



## Weekly News Roundup April 16, 2021

Visit our website

### Upcoming Events

#### Partnerships that Foster Nutrition Security, Resilience, and Food Justice

April 21, 2021 | 1:00-3:00 pm

The program will highlight best practices and innovative examples of faith-based organizations, houses of worship, and civic society partners that have focused on nutrition security, resilient food systems, and food justice. A special emphasis will be placed on capacity building, as well as the role of social capital, technical assistance, and adaptive capacity, in mitigating and alleviating challenges. This event will be conducted virtually using Microsoft Teams. [Click here to register!](#) If you have any questions, please contact Alex Cordova at [alex.cordova@usda.gov](mailto:alex.cordova@usda.gov).



#### Virtual EMD Roundtable

April 21, 2021 | 5:00 pm

CVRPC is hosting a virtual EMD roundtable. The agenda for the 1-hour roundtable is:

- Update on Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) sharing agreements
- Overview of CARES Program
- Feeding during Disasters
- Upcoming VEM trainings
- Open Q&A Discussion: EMD support needed, COVID roundtable, etc.

Please reach out to [vinson@cvregion.com](mailto:vinson@cvregion.com) if you have specific topics related to the agenda items you'd like to address at the roundtable.

#### Montpelier Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

April 23, 2021 | 9:30 am

The focus of the meeting will be to discuss the LHMP maintenance process.

The meeting is open to all interested community members. The meeting can be accessed by computer using [this link](#) or by phone: (1-929-205-6099) using the following Access Code (856611).

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans identify mitigation strategies and actions to reduce damage from foreseeable natural and human-caused hazards. For more information, please contact Grace Vinson at [vinson@cvregion.com](mailto:vinson@cvregion.com)

#### Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit Applicant Webinar

May 11, 2021 | 10:00 am

Along with basic information we will review the program's scoring criteria which is used to evaluate and score applications. The webinar discusses sample responses and covers information about required attachments which must be submitted with every application. If you are unable to attend the live webinar, a recording will be made available on the [website](#) following this training.

Click on the link below to register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5435316299417291533>

Webinar ID - 775-856-619

## **SAVE THE DATE: Summit on the Future of Vermont**

May 26 & 27, 2021 | 1-5pm | Virtual

[futureofvermont.org/summit](http://futureofvermont.org/summit)

**Join us to consider transformational goals and actions for the future of our economy, environment, communities and people at VCRD's Summit on the Future of Vermont!**

- Consider ideas for a Proposition for Vermont's future
- Think with experts and leaders
- Contribute your ideas for action
- Engage in partnership for the future of Vermont

**Share your voice and shape action for Vermont's future.**

Produced by the Vermont Council on Rural Development. Questions? Visit [futureofvermont.org/summit](http://futureofvermont.org/summit) or contact [info@vtrural.org](mailto:info@vtrural.org) or 802-223-6091.

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## **Community News**

### **VT Long-Range Transmission Plan & Public Review**

VT Electric Power Company (VELCO) has prepared a Public Review Draft of the 2021 Long-Range Transmission Plan. VELCO is seeking input for the final plan that focuses on the next 3-year cycle and provides information to the public and utility regulators about the needs of the electric grid. The plan will be filed with the VT Public Utility Commission and Public Service Department by July 1st. The public input process includes Virtual Public Meetings: April 28, 11:00 am-1:00 pm and May 5, 5:00-7:00 pm. For more information, to RSVP or to request accommodations, call (802) 353-9346. Written comments and questions may be submitted before May 28th to Communications Department, VELCO, 366 Pinnacle Ridge Rd., Rutland, VT 05701. A copy of the plan and other information is available at <https://www.velco.com/our-work/planning/longrangeplan2021>.

### **EAB Awareness Week is Coming – Get Your Community Kit Today!**

Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week is May 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. This is a great opportunity to educate people in your city or town about the threat of emerald ash borer to Vermont's ash trees, and the important steps residents and municipalities can take to prepare and respond. Vermont's Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) team has put together seven EAB Awareness Community Kits that we will provide to the first seven municipalities that apply. In order to maximize the number of municipalities that are able to participate, we are limiting this opportunity to towns that have not yet received an EAB Community Kit.

All groups that receive a kit will be asked to tag 35 local ash trees and send in photos and a couple sentences about your EAB Awareness event(s), including the number and location (e.g. neighborhood, street or park) of ash trees tagged to UCF by May 15th. UCF will then post the photos of your events on the [UCF Facebook page](#) during EAB Awareness week.

Find out what is in the kits, publicity ideas and more details at: [Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Community Kit](#)

To apply: send an email to [Ginger.Nickerson@uvm.edu](mailto:Ginger.Nickerson@uvm.edu)

Subject Line: EAB Community Kit Application

Please include in your email:

- Name of municipality
- Name(s) of people leading the tree tagging event
- A brief description of your publicity plan (see ideas below)
- Address to which we should mail the EAB Awareness Community Kit

The EAB Community Kits will be distributed on a first come, first served basis - Get your application in today!

### **Request for Proposals for Office Space**

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) is requesting proposals for Office Space to lease. Proposals must be submitted as outlined in the RFP to Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager, [chartrand@cvregion.com](mailto:chartrand@cvregion.com) by **May 7, 2021**. Access the complete RFP [here](#).

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### Vaccination Appointments Open 4/17 for those 16 to 18

Tomorrow at 10:00am, Vermonters age 16-18 will be eligible to sign up for the Pfizer vaccine. Eligibility opens for Vermonters age 18 and up on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00am. Make an account and schedule your appointment here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>

### Vaccinations Appointments Open for those 30 and Older, and those 16+with High Risk Health Conditions

Updated Vaccination Schedule

- Now: parents and primary caregivers of children with certain high-risk conditions are eligible
- Now: Vermonters age 16+ with high risk health conditions are eligible to schedule a vaccination appointment. Find the list of health conditions [here](#).
- Now: All Vermonters who identify as Black, Indigenous and people of color age 16 years of age and older — as well as their household members are eligible
- Now: Vermonters age 30+ eligible to register
- 04/17: Vermonters age 16 to 18 eligible to register
- 04/19: Vermonters age 18+ eligible to register

Make an account and schedule your appointment here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>

### FEMA Financial Assistance Available for COVID-19 Funeral Expenses

FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. Call **844-684-6333** to get a COVID-19 Funeral Assistance application completed with help from FEMA's representatives. For additional information please visit the [FEMA Funeral Assistance webpage](#)

*Fraud Alert: FEMA has received reports of scammers reaching out to people offering to register them for funeral assistance. FEMA has not sent any such notifications and does not contact people before they register for assistance.*

### American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Information from VLCT

VLCT has developed a resource page for the latest information on ARPA funding and related news, including resources and local allocation updates. See here for a new guidance document from VLCT on municipal operations under the Vermont Forward Plan:

<https://www.vlct.org/resource/vermont-forward-plan-overview>

Municipal operations that are low contact, have a short duration, and that take place outdoors or are in a controlled indoor environment (e.g., town office activities, highway work, etc.) fall under Group A and must, at a minimum, follow the required Universal Guidance.

Meetings of public bodies and town meetings are in the Group B sector. These activities must continue to follow section 13.1 sector specific guidance (<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/universal-guidance#group-b-work-safe-guidance-13-1>) until May 5, 2021, at which point they will fall under the required Universal Guidance requirements.

VLCT has also updated their Town Operations COVID-19 FAQs [here](#).

### Vermont Center for Independent Living RISE Fund

The Resilience and Independence in State of Emergency (RISE) Fund is designed to help people with disabilities remain as independent as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. RISE money only can be used for needs that are directly related to the pandemic, and the cost must be reasonable. If you lost your job and now have bills or other needs you can't pay for, RISE may be able to help. Covered items can include computers for telehealth and remote learning, utility payments, and cleaning supplies for staying healthy. Since everyone's situation is unique, the program is designed to be broad and flexible. There are no income requirements and no co-pays. The maximum amount per person is \$2,500. For more information, contact Kayla Richardson, Vermont Center for Independent Living, at [kayla@vcil.org](mailto:kayla@vcil.org) or (802) 224-1807.

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## RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines

### 2021 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) has issued a grant solicitation for new infrastructure projects that improve access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. In 2020, awards totaled \$3 million for construction and planning projects throughout the state. The AOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program improves access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians through the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects. To learn more about the

AOT 2021 grant program and to access the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Guide and Application,



visit <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>. Applications must be received by 1:00 p.m., June 4, 2021. A pre-application training webinar will be offered on April 27. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to participate. For more information about the 2021 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program or other AOT initiatives related to bicycling and walking, contact Jon Kaplan at 802-498-4742 or [Jon.Kaplan@vermont.gov](mailto:Jon.Kaplan@vermont.gov).

### **Funding Opportunity on COVID-19-Related Health Disparities Available**

The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) is seeking ideas for efforts that address COVID-19's health disparities among high risk and underserved populations. VDH is an eligible recipient of a federal grant to support strategies to improve testing capabilities and other COVID-19 response purposes, including those to develop or identify best practices for states and public health officials to use for contact tracing. VDH intends to partner with municipal and non-profit entities.

This grant opportunity focuses on people who have been the most affected by COVID-19 and activities must focus on the following groups:

- People of color
- People who live in rural communities
- Members of religious minorities
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people
- People with disabilities
- People otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality

Project ideas should address one or more of the following strategies to build infrastructure that both address disparities in the current pandemic and future responses.

- Expand existing and/or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.
- Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved.
- Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.

One idea being explored is a mobile health van, which could be a stand-alone effort or could partner with another mobile effort, such as meal delivery services, bookmobiles, etc., already operating in a community. If your community has ideas for potential projects, please contact Bonnie Waninger, [waninger@cvregion.com](mailto:waninger@cvregion.com), to discuss the idea and learn more about the State's grant.

### **2021 Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit Program**

Application for the 2021 round of Downtown and Village Center tax credits is now available! Applications are due **Thursday, July 1, 2021**, and the Vermont Downtown Board will make its allocation decisions by mid-August.

See the attached **program guidelines and application**. Applicants are also encouraged to register for a FREE Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit Applicant Webinar, scheduled for May 11, 2021 at 10:00 AM (see Upcoming Events above).

Remember the deadline to apply for funding this year is **July 1, 2021**. Applications must be submitted electronically to [caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov](mailto:caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov).

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## **Upcoming Meetings**

*Please note that CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings*

### **APRIL**

- Apr 21 5 pm Virtual EMD Roundtable, Via Technology (See Agenda)
- Apr 22 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)
- Apr 23 9:30 am Montpelier LHMP Meeting, Via Technology (see above)
- Apr 27 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group, Via Technology (See Agenda)
- Apr 27 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

### **MAY**

- May 3 pm Executive Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)
- May 11 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners, Via Technology (See Agenda)
- May 13 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

May 27 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)  
May 25 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

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STAY CONNECTED

