



Vision and Goals

The Working Communities Challenge supports local, collaborative leadership that builds strong economies and healthy communities in Vermont's rural towns, regions, and smaller cities. This multi-year grant competition draws on Vermont's commitment to build economic opportunity for communities and residents with low incomes. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the State of Vermont, national and local philanthropy, and private sector business launched the challenge in Vermont in 2019. A 17-member Steering Committee of Vermont leaders guide and oversee the effort.

Through the competition we support:

- Local leaders from the public, non-profit, and private sectors working together to achieve an ambitious shared goal
- Economic inclusion, racial equity, and diversity across age, gender and sexual orientation as an important part of the shared goal
- Meaningful engagement of a diverse set of residents, including those with low-incomes, in decision-making and setting direction
- System solutions, not just programs, to achieve the team's shared goals
- Connections to ideas, people, and markets within and outside local economies and communities
- Learning and adaptation through research, community input, and peer-to-peer exchange.

The Working Communities Challenge builds on Vermont's local vision and strength by deploying direct grants, technical assistance, and learning communities to leadership teams representing Vermont's communities.