

# Regional and Local Impact (RALI) 2021

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*Vermont Community Foundation*

## *Regional and Local Impact Grants Overview*

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The Regional and Local Impact (RALI) grant program is an invitation-only place-based grant program. We are looking for ideas that are generated with community engagement that address directly one or more of our four strategic focus areas of the Opportunity Gap frame. Preference will be given to those projects that can show readiness, capacity, collaboration, knowledge of best practices and evaluation necessary for their strategy to be successful.

The Opportunity Gap framework for grantmaking has four focus areas:

- Early Care and Learning
- Career and College Training
- Support for Youth and Families
- Community and Economic Vitality

Successful RALI applications will be able to indicate both the focus area(s), and the tactics or methods that the project will use to serve their community, or population. Applicants must also specify the process used to identify the community need for the project, as well as outline an outreach and engagement strategy over the course of the project. Projects that leverage other sources of capital and show collaboration will be prioritized.

You will see that there are many tactics in each of the four Opportunity Gap focus areas. We welcome questions and conversations with grantseekers in advance of your final submission of your application, to assist as needed.

The Regional and Local Impact program priorities for the 2021 grantmaking cycle are projects focusing on:

- youth supports outside of school
- innovative workforce development strategies
- building a robust civic structure/ civic engagement strategies

**Please feel free to contact the Grants and Community Investments team at [grants@vermontcf.org](mailto:grants@vermontcf.org) to discuss your concepts prior to starting your application.**

### **HELPFUL HINTS:**

- In some places, we have eliminated character limits, but that does NOT mean you need to use all 5,000 characters. Use your character count to best describe your work, the beneficiaries, workplan, and collaboration.
- Be sure to SAVE your work frequently, as the system will log out after 90 minutes of inactivity.
- The size of text boxes can be adjusted by dragging on the lower right corner.
- Create a PDF version of your application via the “Application Packet” button at the top of the page. All content and attachments will be included.

We are looking for proposals between \$10,000 and \$25,000, and will ask you to include your partner organizations, your region, your goals, as well as your project beneficiaries. We would also like to understand the overall size of your project, your budget needs, and your other sources of revenue or support. It is also important to note that to be considered for a VCF RALI grant, any previous grant reports and financial materials must be fully submitted to VCF.

## *Request Summary*

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### **Project Name\***

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Amount Requested\***

Minimum \$10,000 / Maximum \$25,000

*Character Limit: 20*

### **Project Summary\***

Briefly summarize what your organization(s) hope to accomplish and how.

*Character Limit: 500*

### **Partner Organization(s)\***

Provide a list of all partner organizations that are actively working and learning with you in this project or program. If you are the only formal participating organization, write N/A.

*Character Limit: 800*

### **Geographic Focus\***

Please indicate if this this program or project has a statewide or county-wide impact by checking the relevant boxe(s).

#### **Choices**

Statewide

Addison County

Bennington County

Caledonia County

Chittenden County  
Essex County  
Franklin County  
Grand Isle County  
Lamoille County  
Orange County  
Orleans County  
Rutland County  
Washington County  
Windham County  
Windsor County

### Strategic Focus Area\*

Which strategic focus area(s) does your program or project serve? Read about our strategic focus areas by [clicking here](#).

#### Choices

Early care and learning  
College and career training  
Support for youth and families  
Community vitality and opportunity

## *Your Project or Program*

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### What is the end goal of this project?\*

What change do you hope to see in your community as a result of this project or program? Be as specific and concrete as possible.

*Character Limit: 1200*

### Please describe the community or region that will be impacted by this work\*

What are the challenges? What assets does it have to make this project or program successful?

*Character Limit: 1200*

### Development Stage\*

Which of the following best describes the stage of development of your project or idea?

#### Choices

Brainstorm/research stage  
Design stage  
Pilot implementation stage  
Scaling/replication/expansion stage

### How did you (and your partners, if relevant) determine the goals of this project?\*

What specific strategies did you use to identify community need? Who participated in making these decisions? How did you bring these decision-makers together to set these goals?

*Character Limit: 1200*

**Who will benefit from the project?\***

What populations are you serving? How does this project increase access and opportunity for individuals experiencing financial and other life stresses in the community you are serving?

*Character Limit: 1200*

**How many individuals will be directly impacted by this project?**

In the following questions, please provide an estimate for each of the age ranges listed. We understand that estimating may be particularly challenging for some projects. Please share your best guess in the form of a numeric integer. If you are not serving the age range please enter a zero.

**Birth to Five Years\***

*Character Limit: 6*

**K12 School Age (5-18)\***

*Character Limit: 6*

**Post-High School (19-24)\***

*Character Limit: 6*

**Adults (25 and older)\***

*Character Limit: 6*

**What will success look like?\***

Please provide both qualitative and quantitative indicators.

*Character Limit: 1200*

**Describe your workplan, including tactics, strategies, and activities you will use?\***

Please explain the overall timeline for your project as well as the specific steps required to achieve your goals and when they will happen. Please list specific dates if they've been identified. We would also like to know the need that your project addresses, who is involved and how they will be impacted.

*Character Limit: 1200*

**Tell us a story that demonstrates the need for this project.**

At the VCF, we are often sharing the impact and the activities of our grantees with partners and other funders. If you have a story about this project that inspires and educates, or that paints a personal picture of impact, please share it with us so that we may help raise the profile of your work. Example responses to this question can be found on our Online Grants FAQ by clicking [here](#). Your response may be shared with other funders.

*Character Limit: 1200*

## Your Organization

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**Provide a brief description of the organization's mission and key programs.\***

*Character Limit: 900*

### **Organizational Budget\***

What is your total organizational budget (total expenses) for the current fiscal year?

*Character Limit: 20*

**If you are showing a deficit in any of your financial documents attached below, please tell us why.**

*Character Limit: 300*

**What status best describes your organization?\***

#### Choices

Municipal entity (i.e., town, public school, or other municipal department or agency)

Registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit

Place of worship or religious group

Other - Please provide details in your answer to the next question.

**If you answered "other," please explain your organization's status: (IF APPLICABLE)**

For example, if your organization has a fiscal sponsor -- or if it operates under the umbrella of a larger registered nonprofit -- provide the name of that organization or any other details.

*Character Limit: 200*

### **Fiscal Sponsor Agreement (IF APPLICABLE)**

Our grants must be paid to a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, place of worship/religious group, or town/municipal agency. If your organization or group does not fall into one of these categories, you will need to use a fiscal sponsor. Download a blank **Fiscal Sponsor Agreement form** (*click on the blue words for the download link*) and forward it to your fiscal sponsor to print, fill out, and sign. If you have questions, please contact 802-388-3355 ext. 222.

**Upload a scanned copy of your signed Fiscal Sponsor Agreement below.**

***You must use the official VCF Fiscal Sponsor Agreement form.***

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

## Project Budget

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The Vermont Community Foundation strives to provide needed funding up to \$25,000 for selected RALI projects, however full funding of projects cannot be guaranteed.

**Project Budget (total expenses)\***

What is the total budget for your project?

*Character Limit: 20*

**Project Budget (REQUIRED ATTACHMENT)\***

Attach a copy of your itemized project budget using our budget template form available [clicking here](#). You should include both expenses and revenue, and indicate whether revenue is pending or secured.

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

**How will you raise the resources needed to complete this project?\***

*Character Limit: 900*

**How will you prioritize project activities if you are unable to raise the full project budget?\***

*Character Limit: 900*

**Two-Year Funding (OPTIONAL)**

A two-year commitment may be considered for proven programs whose proposals include compelling evidence that multi-year support will catalyze greater change, leverage greater funds and/or leadership, enhance program impact, and promote longer-term program sustainability. If seeking two-year funding, please provide such evidence and justification below. We strongly encourage proposals seeking two-year funding to discuss this request with a VCF staff person prior to proposal submission

*Character Limit: 800*

**Budget Narrative (OPTIONAL)**

Use this space to provide any additional information to help us understand your project budget and sources of income.

*Character Limit: 900*

## *Other Attachments*

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**Balance Sheet (REQUIRED ATTACHMENT)\***

Upload a copy of the lead organization's balance sheet for the most recently completed fiscal year. Examples are available online at our FAQ page here.

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

**Profit/Loss Statement (REQUIRED ATTACHMENT)\***

Upload a copy of the lead organization's Profit/Loss statement for the most recently completed fiscal year. Examples are available online at our FAQ page here.

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

You may attach up to two letters of support from partner organizations, community members, or program beneficiaries.

## Letters of Support 1

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

## Letter of Support 2

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

## Attach a Photograph (OPTIONAL)

When we share a proposal with other potential funders, it can be very helpful and inspiring to have an image to accompany it. Images of people engaged in activities similar to those in your proposal can help connect the readers to the impact and value of your project in a deeper way. Compelling images can be very influential in motivating funders to support a project. Your Photograph may be used in conjunction with your application and shared with other potential funders. *Please attach Your Photograph in a .jpg file that is a minimum of 100KB and a maximum of 3MB.*

*File Size Limit: 3 MB*

## Photograph License and Release (IF APPLICABLE)

If you are attaching a photograph, please indicate your acceptance of the terms below:

*You hereby grant to the Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) an unrestricted license to use and publish Your Photograph in VCF communications material in any and all manner and media. You hereby represent that you have permission to grant these rights (please make sure you have a signed photo release on file for any identifiable subjects in the photograph you submit). You hereby release the VCF and its employees from any and all claims and/or liability related to Your Photograph.*

### Choices

I agree

I do not agree

## Photo Caption or Credit (OPTIONAL)

*Character Limit: 100*

## *Save and Submit*

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**Please double check all attachments and text answers before submitting your application.**

*By submitting your application to the Vermont Community Foundation, you give us permission to share your application with other potential funders, both individuals and foundations.*

