

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program

Success Story: A Secure, Healthy and Modern School for the Children & Families of Winooski, VT

\$57.8 Million

CF loan from
USDA RD

7,267

People positively
impacted

1 of 2

Vermont school districts
that are growing

50%

Rough percentage of
school's expansion

2.25%

30-year direct loan
interest rate

\$11 million

Saved by Winooski due to
historically low rate

The NEED

The Winooski Middle and High School building is an aging structure that fails to meet the 21st-century needs of Vermont's most ethnically diverse student body. One of only two Vermont school districts that are growing, Winooski has long run out of space and resources for teachers and students. Much of the property is out of code, and dealing with the symptoms of deferred maintenance is a daily challenge, as is pedestrian access to the building due to its rapidly developing city surroundings.

The CHALLENGE

As a refugee resettlement community, Winooski is home to a high number of low-income international students. To meet the programmatic and curriculum goals of their educational needs, a new school is an essential project, and recognized as such by city leaders. But state construction funding is limited. And with a population of only 7000 people, there's a heavy burden on Winooski tax payers, who already approved storm and wastewater infrastructure upgrades through a 2018 bond vote.

The SOLUTION

Winooski residents passed a bond vote to expand and rehabilitate the school. USDA Rural Development offered \$57.8 million in loans at historically low 2.25% interest, saving the city \$11 million over original estimates. The plans call for a cohesive, modern space and expanded campus that integrates with the community, welcoming pre-K through 12th-grade students to the doors. This renovation project will improve energy efficiency, public safety, and make the school more conducive to learning.

For program regulations and requirements, please go to the USDA RD [CF fact sheets](#)



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