

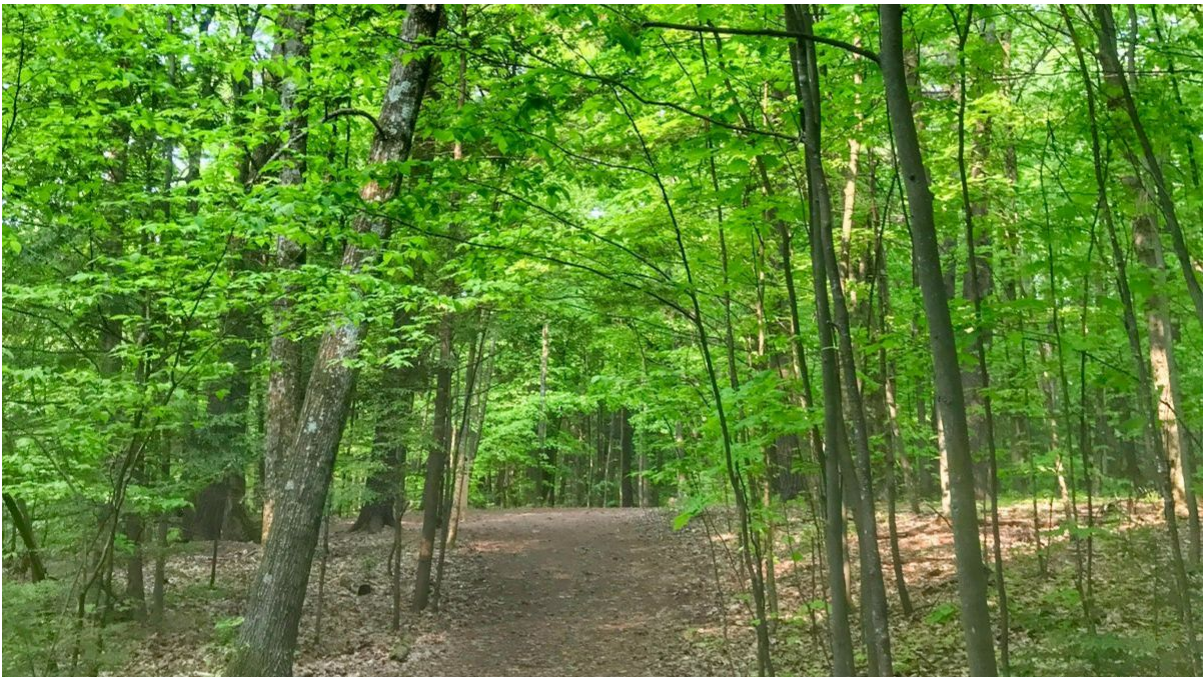
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GBIC

Good Jobs In A Clean Environment

Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation Summer 2022 Newsletter



The GBIC team is pleased to provide you with the following information and news regarding economic development in Chittenden County, Vermont. If you have any questions, ideas, or advice please be in touch. My email address is: frank@vermont.org.
-Frank Cioffi, GBIC President

West Central Vermont CEDS now available for review & comments

A draft CEDS is now available for review at CEDS Draft Material — West Central Vermont CEDS (westcentralvt.org) and we are soliciting your feedback!

Feedback can be provided a few ways: -

- Via email to info@westcentralvt.org
 - Via Konveio, an online platform used to collect and aggregate public comment.
- A brief video available at <https://www.westcentralvt.org/ceds-draft-material> provides

an overview of the intent and purpose of the West Central Vermont CEDS. Other available videos provide a review of our public engagement process, key findings, and review of proposed goals and actions.

Please keep in mind that the Vermont Professionals of Color Network are hosting community conversations with the BIPOC business community to help inform this plan. This feedback is happening over the summer and will be incorporated into the Plan in September. Some additional information about the West Central Vermont CEDS:

What is the West Central Vermont Region?

The West Central Vermont Region includes Addison County, Central Vermont (Washington County and three Orange County towns), Chittenden County, and Rutland County.

What is a CEDS?

A CEDS is strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. CCRPC, GBIC, and our partners have developed a draft CEDS for West Central Vermont that meets the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's (EDA) requirements.

Why develop a CEDS?

Adopting a CEDS helps set a strategic course for economic development efforts. An adopted CEDS can also open opportunities for additional Federal funding for economic development efforts and enables the creation of an Economic Development District (EDD).

How long is the public comment period open?

The public comment period will be open until August 12, 2022. Comments will then be aggregated, reviewed, and responded to by the West Central Vermont Strategy Committee in late August and early September 2022.

When will a Final CEDS be released?

The West Central Vermont Strategy Committee will release a Final CEDS in late September 2022. The Final CEDS will then be considered for adoption by the four regional development corporations and four regional planning commissions serving the West Central Vermont Region.

Where can I find more information?

For more information, please visit westcentralvt.org.

For questions or more information, contact info@westcentralvt.org.

Chittenden County ECOS Partnership Releases 2021 Annual Report: The State of Chittenden County

Winooski, VT – The Chittenden County ECOS Partnership has released its 2021 ECOS

Annual Report and online data Scorecard.

The ECOS Annual Report summarizes progress toward the goals set in the Chittenden County ECOS Plan, the combined Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Chittenden County. The ECOS Plan includes 17 broad goals and 8 key strategies for achieving those goals. ECOS stands for Environment, Community, Opportunity, Sustainability.

The 2021 ECOS Annual Report is the eighth edition. A few notable highlights include:

- **Demographics** | 99.7% of the population growth in Chittenden County over the last 10 years has been Hispanic (of any race), Black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Native Hawaiian. This equates to 11,746 of the 11,778 people from 2010-2020. This change in demographics is exciting as it brings a diversity of thought, ideas, and innovation to our region.

- **Annual Median Household Income** | In Chittenden County, Black and African American households earn less than half of White households. If there were wage equity in Vermont, our residents would be making over \$188 million dollars of more income, contributing that much more to the economy.

- **Homelessness** | As of January 2021, homelessness increased to 700 individuals (626 households), compared to 261 individuals (217 households) in 2020. This is the stark reality of mental health services pushed to a breaking point and a severe lack of housing. All data informing the Annual Report is found in the ECOS Scorecard, an interactive online platform that promotes easy access to the indicators that measure how Chittenden County is doing. To access the online platform and track how Chittenden County is doing year to year on a wide variety of topic areas, visit ecosproject.com.

Following the adoption of the ECOS Plan in 2013, the ECOS Partnership formed to keep the focus on implementation. The Partnership includes the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, the City of Burlington, Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation, Lake Champlain Chamber, United Way of Northwest Vermont, University of Vermont, University of Vermont Medical Center, and the Vermont Department of Health. The partners remain committed to working together to build upon collaborative successes and address areas of concern.

For more information, please contact Emma Vaughn: evaughn@ccrpcvt.org or (802) 861-0114.

**The Vermont Council on Rural Development
Community Leadership Summit
August 10th, 2022**

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is inviting Vermonters of all backgrounds who are working with a goal of improving life in their community to attend the [2022 Community Leadership Summit](#) on Wednesday, August 10, at Vermont Technical College. The Summit agenda will include skills workshops, networking opportunities, community project panels, and forum discussions.

Registration is now open for \$50 per person, with options available on the registration website for partial or no payment to register, if needed, by using promo code "PARTIAL" (for \$25) or "FRIEND" (for no cost) at checkout. This is an event that is meant to be accessible to all without financial barriers. The day includes a BBQ-style lunch and a Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Party to close.

This event will be an all-inclusive summit aiming to bring new and established voices together from across Vermont. Anyone who is serving on local commissions, taking the lead or taking a stand in their community, or who is engaged in advancing a positive future for their town, city, or state is encouraged to join the conversation. Speakers and participants will represent the full diversity of Vermont community members and leaders including youth, municipal leaders, community organizers and volunteers, people with lived experience with critical challenges facing our communities, experts and technical assistance providers, regional leaders, and more.

Register Now at <https://www.vtrural.org/Summit22>

Scott Announces \$57.9 Million Investment In Venture Capital For Vermont Entrepreneurs (VEDA)

Governor Phil Scott, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) and the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) today announced that Vermont will receive \$57.9 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to provide more access to capital for Vermont entrepreneurs and small business startups. Vermont's State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) program will include access to low interest loans and early-stage venture capital investments.

<https://vermontbiz.com/news/2022/july/18/scott-announces-579-million-investment-venture-capital-vermont-entrepreneurs>

Burlington Council Grants Beta A 75-Year Lease At Burlington International Airport

The Burlington City Council on Monday approved a 75-year [lease](#) at the Burlington International Airport for electric aviation startup Beta Tech.

[Learn More](#)

New Economic Assistance Programs

Short-Term Forgivable Loan Program (Sec.47): \$19,000,000 to VEDA to create a program offering forgivable loans to Vermont businesses and non-profits with fewer than 500 employees. 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 are 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. VEDA will forgive the loan when evidence is submitted showing that the loan was used to pay for eligible operating expenses. **This program is expected to open in early August, 2022.**

Creative Economy (Sec. 52b): \$9,000,000 to the Vermont Arts Council to provide grants for monthly operating costs, including rent, mortgage, utilities, and insurance, to creative economy businesses and nonprofits that have sustained substantial losses due to the pandemic.

Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant program (Sec. 46): \$10,580,000 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for grants to eligible businesses, non-profits, and municipalities. Grants of up to \$1,000,000 or 20% of total project cost. **This program is expected to open in the beginning of August, 2022.**

COVID-19 Paid Leave Grant Program (Secs. 54a): \$15,180,000.00 through the Department of Financial Regulation to reimburse employers for the cost of paid leave provided to employees between 7/1/22 and 6/30/23. Reimbursement is paid out at 100% of employee's hourly wage for up to 40 hours/employee or the employee's average weekly hours, whichever is less. Max grant per employee is \$21.25/hour and \$850.00 in the aggregate. Employers may also utilize money to retroactively provide paid leave to employees who did not have paid leave available when they were absent for a COVID-19-related reason.

Utilize the Vermont Training Program

The Vermont Training Program (VTP) is a valuable resource that helps Vermont employers to attract and retain skilled workers. VTP provides performance-based workforce grants for pre-employment training, training for new hires, and training for incumbent workers. This

training can either be on-site or offered through an outside provider. VTP grants may cover up to 50% of the training cost.

[Learn More](#)

About GBIC:

As the certified non-profit economic development corporation serving Chittenden County, GBIC is dedicated to implementing our vision of a thriving Lake Champlain region. This includes an economic environment providing meaningful employment consistent with an uncompromised natural environment, while enabling present and future generations of Vermonters to live, learn, work, and play in the Champlain Valley.

GBIC strives to attract, retain, and expand environmentally sensitive high-paying jobs in the Champlain Valley, and to initiate and support advocacy, education, and collaborative programs in promoting our Vision.

[Visit gbicvt.org](http://gbicvt.org)

GBIC Staff:



Frank Cioffi - President



Sam Andersen - Executive Vice
President



Curt Carter - Senior Vice President

Partners:

As the certified non-profit economic development corporation serving Chittenden County, GBIC is

- [Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#)
- [Department of Economic Development](#)
- [Vermont COVID Information](#)
- [Vermont COVID Recovery Resource and Grant Center](#)
- [Vermont Labor Market Information](#)
- [Vermont Economic Development Authority](#)
- [Vermont Employment Growth Incentive](#)
- [Vermont Training Program](#)
- [Vermont Community Development Program](#)
- [Vermont Center for Emerging Technology](#)
- [Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center](#)
- [Procurement Technical Assistance Center](#)
- [Efficiency Vermont](#)
- [Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission](#)

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