



# APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT MEETING

# HOUSEKEEPING

- This meeting is being recorded
- Technical Support:  
Caroline Zeilenga: 802-828-1534, [Caroline.Zeilenga@vermont.gov](mailto:Caroline.Zeilenga@vermont.gov)
- There will be time for Q&A at the end of the meeting – If you have questions before then, please use the chat

# AGENDA REVIEW


- Welcome and Introductions (11:30 a.m.)
- Breakout groups (11:35 a.m.)
- Application process review (12:10 p.m.)
- Q&A (12:30 p.m.)
- Next steps & Adjourn (12:50 p.m.)

# GRANT STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

- Jackie Dagger, VOREC Program Manager
- Jessica Savage, Recreation Programs Manager
- Kim Mckee, Grants Program Manager
- Caroline Zeilenga, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
- Sherry Winnie, Trail Grant Programs Manager



# BREAKOUT GROUPS

1. You will be sent to a breakout group.
  2. Grant program staff will lead introductions.
  3. Prospective applicants will be asked to share their name, organization, municipality(ies) and a brief sentence about their project.
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# **APPLICATION PROCESS REVIEW**



## 2021 GRANT PROGRAM

- Two step Letter of Interest and Application Invitation process.
- No match required.
- In total there is **\$5,100,000** in grant funding to help Vermont communities fully leverage their natural assets.
- VOREC aims to fund **25 projects** across the state in several “buckets” that include considerations for equity, regional/multi-community efforts as well as local/smaller efforts.
- To encourage partnerships and large-scale ideas, grants will be awarded to projects with a **minimum budget of \$50,000 or above with no maximum.**

# KEY GRANT DEADLINES

## **Application Deadlines**

- Friday, August 27 – Letters of Interest due
- Week of September 27 – FPR invites full applications from eligible projects
- Monday, November 15 – Full applications due



# LETTER OF INTEREST

- Linked on the VOREC Community Grant website (<https://fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/recreation-grants/vorec-community-grant-program>)
- What we'll be looking for:
  - Connections to the 5 pillars of VOREC.
  - Clear narrative about how your work connects to your community's natural outdoor recreation assets (e.g. forests, rivers, trails).
  - Clear narrative about how your work will improve and grow the economic vitality of your community.

## VOREC'S FIVE PILLARS

- Grow outdoor recreation-related businesses.
- Increase participation in outdoor recreation activities among all demographics.
- Strengthen the quality and extent of outdoor recreation resources.
- Increase stewardship of outdoor recreation resources and environmental quality.
- Promote and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation.

## LETTER OF INTEREST REVIEW

- Grant program staff and an internal ranking team will review letters of interest.
- Letters of interest will be evaluated on basic eligibility, support of VOREC's five pillars and their contribution to the economic vitality of the community.
- Projects will also be considered in three main buckets: regional projects, small local projects, and state-engaged economic impact studies.
- The team will be looking to invite full applications from the strongest project proposals across the identified buckets.
- The team will also be looking at the geographic location of projects and looking to invite full applications from projects across the state.

## FULL APPLICATION MATERIALS – ALL PROJECTS

- **Workplan:** Identify deliverables, work products and measurable outcomes
- **Letters of support:** Gather support from important community partners - could include businesses, municipal representatives, State agencies
- **Project map(s):** Will need to show the location of your project activities, important adjacent streets, nearby community resources, and nearby natural resources (e.g. forests, rivers, lakes)
- **Project budget:** Will need to show the project activity, amount requested, and any other funding committed (e.g. match or in-kind).

# FULL APPLICATION MATERIALS – CONSTRUCTION

- Landowner permission
- Project Review sheet

## WRITTEN LANDOWNER PERMISSION – PRIVATE LAND

- Easements, rights-of-way, or other public access covenants
- FPR developing template for written permission
  - 1-year agreement for grooming
  - 5-year agreement for signage, kiosks, annual maintenance, mapping, and educational information made available to the public
  - 10-year agreement new construction or major reconstruction/reroutes
- Permanent public easements are required for
  - Acquisitions
  - Capitol projects (e.g. bridges, pavilions/buildings, built facilities – these projects may have an easement for 20-30 years)

## WRITTEN LANDOWNER PERMISSION – PUBLIC (TOWN OR FEDERAL LAND)

- Written letters of landowner permission on letterhead
- Same timeframe requirements as landowner permission on private land

# PROJECT REVIEW SHEET

- Provided by the Department of Environmental Conservation
- Tool that documents the permits required to complete your project, including an Act 250 permit
- To learn more: <https://dec.vermont.gov/environmental-assistance/permits/specialists>





# Q&A



## NEXT STEPS

- ERSA Application Development Meeting – Thursday, August 5
- VOREC Application Development Meeting – Tuesday, August 10
- ERSA Application Development Meeting – Wednesday, August 11
- Letters of interest – Due by Friday, August 27
- Invitation to submit full application – Week of September 27

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Letter of Interest is available!**

<https://fpr.vermont.gov/vorec-community-grant-program>

**Contact**

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802-636-7410



**THANK YOU!**

