

Spark Connecting Community Round 2 (2022)

Vermont Community Foundation

Guidelines

Spark Connecting Community grants put building and nurturing community front and center. We aim to support grassroots work that builds social capital—the connective tissue of our communities. Social capital can be described as the value developed from working together, connecting across differences, and sharing common place-based experiences. Higher levels of social capital are correlated with better health outcomes, higher educational achievement, increased civic engagement, and greater resilience—all of which help build community vitality.

Please read the full application guidelines online by [clicking here](#).

Helpful Hints:

- Character limits include spaces and punctuation.
- Be sure to save your work frequently by clicking the "Save" button at the bottom of the page as the system will log out after 90 minutes of inactivity.
- The size of text boxes can be adjusted by dragging on the lower right corner.
- Create a PDF version of your application via the "Application Packet" button at the top of the page. All content and attachments will be included.

All applications must be submitted electronically to the Vermont Community Foundation through the application form in the Online Grants Manager, which can be accessed at www.vermontcf.org/OGM. Applications will not be accepted by mail or email. If you have questions about the Online Grants Manager, please contact grants@vermontcf.org or 802-388-3355 ext. 222.

About Your Project

Project Name*

Character Limit: 100

Project Description*

Provide a one to two sentence description of what the project will accomplish. Be clear and explicit about what you will accomplish and how. Please use complete sentences. Note: Your answer may be used in publications. *For example: "We will beautify a blighted neighborhood by creating a public mural space for residents to share their hopes and dreams."*

Character Limit: 300

Amount Requested*

Minimum \$500 / Maximum \$3,000

Character Limit: 20

Geographic Area - Town/City*

What Vermont town(s) will be directly served by your project?

Please keep your answer concise and refer to the following guidelines:

- For multiple towns, use commas to separate the town names.
- If your project spans state borders, limit your answer only to Vermont.
- If your project has broader implementation (multiple counties or statewide), you do not need to mention each town. Instead, briefly outline the geographic scope.

Character Limit: 200

Geographic Area - County*

Choose all that apply:

Choices

Statewide
Addison County
Bennington County
Caledonia County
Chittenden County
Essex County
Franklin County
Grand Isle County
Lamoille County
Orange County
Orleans County
Rutland County
Washington County
Windham County
Windsor County

Alignment with VCF Strategic Focus Areas*

Which of the Vermont Community Foundation's strategic focus areas does your project serve?

Read about our strategic focus areas by [clicking here](#).

Choices

Early care and learning
College and career training
Support for youth and families
Community and economic vitality
None of the above

Project Goals*

Describe the goals, the work you'll do, and the overall timeline for your grant.

Character Limit: 2250

Community Engagement*

Please tell us who your champions are for this project and how the project was conceived. Describe any partnerships or collaborations with other organizations that will take place as part of this project's planning and implementation.

Character Limit: 1200

Who will benefit?*

Tell us about your community and who will benefit from this project. Keep the following in mind when responding to this question: *The Spark program will accept applications from hyperlocal, place-based projects (applications from a single community or a few towns working in partnership in the same region) or statewide/regional projects that support a community of individuals with a shared identity or interest, such as a project supporting visual artists throughout the state.*

Character Limit: 1200

What will success look like?*

Please explain what you expect to learn through this project and how you will know that you've achieved your project's goals.

Character Limit: 1200

Results*

What is the impact that this project will have on your community? How will it build social capital?

Character Limit: 2250

Bonus Words (OPTIONAL)

What else should we know about the project that we didn't ask?

Character Limit: 900

Attach a Photograph (OPTIONAL)

Quality photos can be very helpful and inspiring. Sometimes we have opportunities to share your proposal with other potential funders and sometimes we want to promote the good work you are doing through social media and web posts. Images of women and girls involved in activities similar to your proposal are usually the most compelling. Providing an image is optional, but we would be grateful.

Please indicate photographer credit and/or photo description in text area. *File types supported: png, jpeg, or jpg.*

Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

Photograph License and Release (if applicable)

Do you wish to give the VCF permission to use your photo in communications? Please indicate below how you'd like it used.

Option 1: Please only use my photo internally if relevant to this application (to be shared among VCF staff only)

Option 2: Please use my photo internally and externally as determined by the VCF (this may include external communications, such as press releases, social media, or communications with potential funders of your project) Your organization &/or the photographer will be credited as the source of the image.

Select option below.

Choices

Option 1

Option 2

By selecting option two, you grant the Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) an unrestricted license to use and publish Your Photograph in VCF communications material in any and all manner and media. You hereby represent that you have permission to grant these rights (please make sure you have a signed photo release on file for any identifiable subjects in the photograph you submit). You hereby release the VCF and its employees from any and all claims and/or liability related to Your Photograph.

Project and Organizational Budget and Financials

Organizational Budget

What is your organization's operating budget?

Character Limit: 100

Organizational Budget*

Upload a copy of your organization's Budget to Actual comparison or Profit Loss (P/L) statement for the most recently completed fiscal year. (Sample budget documents can be downloaded from the Community Foundation's website - visit our [Online Grants Center](#) for more details.)

File Size Limit: 4 MB

If you are showing a deficit in your organizational budget, please tell us why.

Character Limit: 300

Previous Spark Funding*

Has your organization received support from the Spark program in the last three years? *Please note that Spark cannot provide repeat support for the same program/project.*

Choices

Yes

No

If you answered yes above, please provide the grant amount, grant purpose, and year awarded.

Character Limit: 500

Project Budget - Narrative*

What will the grant funds be spent on? Note: Administrative costs related to the project (such as staffing, rent, and gas mileage) are acceptable.

Character Limit: 900

Project Budget - Itemized (REQUIRED ATTACHMENT)*

Attach a copy of your itemized project budget. You should include both expenses and revenue, including pending and secured support. (Sample budget documents may be used as a *guide* and downloaded from the Community Foundation's website - visit our [Online Grants Center](#) for more details.)

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Letter of Support (Optional)

File Size Limit: 2 MB

About Your Organization

What status best describes the applicant?*

Our grants must be paid to a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, place of worship/religious group, or town/municipal agency. If your organization or group does not fall into one of these categories, you will need to use a fiscal sponsor. If you have questions, please contact 802-388-3355 ext. 222. We are happy to talk through your options.

Choices

Municipal entity (i.e., town, public school, or other municipal department or agency)

Registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit

Place of worship or religious group

Other - Please provide details in your answer to the next question.

Use this space to provide additional information about the applicant's status. (If Applicable)

If you have a fiscal sponsor—or if you operate under the umbrella of a larger registered nonprofit—provide their name below.

Character Limit: 200

Fiscal Sponsor Agreement Form (If Applicable)

Download a blank Fiscal Sponsor Agreement Form ([click here to download the form](#)) and forward it to your fiscal sponsor to print, fill out, and sign. The form must be filled out completely and you must use the official VCF form. Please call 802-388-3355 ext. 222 if you have questions.

Upload the form here.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Save and Submit

2022 Round 2 deadline: 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 18.

By submitting your application to the Vermont Community Foundation, you give us permission to share your application and information about your project with other potential funders, both individuals and foundations.