

**Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships
Evaluation Rubric
Fall 2024 Funding Cycle**

When scoring, reviewers will assign points from a scale of 1 (lowest score) to 5 (highest score).

Objective	Description	Letter of Intent	Full Proposal
Engage in a partnership with the University of Vermont and its students, faculty, and resources.	Does the proposed partnership integrate explicit partners within the UVM network? This can include faculty, research centers/institutes, and university offices.	5-The letter of intent clearly expresses how the applicants seek to partner with UVM. 1-The letter of intent does not express a relevant partnership potential.	5-The proposal clearly expresses how the applicants seek to partner with UVM. 1-The proposal displays no clear partnership potential.
	Does the proposed partnership plan for the inclusion of students, either through internships, participation in service-learning courses, or other opportunities for UVM students?	5-The letter of intent clearly expresses how student engagement is incorporated into the partnership. 1-The letter of intent does not articulate how student engagement applies to the proposed partnership.	5-The proposal clearly expresses how student engagement is incorporated into the partnership by including at least one Student Engagement Attachment (see FAQ #8 for details). 1-The proposal does not articulate how student engagement applies to the proposed partnership.
Align with Leahy Institute for Rural Partnership themes.	Does the proposed partnership align with one or more of the eight Leahy Institute priority focus areas?	5 - The letter of intent aligns with one or more of the Leahy Institute’s thematic areas and articulates an innovative approach to problem-solving in that area. 1-The letter of intent does not clearly articulate alignment with at least one Leahy Institute focus area.	5 - The proposal aligns with one or more of the Leahy Institute’s thematic areas and articulates an innovative approach to problem-solving in that area. 1-The proposal does not clearly articulate alignment with at least one Leahy Institute focus area.
Show a deep understanding of what is challenging Vermont’s rural communities and economies and propose impactful solutions.	What is the intended impact on the rural communities targeted through the proposal? What is the impact at the community level, county level, state level in Vermont?	5 – The letter of intent clearly identifies the problem and proposes a relevant, impactful solution. 1-The letter of intent does not clearly articulate a problem and solution and	5-The proposal clearly identifies the different impacts that the partnership will have for diverse stakeholders and considers the effects on the larger community. 1-The proposal does not clearly articulate intended

	Who are the recipients of anticipated outcomes?	is vague on who will be impacted.	outcomes and is vague in who is impacted.
<i>Consider principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in project outcomes and evaluation.</i>	Does the proposed partnership incorporate principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice into the intended outcomes?	5- The letter of intent aligns strongly with principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. 1-The letter of intent does not address principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.	5- The proposal clearly articulates how the partners plan to incorporate principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in their programming. 1-The proposal does not meaningfully incorporate these principles.
<i>Demonstrate feasibility and scalability in project design.</i>	Is this project feasible? Does the project have strong potential for creating lasting partnerships that positively impact rural communities in Vermont?	5- The letter of intent clearly identifies how the partnership will achieve its intended outcomes. 1-The letter of intent does not clearly state how outcomes will be accomplished.	5- The proposal clearly identifies how the partnership will achieve its intended outcomes and identifies potential challenges with accompanying solutions. 1-Evidence of the proposal's intended impacts and challenges is vague and unclear.
	Does the proposed partnership and its outcomes show significant potential for funding leverage, activity, or participation beyond the Leahy Institute funding? Does the proposal include plans for future funding opportunities to sustain the work?	5-The letter of intent identifies a future for the project, and how Leahy Institute funds may be leveraged. 1-The letter of intent does not include a clear growth plan.	5-The proposal includes a clear growth trajectory, including additional sources of funding, additional partnerships, and possible replicability of programming. 1-The proposal does not include a clear growth plan.