



e-Vermont Community Broadband Project

The e-Vermont Community Broadband Project is helping rural communities across Vermont optimize their use of broadband as a tool for economic development, education, social services, community connections, and civic engagement. A team of statewide partners will bring a variety of free services to selected applicants, including computers for elementary school classrooms, business advising, trainings and workshops for community members, library equipment, assistance in e-government and town website design, an online platform for community building, and other programs developed in response to specific local needs.

The e-Vermont Community Broadband Project is supported by a \$2.5 million stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce with additional support from Vermont philanthropists, corporations and organizational partners (a full list can be found at www.e4vt.org).

e-Vermont Goals:

- Increase civic involvement and build community
- Advance local government communications, efficiency, and transparency
- Promote local business innovation and prosperity
- Advance 21st Century learning in and out of school
- Support local use of the Internet in myriad ways to advance communications, education, and community projects.
- Eliminate a skills divide between Vermonters who do and do not know how to use online resources to reach individual, business, and community goals.

e-Vermont Actions:

In May 2010, e-Vermont welcomed its first round of 12 participating communities. These communities selected priority projects through a process of steering committee discussion and public input, and are receiving a year of e-Vermont support in implementing those priorities. Project overviews are available at www.e4vt.org in the “Communities” section. We strongly recommend reviewing these overviews to better understand the possibilities available through e-Vermont.

Communities chosen to participate in this final round of e-Vermont will receive assistance from a collaborative of organizations. The e-Vermont Partnership, led by the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), includes the VT State Colleges, the VT Department of Libraries, the VT Department of Public Service, VT Small Business Development Center, the Snelling Center for Government, Front Porch Forum, Digital Wish, and a network of local, regional and statewide partners dedicated to supporting community and business development. Descriptions of these partners' roles are available at www.e4vt.org. Please review and understand the role of each partner and the programs each provides to e-Vermont communities before writing your application.

The Vermont Council on Rural Development will lead communities through understanding e-Vermont goals and local needs, then help towns identify priority projects for the year of service provided by e-Vermont. The Vermont Council on Rural Development will work with local steering committees to implement all priority projects, including those not covered by the partners' existing programs.

Potential local actions supported by *e-Vermont* include:

- Upgrading (or creating) municipal websites to offer more e-government services such as podcasting council meetings, creating efficiency through online access to permits, and streamlining services through better integration with state government and online local business resources
- Providing hands-on training to local residents who are unfamiliar with social media, online communications, privacy online, and other key topics
- Enhancing the capabilities of local public access TV to better serve its communities
- Utilizing broadband resources to market an area's business advantages
- Strengthening the informal ways that residents communicate online
- Developing online guides to help both visitors and residents explore a local region
- Connecting citizens who cannot access broadband from home by bolstering public libraries' resources and creating downtown Wi-Fi districts.

Who can apply?

e-Vermont is looking for applications from town or community groups that will lead the way in building a strong local team to identify priorities, plan for implementation and help make resource decisions to advance Internet utilization and all its potential benefits in their locale. Specific criteria for evaluation are as follows:

- Compatibility with the application guidelines
- Community meets the federal definition of “rural” (towns with under 20,000 residents)
- Well-documented community understanding of and need for e-Vermont services
- Demonstrated past success in collaborative community projects
- Committed participation of representatives from (at a minimum): town government, school administration, library (if a public library is present in the town), and business community.
- Applications from multiple towns will *not* be accepted in this round.

How do towns apply?

The application questions and required cover sheet information are listed on the following page. Place the cover sheet, the narrative, and the letters of support into a single PDF or Word file and submit to:

Margaret McCoy at margaret@vtrural.org

Applications are due by 5:00 pm on November 17th

Decisions will be announced in mid-December.

Work in communities will begin in January, 2011.

Questions?

- If you have any questions about the application, please contact Helen Labun Jordan at (802) 225-6091.
- If you have questions specific to formatting or problems with submission, please contact Margaret McCoy at (802) 223-6091.



e-Vermont Application

Community Broadband Project

Applications are due by 5:00 pm on November 17th

Please limit your application to three pages plus cover sheet and letters of support.

Cover Sheet

The e-Vermont project provides a variety of services to each community. We need to know that the appropriate support exists locally to make full use of these services. Please fill out the cover sheet that clearly commits lead contact people for the e-Vermont initiative in your community, and the organizations / businesses they represent, for the following categories:

Overall Project Lead [REQUIRED]:

Name:	
Organization, if applicable:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Representative from Town Government [REQUIRED]:

Name:	
Position:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Principal for the School that will participate in Digital Wish

[REQUIRED to pre-designate which local school will receive services]

Name:	
School:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Business Leader [REQUIRED]:

Name:	
Company:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Librarian or Representative for the Public Library [RECOMMENDED – not required]:

Name:	
Library:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Any other community leaders who will participate in the local steering committee [UP TO 4 NAMES REQUIRED – more may be added later]

Name:	
Organization, if applicable:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Name:	
Organization, if applicable:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Name:	
Organization, if applicable:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Name:	
Organization, if applicable:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Application Questions

Please provide answers to the following questions, up to three total pages in length.

1. Briefly describe core goals your community has for the e-Vermont project – descriptions should address existing needs and how e-Vermont services will make the difference in moving projects forward to meet these needs.

2. E-Vermont encourages communities to design projects in business development, civic engagement, and skills building for residents unfamiliar with online resources. In addition to the goals listed for Question #1, please describe any critical needs in these specific areas and organizations (even if informal) that might champion these types of projects.

3. E-Vermont is interested in your community's capacity to rally together around important projects. Please provide a few examples (2-3) of how your community has come together in the past to plan, complete, and sustain local projects.

Letters of Support

Please provide three (and no more than three) letters of support for your town's application to the e-Vermont Community Broadband Project.

We want thoughtful letters from community leaders. When reviewing these letters, the selection committee will be looking for:

- Understanding of the e-Vermont program
- Commitment to moving forward, and sustaining, the projects developed during the e-Vermont process
- Clear description of need for e-Vermont in your community

Please include contact information for each letter so that the selection committee may follow up as needed.

First Letter of Support:

Name:	
Organization, if applicable:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Second Letter of Support:

Name:	
Organization, if applicable:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Third Letter of Support:

Name:	
Organization, if applicable:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Submissions

Electronic submissions only. Please submit the cover sheet, application, and letters of support in a single Word or PDF file to: Margaret McCoy at margaret@vtrural.org

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