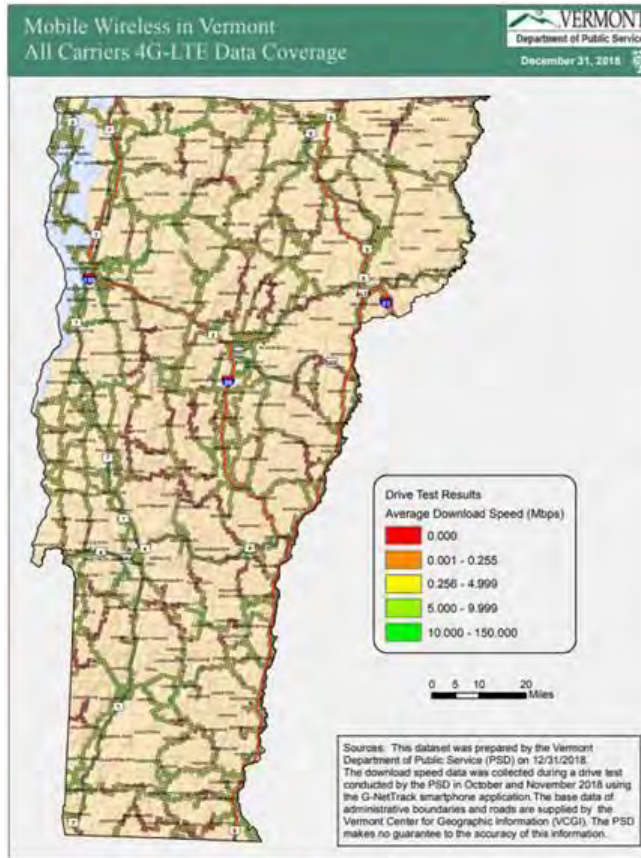
Brattleboro Community TV
Community Partner of the Year



BDCC staff accepting the Community Partner of the Year award. SVEP was a big proponent in the organization receiving this award because SVEP utilized BCTV's services to communicate information to the public

Self-led Connectivity Efforts

Town of Shaftsbury completed a **Mobile Drive Connectivity Test** on all roads in their town



Town of Readsboro makes moves on connectivity. Here, Governor Scott is in town to **announce one of three connectivity projects** in Southern Vermont through public/private partnerships



SVEP coordinator provided **hours of individual TA** to staff at Northeast Kingdom Collaborative, who was interested in hosting their own connectivity service. Even though they are not within our service area, the **success of SVEP programming shows when other regions reach out and want to know best practices on how to put on their own trainings**



Northern Vermont Connectivity Summit
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 | 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Burke Mountain Room, Northern Vermont University - Lyndon

MEETING SUMMARY, NOTES AND NEXT STEPS

- 1. NEK Broadband Meeting Summary**
- 2. Data on Current State of Connectivity in NEK**
- 3. Minutes from the Meeting**
- 4. Provider Contact Information**
- 5. Additional Resources**



Hosted by Northeastern Vermont Development Association & Northeast Kingdom Collaborative

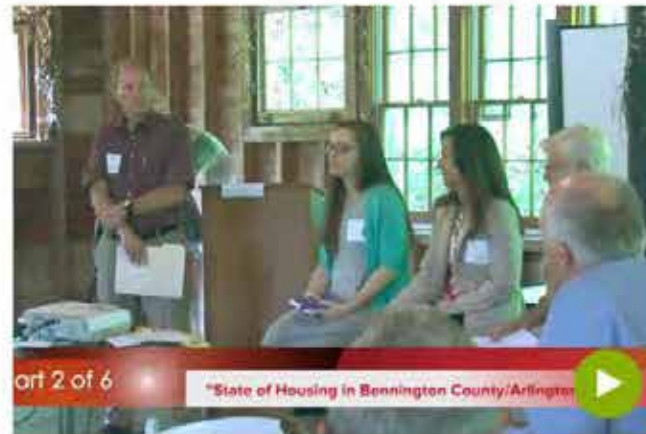
Co-sponsored by Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation, Lake Champlain Islands Economic Development, Lamoille County Planning Commission, Lamoille Economic Development Corporation, and Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Housing and Redevelopment



**Arlington Area Housing Forum:
Arlington 2025 Part 1 of 6**

GNAT Programs JUNE 13, 2019



**Arlington Area Housing Forum:
Arlington 2025 Part 2 of 6**

GNAT Programs JUNE 13, 2019



**Arlington Area Housing Forum:
Arlington 2025 Part 4 of 6**

GNAT Programs JUNE 26, 2019

Arlington Area Renewal Project **hosted their own housing forum** in June 2019 to begin discussing the issues they are facing in their own town around housing



PUTNAM
BLOCK

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[Membership Housing](#)

[Media](#)

[Contact](#)

Construction on the Putnam Block began Summer 2019. This redevelopment project will be transformative for the Town of Bennington. Many partners in the Putnam Block also took part in SVEP trainings



Recipient Led Trainings





Bellows Falls Downtown Redevelopment Tour

Bellows Falls Downtown Redevelopment Tour



Tips and Tools for Small Business Marketing, Bennington





Creative Economy Forum, Bennington



Creative Economy Forum, Bennington

Conclusion

Project Purpose: Acting Regionally

- Why:
 - Seeking to overcome long term economic decline as well as acute events including natural disasters and nuclear plant closure
 - Needed to increase ability to organize and implement in order to achieve community and economic goals
- How:
 - Identify gaps, plug holes
 - Strengthen network and relationships
 - Increase skills, ability, and capacity among regional partners
 - Leverage those capacity and connections to improve implementation and attract new resources

Key Findings

- Process improvement: Recognizing what was **not working and responding creatively**
- Cannot be limited by the recipients; working around those to still **ultimately reaching the beneficiaries**
- **Scale** is everything
- This **takes time**: 3 years was a good start, we could easily fill another 3 years responding to what we know there is appetite for
- This takes **attention**: staff person, connector, holder of information
- People want to learn, however everyone's **learning curve is different**
- Acting regionally creates **much bigger potential outcomes** but new risks
- **Local partners** make the difference
- This work **cannot happen top down**

What is next?

- BDCC submitted application for **USDA RCDI funding for SVEP 2.0**
- BCRC/BCIC submitted application to **Northern Borders** for capacity to continue the Summit and regional collaborations
- BDCC has pursued funding partners to make the **summit sustainable**
- BDCC is providing TA through **USDA Community Facilities** for specific project implementation

Thank you!

Contact:

Sarah Lang, slang@brattleborodevelopment.com

(802) 257-7731 x222

