



University of Vermont

Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships

Seed Grant Program, Spring 2024 Cycle

The Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships announced in February 2024 a total of 13 grants totaling over \$1.7 million to support partnership projects around the state.

Professional and Continuing Education (PACE)

Vermont Local Government Institute

Amount: \$28,985

This program helps new and mid-career municipal managers, assistant managers, and department supervisors, and career-changers new to local government gain the essential skills to lead their teams and support their communities.

Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering (VASE) and UVM College of Engineering and Mathematics

STEM Mentors in Rural Communities

Amount: \$10,000

VASE is partnering with the Leahy Institute to support rural communities by providing small stipends (~\$1K) to STEM mentors to boost awareness of science, technology, engineering and math.

UVM College of Education and Social Services

Leveraging the Vermont Community Schools Research-Practice-Partnership

Amount: \$300,000

This project is a dynamic collaboration, designed to enhance, support, and study the implementation and sustainability of the community school model in Vermont.

UVM Institute for Agroecology

Seeding Partnerships for Agroecological Transitions in the NEK

Amount: \$299,762

This project links organizations that are promoting thriving food and agricultural systems with the aim of increasing collective impact to promote agroecological food systems and just transitions.

UVM Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (EDLP)

Creating a Vermont Rural Education Hub Amount:

Amount: \$10,000

This project aims to catalyze a partnership between EDLP, the Vermont Rural Education Consortium (VREC), and the National Rural Education Association (NREA) to create the organization, infrastructure, and leadership to connect rural educators and administrators across the state.

Ethiopian Community Development Council of Vermont (ECDCVT)

The "Rural Renewal through Resettlement" Initiative

Amount: \$250,000

This partnership with the Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships will explore whether the Ethiopian Community Development Council's accomplishments related to case management services, employment-related support, temporary housing, English language learning, and cultural orientation for refugees arriving in Southern Vermont can be relevant for other communities across the country.

Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO)

System Optimization and LiDAR for Vermont Energy Resilience (SOLVER)

Amount: \$269,482

This partnership will provide mapping and analysis of Vermont's electric grid to build resiliency to climate threats and capacity to handle more renewable energy.

UVM Center for Biomedical Innovation

Development of Public Self-Service Healthcare Technologies for Rural Settings: Planning and Partnership Building

Amount: \$10,000

This project explores new health-checking technologies that could be made available in rural settings on a self-service basis.

NEK Biosciences, LLC

Commercializing the CorioGraft Wound Healing Gel

Amount: \$10,000

This project will support exploration of research partnerships with UVM and other rural- focused organizations related to a technology to support better healing of hoof wounds in dairy cows.

Burlington Bio

The Whey Forward: Recapturing Nutrients from Dairy Production Waste

Amount: \$200,000

This partnership research project explores the diversion of dairy processing waste from our waterways and soil and recapturing and transforming it into nutritious food products through valorization.

Town of Stowe Electric Department

Enhancing the Little River

Amount: \$10,000

This pilot project will help to mobilize a statewide campaign to mitigate invasive knotweed and replenish Vermont waterbodies with healthy, native vegetation for future flood prevention.

UVM Extension*Migrant Health Initiative*

Amount: \$200,000

This project will help to strengthen and adapt the Community Health Worker program to better address health inequities among the growing number of non-agricultural Spanish speaking migrant and immigrant households moving into Vermont's rural communities.

Windham Regional Commission and the Town of Jericho*Vermont Wastewater Infrastructure Mapping* Amount:

\$137,750

This project provides systematic mapping of available wastewater infrastructure data on a town-by-town basis for the state of Vermont, and it brings together community and professional perspectives through outreach and engagement activities to understand the relationship between wastewater infrastructure and economic activity and housing development.