

USDA Rural Development / Vermont & New Hampshire

Built community resources
for **167,327**
people living in poverty



Housed
11,340
people



Created/saved
1,048
JOBS

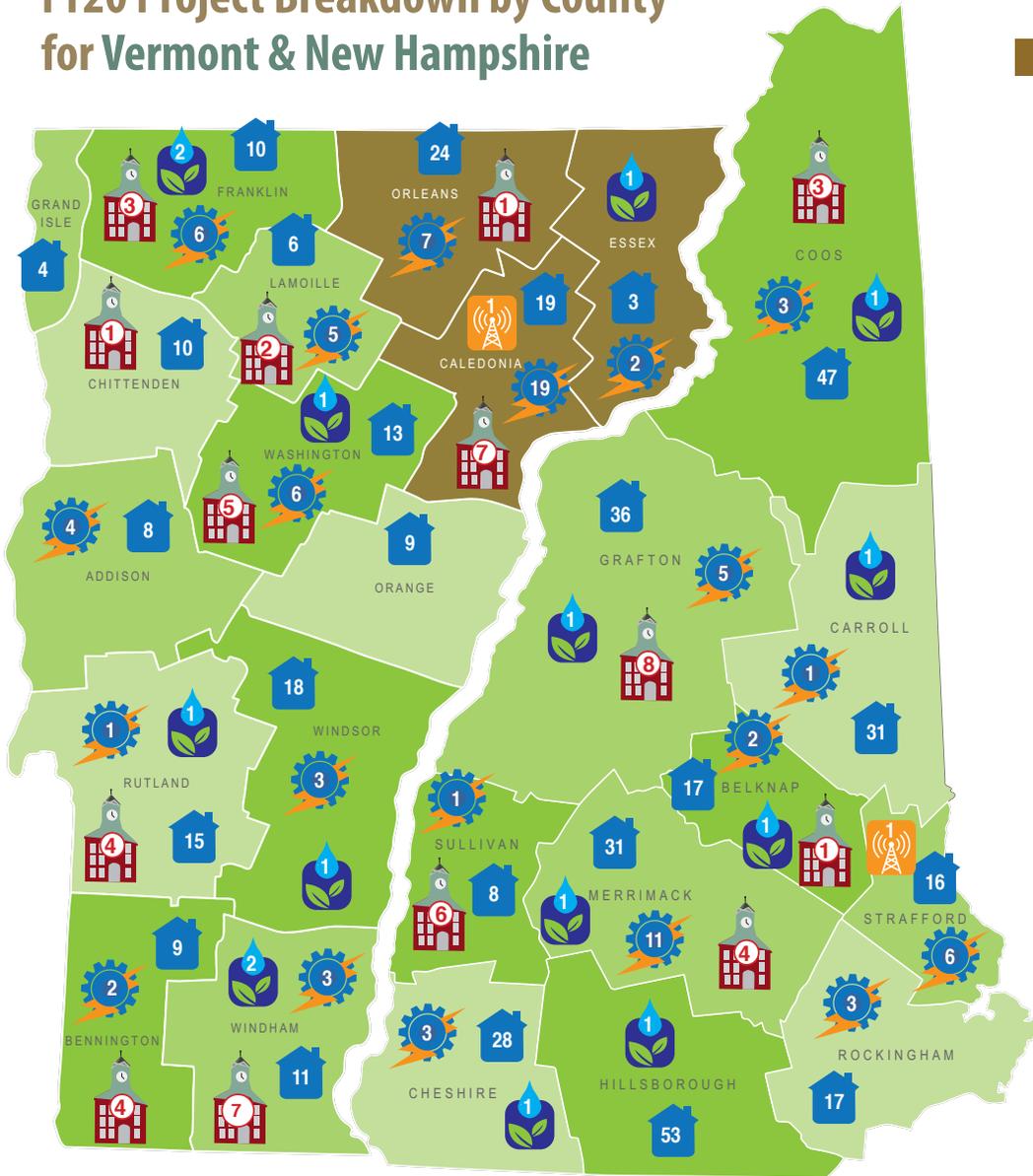


Engaged
322
communities



Committed to the future of rural communities

FY20 Project Breakdown by County for Vermont & New Hampshire



Vermont's Rural Economic Area Partnership Zone

Vermont's Northeast Kingdom is one of America's five Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones. In 2020, the region received **\$15,075,558** in RD funding.

Pandemic-Proof Impact: Despite COVID, RD Delivers

The coronavirus made 2020 an unforgettable year. It also made our mission more important than ever: low-income families and small towns are especially vulnerable to declines in personal and economic health the pandemic creates. RD met the crisis head on, injecting rural communities with record funds totaling **\$359,104,944**.

*Multi-family rental properties receiving rental assistance were counted as one project. Each multi-family rental property represents multiple families receiving Rural Development assistance.



BUSINESS & ENERGY



WATER & ENVIRONMENT



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



HOUSING



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

VERMONT

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
BUSINESS	\$ 7,190,593
HOUSING	\$ 84,077,476
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	\$ 67,933,227
WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL	\$ 18,416,000
TELECOM & ELECTRIC	\$ 465,697
TOTAL:	\$ 178,082,993

NEW HAMPSHIRE

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
BUSINESS	\$ 11,042,007
HOUSING	\$ 123,147,326
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	\$ 28,707,333
WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL	\$ 17,943,885
TELECOM & ELECTRIC	\$ 181,400
TOTAL:	\$ 181,021,951

Our Mission: USDA Rural Development is dedicated to increasing quality of life and creating economic opportunities for rural Americans.

Accessible Food, Happier Kids & Healthier Communities

Improving Schools to Nurture the Most Precious Natural Resource

Residents of Winooski, VT, made a strong statement when they approved **\$57.8 million** in loans from RD's Community Facilities program to build out and modernize the middle- and high-school campus: *We care about our kids and their education.* The people of Lebanon, NH, sent a similar message to the roughly 50 students at Ledyard Charter School who thrive in non-traditional learning programs. Their fund-raising efforts produced \$250,000 to accompany a **\$1.07 million** Community Facilities loan from RD. Funds will be used to purchase and renovate the commercial business space the school had been leasing for five years, converting it into safe, 21st century classroom environments.



Today's view and tomorrow's vision of Epping's renewable energy project.

Reducing Health Risks and Environmental Hazards with Clean Energy

In June 2016, the EPA issued an administrative order to Epping, NH, regarding toxic levels of environmental phosphorous, ammonia, nitrogen and arsenic. Two unlined lagoons used for wastewater and sludge were contaminating ground water and surface water, creating significant environmental and public health hazards for town residents and those downstream of the nearby Lamprey River. With help from **\$13 million** in funding through RD's Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant program, the lagoons will be decommissioned and transformed into a large solar array. Renewable solar energy will power Epping's wastewater treatment facility, offsetting its \$15K monthly energy bill.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

To help keep our communities viable, USDA Rural Development offers grants and loans at favorable rates and terms to town governments and non-profits that provide essential community services.



- ▶ Community Facility Grants and Loans
- ▶ Water and Environmental Programs
- ▶ Broadband and Distance Learning and Telemedicine Assistance
- ▶ Rural Community Development Initiative Grants

\$133,647,542

was invested in **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES** in Vermont and New Hampshire by RD in '20

Cover photos: Top: Community Programs Director Eric Law talks with Peabody Home Executive Director Meg Miller and healthcare consultant Roxie Severance about the senior-care facility's pending rebuild. **Middle:** State Director Anthony Linardos and Winooski School District Superintendent Sean McMannon review plans to modernize and expand the school campus. **Bottom left:** Calendula colors the rolling fields at Foster Farm Botanicals in Calais, Vermont, recipient of a Rural Energy for America Program grant to install solar panels. **Bottom right:** Housing specialist Janice Le Blanc presents Howard and Helen Gibney with an American Flag and welcome mat after a wood ramp to their house was built with funding from the 504 Home Repair Program.

Enhancing Food Distribution for Rural Americans in the Age of Covid

Ensuring consistent access to healthy food became a challenge for many rural Americans during the coronavirus pandemic. With help from a **\$500,000** Community Facilities Disaster Grant, the Vermont Foodbank rose to the challenge of distributing nearly 80% more food in 2020 than the previous year. The crucial investment will help workers and staff accommodate the ever-growing demand for safe and efficient food distribution to low-income rural residents. Funds will be used to upgrade and supply the foodbank with a new forklift, pickup truck, storage racking, all-weather loading-dock canopy, and teleconferencing equipment to better manage satellite locations and build partner networks.

BUSINESS PROGRAMS



USDA's Business and Cooperative Programs stimulate economic development by supporting entrepreneurs, lenders and non-profits in their efforts to create jobs, strengthen businesses and invigorate downtowns.

- ▶ Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans
- ▶ Intermediary Relending Program
- ▶ Rural Business Development Grants
- ▶ Value-Added Producer Grants
- ▶ Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

531 LOCAL BUSINESSES were impacted by RD's 2020 investments

HOUSING PROGRAMS



USDA Rural Development Housing Programs support families in need of extra financial assistance to purchase, rent or rehabilitate housing in rural communities.

- ▶ **Single Family Housing Programs**
 - Low Income Home Loans
 - Guaranteed Loans
 - Home Repair Loans & Grants
- ▶ **Multi-Family Housing**
 - Rural Rental Housing Loans
 - Loan Guarantees
 - Rental Assistance Program
- ▶ **Housing Preservation Grants**



1,106 FAMILIES purchased or repaired their homes with help from RD

Sustainable Furniture Maker Converts Wood Waste into Renewable Energy

Henry Kober moved his family to New Hampshire's White Mountains in 1975 to write his philosophy PhD thesis. But he had mouths to feed, so he sold handmade furniture to make ends meet. 45 years later, DCI Sustainable Hardwood Furniture still reflects the thoughtful approach of its founder: with a

\$250,000 grant from RD's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), Kober and his partners, sons Amos and David, purchased a biomass boiler to heat DCI's Lisbon, NH headquarters. REAP

grants help farmers, producers and rural small businesses improve energy efficiency, and integrate renewable energy systems into their operations. By using wood waste from their sawmill to feed the boiler, DCI will reduce fuel costs by roughly \$390,000/year!



The Best Christmas Gift Ever

Though Corey Kelly had spent two years making offers on homes and getting turned down, her disappointment was no match for the smile and spirit of her 11-year-old daughter, Abigail. Corey kept her ears open and the stars finally aligned: she found a perfect house in Wheelock, Vermont, and sealed the purchase on December 20th, 2019. On Christmas Day, with a letter to her daughter and keys to the front door in her purse, Corey took out her phone and recorded the moment when Abigail opened her incredible Christmas present.

For Corey Kelly, it's **the American Dream of homeownership come true.** For Abigail, it's an unforgettable gift that will last a lifetime.



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