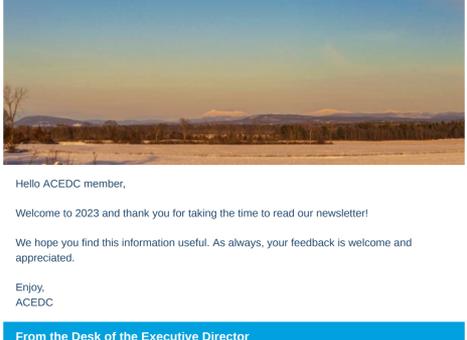




ADDISON COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation
Great starts here.



Hello ACEDC member,

Welcome to 2023 and thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter!

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

Enjoy,
ACEDC

From the Desk of the Executive Director

On behalf of the Board, staff, and members of ACEDC, we hope that 2023 will be productive and rewarding.

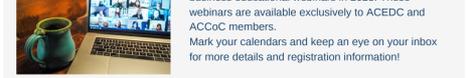
With the start of the new year comes the start of another legislative biennium. The 2023 and 2024 sessions will be impacted by several factors. First, the 2022 Reapportionment Process reallocated Vermont's 30 senators and 150 representatives to many new House and Senate Districts for the November 2022 election. Because of this and many retirements, there will be a lot of fresh faces under the golden dome as half the House committee chairs, 20% of the House members, and about a third of the Senate have been replaced. Much education and re-education will be required as members come up to speed on issues of concern to the business community. Finally, the change in personnel will be matched by a vastly different funding environment with the absence of federal COVID recovery funds and, potentially, without a large education fund surplus.

The legislative leadership's priorities for 2023 session are expected to include:

- Minimum Wage Increase
- Paid Family & Medical Leave
- Early Childhood Care and Education Investments
- Increased funding for subsidized and affordable housing
- Act 250 Modernization
- Global Warming Solutions Act Implementation
- Increase in the Renewable Energy Standard
- Pension Funds
- Universal School Meals Funding
- Child Tax Credit Funding
- Bottle Bill Expansion
- Rental Compliance Enforcement Funding
- Post-ARPA Funding for TANF, LIHEAP, and Fare-free Transit

These priorities come with substantial price tags. While the business community supports many of the intended outcomes of these policy changes and investments, ACEDC will be advocating for broad participation in the solutions to finance the changes. This will require a balanced discourse on the desire to spend with the ability to pay. While public investments are necessary, the business community alone cannot bear the full cost of the solutions and cannot support implementation of costly solutions all at once. We can likely agree on the top issues facing our state, find balanced solutions, and work together to find common ground on how to pay for them if the burden is fairly imposed.

ACEDC will be watching the legislative session closely and advocating on behalf of Addison County businesses. If you have a strong interest in any issues listed above or others that may arise, please let us know. We will be looking for help making the case on certain issues. We may call on you to testify or contact our delegation. ACEDC members receive our weekly legislative report each Friday. Click here for a list of the Addison County Legislative Delegation with contact information.



[Watch our Year End Video on YouTube!](#)

ACEDC News

2023 Business Educational Webinar Series



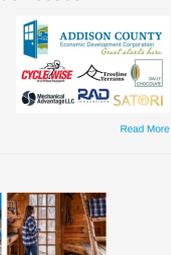
ACEDC and the Addison County Chamber of Commerce will once again be hosting a series of business educational webinars in 2023. These webinars are available exclusively to ACEDC and ACCOC members.

Mark your calendars and keep an eye on your inbox for more details and registration information!

[Read More](#)

ACEDC Impact

Since 2018, ACEDC has directly obtained, or assisted, to bring over \$4.6 million in Federal and State grants and loans to Addison County. Thanks to the GIS expertise of Hannah Andrew at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, you can track ACEDC impact by type of project or location. Check out the ACEDC Impact map here.



Also, check out ACEDC's Success Stories here. View our year-end video here.

2022 ACEDC Annual Meeting



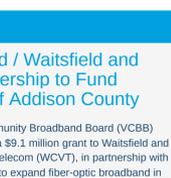
ACEDC held its Annual Meeting of the Membership at the Middlebury Inn on November 4, 2022. Dani Douglas, Research & Policy Associate at the Center on Rural Innovation, delivered the keynote address on tech-based economic development in rural communities.

A video of the meeting along with presentation slides and the 2022 Impact Report are available in the Members Only section of our website. (You will need to be logged in to access this material.)

[Read More](#)

ACEDC Wins \$53,000 in Economic Development Grants for Six Addison County Businesses

The Addison County Economic Development Corporation was awarded \$52,760 for six Addison County businesses through the Building Communities Grant Program for projects in Bristol, Cornwall, Middlebury, New Haven, and Vergennes.



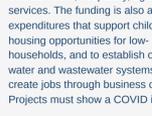
[Read More](#)

48 Hours in Addison County



Earlier this year, the **Addison County Regional Marketing Partnership** – a collaboration between the Addison County Economic Development Corporation, Addison County Chamber of Commerce, the Better Middlebury Partnership, the Vergennes Partnership, and Bristol Core – launched a multi-season, comprehensive digital marketing campaign. The campaign aims to encourage a wide diversity of tourists from the Albany Capital Region, New York City, and Boston drive markets to visit Addison County. The campaign is funded, in part, by a Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, Tourism & Recovery Grant. Check out the Winter campaign [HERE](#). One of the more challenging parts of this campaign is tracking our success - that's where you come in! As a local business and community member, we need your help sharing your tourist/customer traffic observations and experiences. Please go to this link to complete a short survey that will help us gather some data: https://corevtsmnhvtgmzts9bt.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eD480JBLM0LuGi Thank you in advance!

Canadian Trade Delegation Meeting



Fred Kenney, ACEDC Executive Director, joined State officials to welcome a Canadian trade delegation to Hula in Burlington on October 4th.

About the event: [ACCD Welcomes Montreal Area Businesses and Entrepreneurs to Vermont](#)

Welcome To Our Newest Member:

JPW Accounting Services



Have you updated your member profile on ACEDC's website? We would like our member directory to be a useful resource for everyone, but we need your help! We would greatly appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to provide some basic information about your business. We have prepared a [video tutorial](#) and [written instructions](#) to guide you through the process.

If you have any questions or issues as you complete this process, please reach out to Barbara Richardson, ACEDC Office Manager, at brichardson@addisoncountycdec.org or 802-388-7953 ext. 2.

Thank you for your support and participation.

Our Members & Partners in the News

\$9.1M Grant to Maple Broadband / Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom Partnership to Fund Broadband Expansion in Parts of Addison County

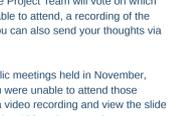


The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) recently approved a \$9.1 million grant to Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT), in partnership with Maple Broadband, to expand fiber-optic broadband in parts of Addison, Bridport, Ferrisburgh, New Haven, Pantton, Waltham, and Weybridge. The source of the grant funding is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

This project will extend WCVT's fiber-to-the-home network to approximately 2,000 additional customers in parts of Addison County in the Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom service area. The network is capable of delivering broadband speeds of up to 1 Gigabyte.

[Read More](#)

Congratulations to Co-operative Insurance Companies on being named "small company of the year" for 2021 by North American Insurance Alliance.



Business Resources

Registration Open for International Export Trainings

Vermont businesses may now register for a series of international trade trainings conducted by export expert Mike Aliocca of Aliocca Enterprises. Four separate training programs scheduled in 2023 will cover international documentation and export compliance. The trainings are all virtual and take place on Tuesdays from 10am-12pm. A separate registration is required for each training and costs \$50 per session.

- International Documentation - January 24, 2023 - [Register Here](#)
- HTS/Schedule B Classification - February 7, 2023 - [Register Here](#)
- Export Compliance - April 18, 2023 - [Register Here](#)
- Export Compliance 201 - May 9, 2023 - [Register Here](#)

This training series is coordinated by the Department of Economic Development and the U.S. Commercial Service and funded in part through the State Trade Expansion Program (STEP), a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration. For more information about the trainings or about STEP, contact Daegan Goodman@vermont.gov.

Community Recovery and Revitalization Program

Community Recovery and Revitalization Program grants are available to for-profit, nonprofit, and municipal applicants. The funding is intended for projects making capital improvements or capital expansions that spur economic recovery and revitalization in communities across the state. Eligible projects may include those that assist industries most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic such as arts and entertainment, hospitality, agriculture, and educational services. The funding is also available for capital expenditures that support childcare and affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households, and to establish or improve municipal water and wastewater systems to build housing or create jobs through business creation and expansion. Projects must show a COVID impact.



[Read More](#)

Short Term Forgivable Loan Program



The Short Term Forgivable Loan Program application is open to all business sectors. Businesses with fewer than 500 employees, operating since March 13, 2020, and suffering economic harm from COVID-19 may apply.

As of November 1, 2022, the program is open to all business sectors.

For application and guidelines visit the [VEDA website](#).

Creative Futures Grant Program

Round 2 of the Creative Futures Grant Program opens January 5, 2023.



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.

This program is open to all Vermont-based creative economy nonprofits and for-profit businesses including sole proprietors that can demonstrate economic harm caused by or exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Read More](#)

A Special BONUS round of funding for the Downtown and Village Center tax credit program!

In January 2023, during this special round of funding, \$800,000 in state income tax credits will be competitively available to projects that enhance the historic character and improve building safety of older and historic commercial and community buildings in these designated communities. The credits support general rehabilitation work, code compliance work, facade improvements, and flood mitigation projects, and may be combined with the federal program. Applications for the next round of tax credits are due Monday, January 16, 2023.

[Read More](#)

Trade Show Assistance Grants

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)'s Trade Show Assistance Grants provide Vermont agricultural and forestry businesses with funds to identify, plan, exhibit, and sell their Vermont products at out-of-state trade shows or virtual shows targeting out-of-state buyers. These matching grants can mitigate the financial risks associated with exhibiting at trade shows, which provide excellent opportunities to network with wholesale buyers.

[Read More](#)

State of Vermont Seeking Feedback on Voluntary Paid Leave Program

Governor Phil Scott recently announced the Vermont Family and Medical Leave Insurance Plan (VT-FMLI), the state's first voluntary paid leave program that will give all working Vermonters access to affordable paid family and medical leave insurance by 2025. The program will be available to employers with two or more employees beginning July 1, 2024. Employers may choose from several plan options to best support the needs of their business and employees, including flexibility to create their own plan, or they can buy the base (6 weeks of pay at 60%) and provide more leave for employees if they so choose.

The Department of Economic Development is collecting feedback from employers about the business community's interest in participating. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey.

Isley 100 Public Meetings

Achieving our community's vision for a new library will require a major facilities project, and the Isley 100 Project Team has been exploring four different options to address these facility needs. The Project Team developed a list of the pros and cons for each of these options, and worked with a cost estimator to obtain rough estimates for each option. The Project Team would like to share this information with the community and solicit feedback. In January the Project Team will hold two public meetings, one in person and one remote:

- Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 pm in the library's Community Meeting Room
- Friday, January 20th at 12:00 pm via Zoom (link to Zoom info here: <https://vts021ea.zoom.us/j/91962472631>).

After receiving and considering community feedback, the Project Team will vote on which option to recommend to the Select Board. If you are unable to attend, a recording of the Zoom meeting will be posted on the library's website. You can also send your thoughts via email to dana.bart@isleypubliclibrary.org.

These public meetings are a follow up to a series of public meetings held in November, dedicated to the vision for the new library building. If you were unable to attend those meetings, but would like to learn more, you may watch a video recording and view the slide deck here: <https://www.isleypubliclibrary.org/about-us/isley-100-project-team/>

Employment, Training and Education Opportunities

Vermont 9-12 grade students & educators are invited to participate in the **2023 Virtual Vermont Entrepreneurs Day** Thursday, February 9, 2023 (morning) free

2023 Theme: "Vermont Entrepreneurs... Tell Your Story"

- Hear from an amazing panel of young enterprising VT entrepreneurs
- Learn how to communicate & tell your story
- Governor's proclamation for Vermont Entrepreneurship Week!
- Check out the visual media competition submissions & more!

Prior to the event, students have the option to enter the Visual Media Competitions in one or both categories: Bumper Stickers & Mini-YouTube Videos - win cash prizes! Submission entry deadline is January 10, 2023

Event details & competition guidelines: <https://www.vtsbdc.org/specialty-services/youth-entrepreneurship/> or contact: Laurel Butler – lbutler@vtsbdc.org

Brought to you by: Vermont Small Business Development Center - Vermont District Office - U.S. Small Business Administration - Vermont Career and Technical Student Organizations - Vermont Business Education Corps - & others

[Visit our website for a current list of job opportunities](#)

Job Fairs

Vermont Department of Labor #Hiring2DayVT Virtual Job Fairs

Weekly VT DoL Virtual Workshops

Resume Writing Workshop - Mondays at 9am

Regional Employment Connections - Mondays at 1pm

Interviewing Skills - Tuesdays at 9am

Re-Employment Strategies - Wednesdays at 9am

Resume Writing Workshop - Wednesdays at 1pm

Interviewing Skills - Fridays at 1pm

Highlighted Partner: Addison County/Relocalization Network (ACORN)

ACORN's mission is to promote the growth and health of local food and agriculture in Vermont's Champlain Valley.

ACEDC is working with ACORN on the development of a Food Hub for Addison County. The ACORN Food Hub, located in Middlebury, offers local supply chain support to aggregate, market, and distribute food products from producers and farms around Vermont's Champlain Valley.

Ordering through the ACORN Food Hub helps to increase access to nutritious, local food to everyone by making it easier for wholesale buyers (restaurants, retail stores, colleges, universities, grocery stores, local schools, hospitals, and farm stands) to source and provide local products to the community.

Recent Articles about the ACORN Food Hub:

[New Addison County Online Market Connects Local Producers and Wholesale Buyers - Seven Days](#)

[New food hub opens on Exchange Street - Addison Independent](#)

Addison County Economic Development Corporation
1590 Route 7 South, Suite 8, Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 389-7953
Email: info@addisoncountycdec.org
Website: www.addisoncountycdec.org

ACEDC activities are made possible, in part, by a grant from the State of Vermont through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Loan programs are made possible by USDA/Rural Development. ACEDC is an equal opportunity service provider and lender, with all services and funds available on a non-discriminatory basis.

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