

Together, America Prospers

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program

Success Story: More Room to Explore, Discover & Dance at The Sharon Academy

\$1.91 Million **Community Facilities Ioan** from USDA RD

> 2.25% 35-year direct loan interest rate

\$1.34 million Contribution from private donations and TSA

\$500,000 VT Community Recovery & Revitalization Grant

5,000 sq. ft. Area of the modern STEAM wing

1502 People positively impacted

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

For Vermont towns without a public school, Independent Academies like The Sharon Academy (TSA) allow school choice and the transferability of tax-paid tuitions. Traditionally strong in Art space but weak in facilities for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (together, STEAM), TSA had to improve on the outdoor yurts that served as classrooms and build a modern learning center. A new facility would attract more students and achieve the essential maximum enrollment of 170 pupils.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE—AND MORE

85 percent of TSA's students are publicly funded, which means their towns cover the tuition, while those who attend privately pay the same amount. In addition to tuition, the school raises and maintains an annual fund to help meet the operating budget. To build a new STEAM addition with biology, physics and chemistry labs-and more creative options like a photo darkroom, maker space and soundproofed lecture halls for music, theater and dance education and activities—TSA needed more help.

PRIVATE + PUBLIC SUPPORT PAYS OFF

Along with \$1.34 million from the Academy and private donations, the State provided a \$500,000 grant, and USDA Rural Development a \$1.91 million loan, making the dream of a modern learning facility a reality for TSA students, teachers and staff. Green tech informs the design, featuring EV charging stations, gravity-fed sprinklers and a solar-ready roof. The new STEAM wing will elevate and enrich learning and teaching opportunities for The Sharon Academy community for generations to come.

For program regulations and requirements, please go to the USDA RD CF fact sheets





