



# ADDISON COUNTY

Economic Development Corporation  
*Great starts here.*

Dear ACEDC member,

Thank you for taking the time to read our summer newsletter. We have a lot of great things to share with you in this edition! We have a "sweet" success story, updates on the legislative session, news updates about ACEDC and its members, and information about events and business opportunities.

We hope you find this information useful. As always, your feedback is welcome and appreciated.

Enjoy,  
ACEDC

## From the Desk of the Executive Director

The Legislature adjourned the 2021-2022 Biennium on May 12, leaving some positive results for long-term economic development in Vermont. Several major pieces of legislation passed that will impact issues underpinning business recovery and growth and economic and community development, such as housing, broadband availability, childcare, workforce development, taxation, and infrastructure investments. Here is a summary:

### **COVID Pandemic Business Recovery:**

- \$19M for Short-term forgivable loans through the Vermont Economic Development Authority for businesses and non-profits that can demonstrate economic harm.
- \$40M for a Community Recovery & Revitalization program through ACCD to make investments that will retain and expand existing businesses and nonprofit organizations, attract new businesses and nonprofit organizations, and support job creation.
- \$9M in Creative Economy grants through the Vermont Arts Council.
- \$15M for COVID-related paid leave grants through Department of Financial Regulation

### **Broadband:**

- \$95M for capital projects to build out broadband

### **Housing:**

- \$42M for new housing programs, in addition to the annual housing allocations for subsidized housing and homeless prevention programs
- Housing permitting reforms

**Childcare:**

- \$7.8 M in additional funding for providers, Children’s Integrated Services and Parent Child Centers

**Labor Force Improvements and Workforce Development/Training**

- \$3M for the New Relocating Employee Incentive program
- \$42M for various workforce development and training programs

**Business Taxation:**

- Corporate Tax Modernization
- Decrease maximum tax for small businesses and increase minimum for large businesses
- Expansion of the Sales Tax Exemption for manufacturers
- Creation of Ready -to-Drink beverage definition and changes to taxation of cider
- Reduction of education property tax rate

**Infrastructure:**

- \$215M in Climate Action Investments
- \$104M in Clean Water Investments
- \$6M for brownfields remediation
- \$5M for outdoor recreation investments

For a more detailed summary of the 2022 Legislation session and a preview of the 2023 session:

ACEDC 2022 Legislative Session Summary: <https://addisoncountyedc.org/node/868>

ACEDC 2023 Legislative Preview: <https://addisoncountyedc.org/node/867>

VTDHCA 2022 Municipal & Community Development  
Summary: <https://addisoncountyedc.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/DHCD2022LegislativeMemo.pdf>

Vermont Legislative Website: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/search/2022>

**A "Sweet" Success Story: V. Smiley Preserves & MiniFactory**



## [Click Here to Watch Our V. Smiley/MiniFactory Success Story Video!](#)

[V. Smiley Preserves](#) makes honey sweetened preserves, with an emphasis on aromatics and regional fruit. Owner V. Smiley started her business in Seattle in 2013 and moved to Vermont in 2015. [MiniFactory](#), opened in 2022, is the brick and mortar home of V. Smiley Preserves in Bristol, Vermont. It also operates as a café and restaurant, where the menu “emphasizes all the places that preserves can bring a brightness, or a depth, to a dish.”

Owner V. Smiley always knew her strengths were in marketing, design, and flavor creation, and that the “numbers side” of the business was a bit more of a challenge for her, so she was excited to learn that Addison County Economic Development Corporation could help her with that aspect of her business. She was impressed by ACEDC’s friendly approach and vested interest in the local economy. She worked closely with ACEDC Executive Director Fred Kenney to come up with a game plan to make her vision of MiniFactory a reality.

ACEDC assisted V. Smiley and MiniFactory with a business plan and projections, helped facilitate a finance stack and gathered lenders into one meeting, and ultimately made a loan of \$50,000, with very attractive rates and terms.

[More ACEDC Success Stories](#)

### ACEDC News

## [Agency of Transportation Announces Ticket Sales for New Amtrak Ethan Allen Service in Burlington, Vergennes, and Middlebury](#)



Amtrak, in conjunction with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT), is now selling Ethan Allen Express tickets for daily travel between Burlington and New York City including new stops in Vergennes and Middlebury, via [Amtrak.com](https://www.amtrak.com), the Amtrak app, Amtrak ticket desks and kiosks, and through 1-800-USA-RAIL.

Service will kick off at 10:10 a.m. Friday, July 29, 2022, with a celebratory event at Burlington's Union Station. Events are also planned for the Ferrisburgh-Vergennes and Middlebury stations on July 29th.

The details, coming soon, will include \$1 ticketed train fares within Vermont on the Ethan Allen Express, limited shuttle service on the day of the event for return transportation to Burlington from Vergennes for ticketed passengers, and 50% promotional fares on the Ethan Allen Express this summer.

[Read More](#)

## ACEDC Assists Two Bristol Business Projects

The Addison County Economic Development Corporation recently assisted two Bristol, VT businesses in securing financing for commercial development projects.

[Read More](#)

## 164 Vermont businesses helped by limited-time incentive to restart COVID-stalled projects

164 Vermont businesses were helped by an Efficiency Vermont/Regional Development Corporation limited-time incentive to restart COVID-stalled projects. ACEDC helped facilitate 13 projects in Addison County, totaling \$171,708.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Kingdom Brewing adapts through efficiency

Newport brewer one of 164 Vermont businesses helped by limited-time incentive to restart COVID-



## stalled projects

**Winooski, Vermont** – Kingdom Brewing's business model of depending on taproom sales for much of its revenue was put to the test when COVID-19 struck. Forced to temporarily close its Newport, VT taproom to protect public health, keeping the business afloat became a struggle.

[Read More](#)

## Addison County Economic Development Corporation & Addison County Chamber of Commerce partner to present business education webinar series for members



The Addison County Chamber of Commerce and the Addison County Economic Development Corporation are pleased to announce a series of members-only business webinars in 2022. Each webinar covers a different topic relevant to the Addison County business and non-profit communities, presented by local business owners and support organizations.

[Read More](#)

## Our Members in the News

### U.S. Department of Agriculture Invests \$17.5 Million in Vergennes Water & Waste Disposal Project



#### **\$25 Million Initiative will Address Aging Infrastructure to Improve Public Health, Reduce Environmental Impacts**

**VERGENNES, VT., APRIL 21, 2022** -- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Director for [Rural Development](#) Sarah Waring today announced \$17.5 million in loan and grant funding for the City of Vergennes' water and wastewater infrastructure project. Made through [USDA's Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program](#), the investment will combine with \$7.5 million in leveraged funds secured through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and American Rescue Plan Act via the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC).

Read the press release [HERE](#).

## Co-operative Insurance & Aqua ViTea named among Best Places to Work in Vermont 2022



ACEDC members [Co-operative Insurance Companies](#) and [Aqua ViTea](#) are among the 50 best places to work in Vermont in 2022, as named by Vermont Business Magazine and the Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

[Read More](#)

## ACORN receives \$60K award to help access and distribute local farm product



The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets announced \$300,000 in sub-awards to five regional nonprofit food hubs as part of a 2021 Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) award.

**ACORN** in Middlebury, VT will use \$60,618 to build a centralized aggregation and distribution space for rural farms/producers to store their products. This will allow for larger distribution networks and retail locations to have more streamlined access to Addison County products year-round. A priority focus of this NBRC award is to expand Vermont producers' access to out-of-state metropolitan markets and support opportunities for farm and food producers of many sizes to access new markets in cities like Albany, Boston, and New York City.

[Read More](#)

[Aqua ViTea launches bubbly beverage infused with kombucha - Food Business News](#)

[Agricola Farm in Panton Expands Their Italian-Style Monti Verdi Salumi - Seven Days](#)

### Community Events

#### **Vermont Creative Sector Legislative Round-Up**

Friday, July 15th from 10-11am, Online

A recap of this year's legislative session and a preview and discussion of some of the key programs passed that will impact the creative sector.

#### **Vermont Council on Rural Development 2022 Vermont Community Leadership Summit**

Wednesday, August 10th at Vermont Technical College, Randolph, VT

The Summit agenda will include skills workshops, networking opportunities, community project panels, and forum discussions.

### Upcoming ACEDC/ACCoC Sponsored Members-Only Webinars:

- **July 12: Sustainability in Business**
- **August 11: Business Insurance: How much should you have?**
- **September 13: Retirement Planning 201**
- **October 12: What's up in HR?**

### Business Survey and Listening Sessions

The [Vermont Professionals of Color Network](#) and the [Main Street Alliance](#) will host listening sessions and collect responses to a business survey through the Fall. The effort seeks to further understand what is working well for small businesses and what gaps still exist for Vermont's women, BIPOC, veteran and rural owned businesses, and those who have yet to access resources from regional and state-based programming.

LINK TO SURVEY: [https://survey.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9YJItHWQkhS28EC?refsource=vpoc](https://survey.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9YJItHWQkhS28EC?refsource=vpoc)

LINK TO LISTENING SESSIONS: <https://www.vtpoc.net/about/our-projects/vt-poc-small-business-listening-sessions/>

## Register for the 2022 Vermont Maple 100



Registration is now open for the 2022 Vermont Maple 100!

This fall, join Vermont Agency of Agriculture, in partnership with Vermont Tourism and organizations from all across the state, to help visitors and Vermonters alike discover new ways to enjoy Vermont's sweetest treat.

Farms, food businesses, sugarmakers, restaurants, lodging establishments, producer associations, food system organizations, recreation businesses, tourism partners, and other businesses across the state are invited to participate in this special celebration of all things maple from September 15 - October 15, 2022. Promote a special maple-inspired product, host an event, or serve a Maple 100 special at your restaurant. Each activity will be featured on VermontVacation.com.

Application closes July 30th. Visit [bit.ly/maple100](https://bit.ly/maple100) to learn more and sign up.

## **Grant Opportunities**

### **VEDA Short Term Forgivable Loan Program**

The VEDA Short Term Forgivable Loan Program will provide financial assistance to businesses that continue to demonstrate economic harm due to the COVID pandemic. The applicant must demonstrate economic harm from lost revenue, increased costs, challenges covering payroll, rent or mortgage interest, or other operating costs that threaten the current capacity of the business to weather financial hardships and result in ongoing financial insecurity due to COVID. Maximum loans will be the lesser of (1) \$350,000.00; (2) six months of eligible operating expenses; or (3) the amount of the cumulative decline in adjusted net operating income during the COVID-19 public health emergency in 2020 and 2021. Loans can be used to pay for eligible operating expenses, but not for capital expenditures. Forgiveness will be determined upon documentation submitted showing that the loan was used to pay for eligible operating expenses. Vermont for-profit and not-for-profit businesses with less than 500 employees are eligible to apply.



Links:

- [VEDA COVID Impact Forgivable Loan Program Taking Shape](#) (pdf)
- [VEDA website](#)

## **Creative Futures Grant Program**

During the 2022 state legislative session, the Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Creative Network advocated for increased investment in economic recovery for the creative sector. One outcome of this session (a part of [Act 183](#)) was the allocation of \$9 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Vermont Arts Council for grants to creative sector entities that have sustained economic harm due to the pandemic.

The aim of this program is to provide aid to creative sector organizations and businesses that continue to struggle financially due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[More information will be available after August 15th. Check the Vermont Art Council's website for details.](#)

## **Vermont Better Places Grant Program**

Better Places is a non-competitive, community matching grant program empowering Vermonters to create inclusive and vibrant public places serving Vermont's [designated downtowns, village centers, new town centers, or neighborhood development areas](#). The program provides one-on-one project coaching, local fundraising support, and two to one (2:1) matching grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$40,000 to make your community-led placemaking ideas happen.

More information: <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/better-places>

## **Workforce Training Grants Available to On-Board and Upskill Staff**

The Vermont Training Program (VTP) helps fund innovative solutions to today's workforce challenges. VTP grants may cover up to 50% of expenses related to training and up-skilling staff, including employee wages for time spent training on the job. Training can be on-site or through an outside provider and funds can even be used to establish an in-house training or apprenticeship program. [Learn how VHV utilized the Vermont Training Program](#) to establish a nationally accredited construction apprenticeship program and certify its first graduates this year.

VTP grants are available to businesses from all sectors to help Vermont employers create and maintain the skilled workforce needed in order to compete and grow. [Visit the VTP webpage](#) for more information and [contact John Young](#) to start your application.

## **Export Grants Available to Increase International Sales and Marketing**

Grant funding is available to help small businesses increase export sales by reaching international customers. [Watch the video to learn how four Vermont Companies have used the State Trade Expansion Program \(STEP\) to support their sales and marketing activities.](#) To grow their international presence, Kaden Apparel, Concepts NREC, Polhemus and Northern Reliability (now KORE Solutions) have leveraged activities such as participating in export training and consulting, identifying their next international markets, attending tradeshows (virtual, hybrid, and in-person), updating and enhancing their website and launching digital advertising campaigns.

Find the [full list of eligible activities](#) and simple application materials online or [contact Daegan Goodman](#) with questions or to start an application.

## Employment, Training and Education Opportunities

**Visit our website for a current list of job opportunities**

### Job Fairs

Vermont Department of Labor #Hiring2DayVT Virtual Job Fairs - Thursdays at 11am

### Weekly VT DoL Virtual Workshops

Resume Writing - Mondays at 9am

Regional Employment Connections - Mondays at 1pm

Interviewing Skills - Tuesdays at 9am

Re-Employment Strategies - Wednesdays at 9am

Interviewing Skills - Fridays at 1pm

### Educational Opportunities

#### Creativity & Innovation for Vermont Educators

A course to inspire the entrepreneurial mindset in the classroom and beyond this fall - October 17 & 18 at Lake Morey Resort. The program focuses on helping educators be engaged in highly effective, fun interactive learning experiences and lesson plans that educators can immediately integrate into their programs of study. More information: <https://www.vtsbdc.org/specialty-services/teacher-professional-development/>

### Highlighted Partner

#### Vergennes Partnership



The Vergennes Partnership was born in 1999 after Vergennes earned the coveted status as an official Vermont State Designated Downtown. One of 23 [Designated Downtowns](#) in the State, Vergennes benefits from tax credits, grants and programs for which other Vermont communities are not eligible. The Partnership is essential for Vergennes in order to keep its Designated Downtown status. With the continued success of the Vergennes Partnership and its supporters, the opportunities for the Little City are endless.

ACEDC has partnered with the Vergennes Partnership on many initiatives, including the Addison County Marketing Partnership and implementation of a [regional marketing grant](#).

[Read More](#)



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