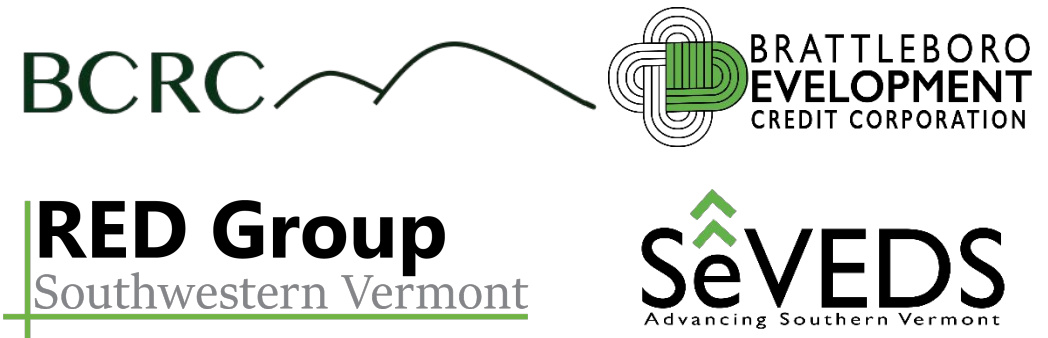


# Southern Vermont CEDS: How to Submit your project (and why)

**Jonathan Cooper**  
Bennington County Regional Commission

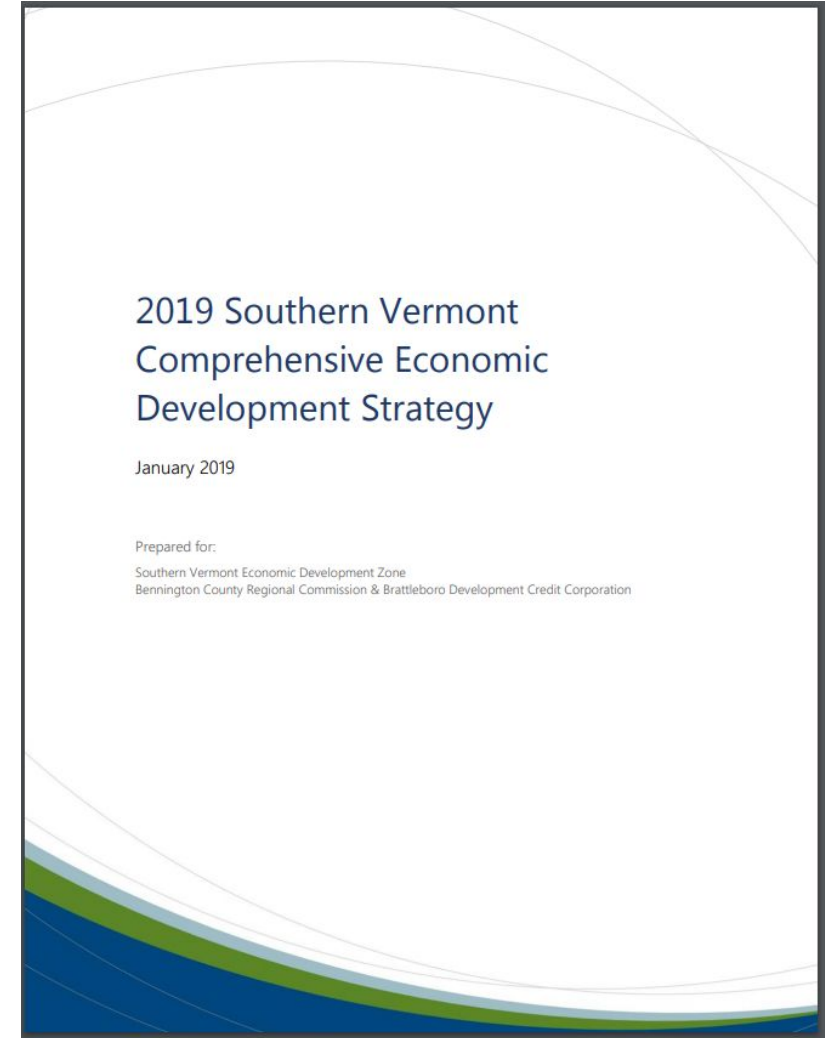
**Meg Staloff, Laura Sibilia, and  
Rachel Shields Ebersole**  
Brattleboro Development Credit  
Corporation

**July 11, 2023**

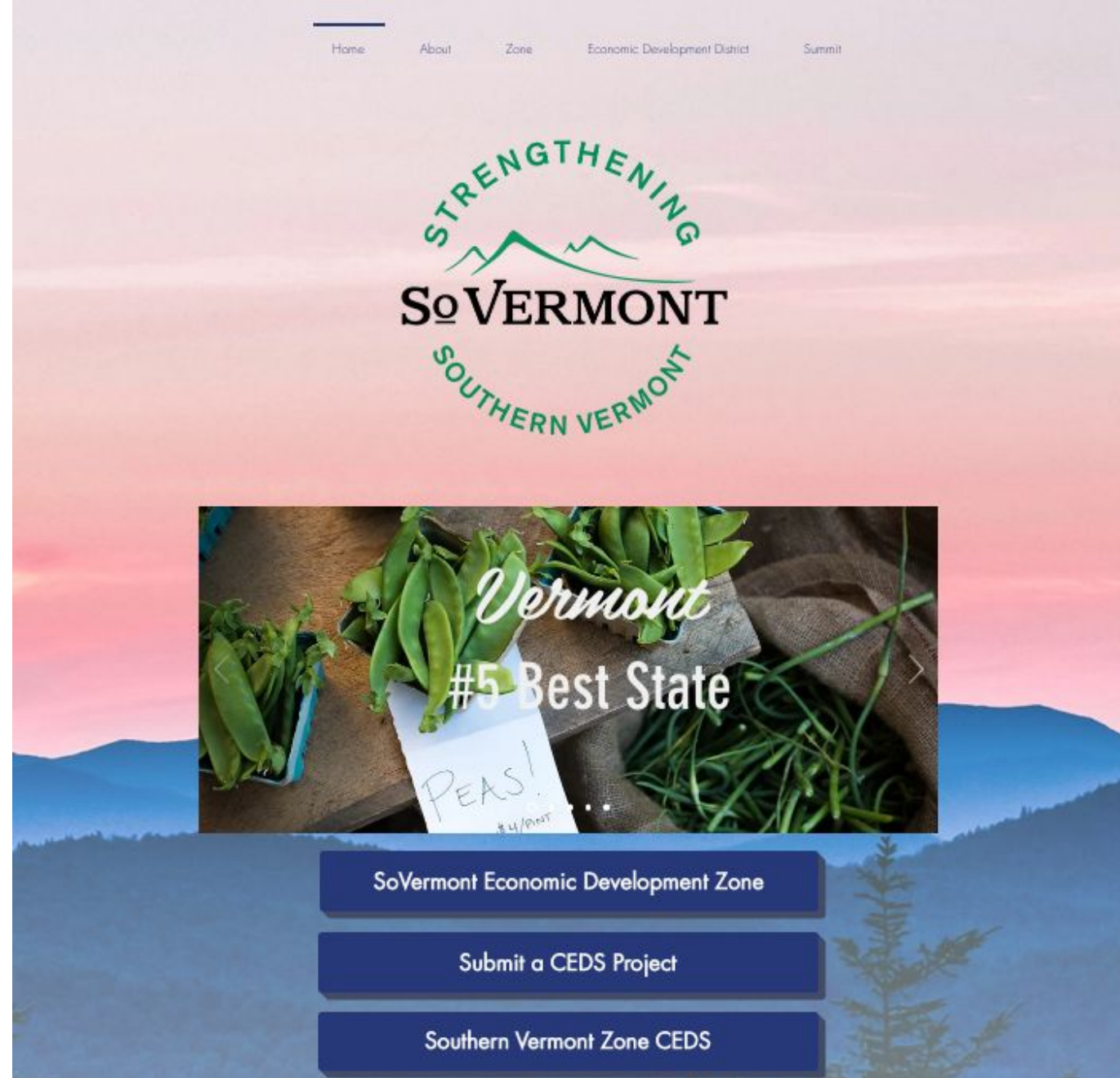


# What is a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

- Comprehensive Regional Plan addresses the following areas:
  - Economy
  - Population
  - Geography
  - Workforce Development
  - Transportation Access
  - Resources
  - Environment
- View the CEDS and review the process at:  
<https://www.sovermontzone.com/ceds>



<https://www.sovermontzone.com/>



# What is the value of submitting my project?

- Informs state and regional partners about your project, which helps increase access to technical assistance, including awareness of financial resources.
- Indicates to federal agencies that your project is aligned with the region's plan to grow the economy. Some federal grantors require a CEDS to be in place and this makes it easy to show your alignment.
- Helps project leads organize key information that they will need for funding applications

# CEDS Objectives

## **Objective 1: Increase our Population**

- Attract more people to live in Southern Vermont to participate in the community, the workforce, and support the business and civic environment.

## **Objective 2: Expand our Business Infrastructure**

- Create an environment that will encourage more jobs and opportunities in Southern Vermont

# CEDS Objectives

## **Objective 3: Improve our Physical Infrastructure**

- Make the critical infrastructure improvements so that Southern Vermont is resident and business ready

## **Objective 4: Enhance our Social Infrastructure**

- Improve quality of life and stability for residents

## **Objective 5: Strengthen our Economic Development Capacity**

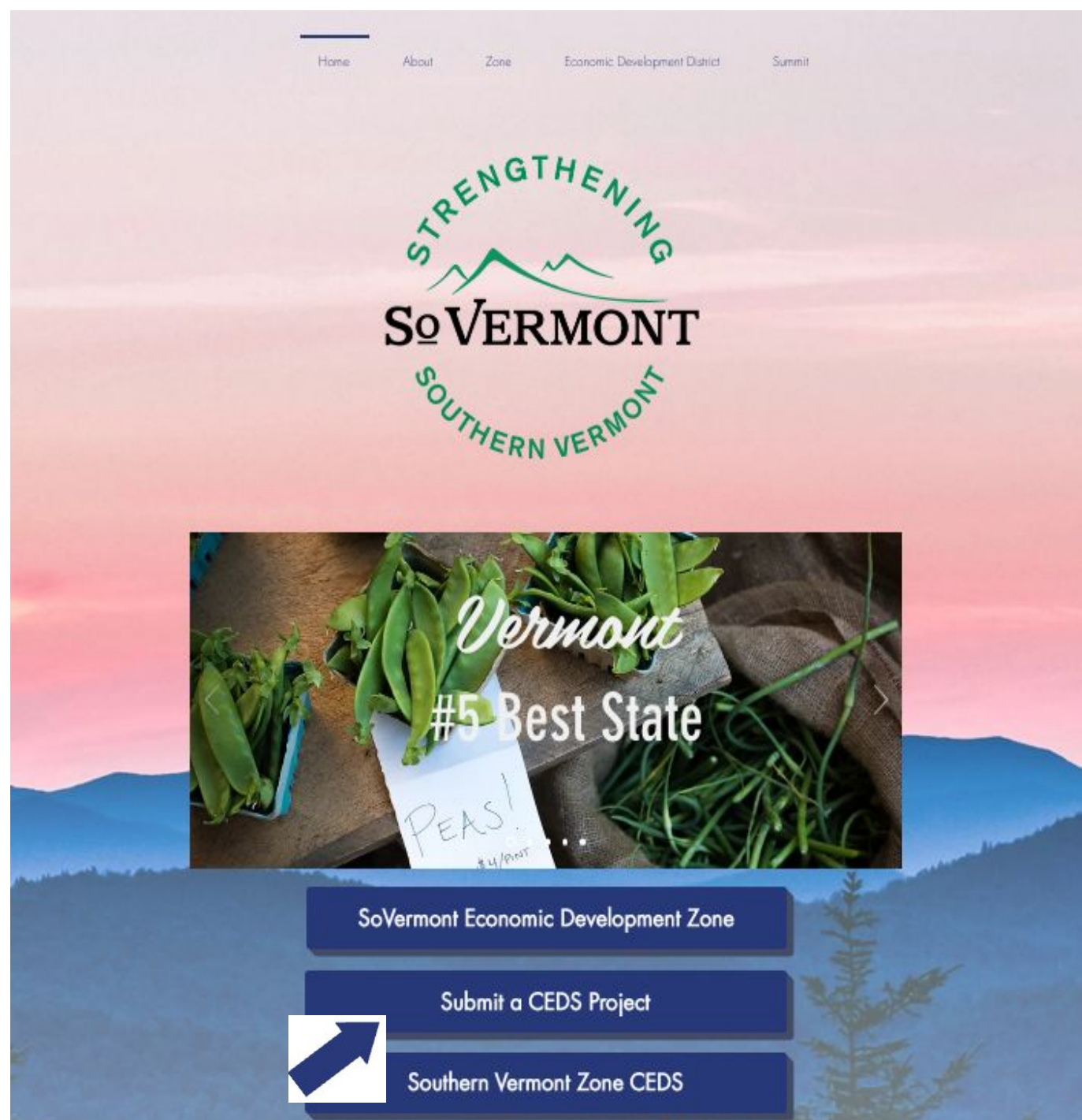
- Enhance the ability for economic development professionals and partners to play a role in implementation

# Change: no “Update” vs “New”

- In past years we had different forms for updates and new projects
- This made it difficult for the review team to go back and see the full project submission.
- This year we are transitioning to a better system!
  - in future years you'll be able to add an updated timeline and budget but keep the main project description intact
- BUT, this year you'll need to start a new entry (we assume you have this information available in any case!)



<https://www.sovermontzone.com/>





<https://www.sovermontzone.com/ceds-projects>

ARE YOU WORKING ON A PROJECT IN SOUTHERN VERMONT?  
WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT!



[CEDS Project Submission Form](#)

## CEDS DOCUMENTS

[CEDS Report](#)

[CEDS Matrix](#)

[Economic Profile](#)

## PAST CEDS PROJECTS

[2022 CEDS Projects List](#)

[2021 CEDS Projects List](#)

[2020 CEDS Projects List](#)

[2019 CEDS Projects List](#)

# Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Project Submission Form

Please answer the below questions in relation to your project.

Prior to submitting your project, please review the materials found at [www.sovermontzone.com/ceds](http://www.sovermontzone.com/ceds), including the 2019 CEDS [Action Matrix Document](#).

As a reminder, projects will be prioritized and ranked based on how each project advances the CEDS objectives (included in the matrix), as well as readiness to begin, partners, and investments made.

There is a "Save" button at the bottom of the form. **We recommend saving as you go!** You can also use this option should you wish to save your progress and return later.

For questions please contact Rachel Shields Ebersole at BDCC ([rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com](mailto:rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com)) or Jonathan Cooper at BCRC ([jcooper@bcrcvt.org](mailto:jcooper@bcrcvt.org)).

## Contact Information & Location

Project Name \*

Submission Contact \*

Last

Project Contact Email \*

**Organization/Entity Completing Project \***

**Address**

**Principal of Organization/Entity Completing Project**

*If Different from Project Submitter*

## Project Description, Timeline, and Budget

### Brief Project Description \*

Character Limit 800

*Briefly describe your project in 2-4 sentences*

### Project Purpose and Benefit \*

Character limit: 2000

*Describe the purpose and benefits to the community/region of the project.*

### Partners and Investors \*

Character limit: 1000

*List all partners or investors in your project.*

### Project Stage \*

- ☐ Stage 1: Exploratory – You have established goals and objectives but have not yet fully established the project scope. Projects in this stage are often focused on feasibility.
- ☐ Stage 2: Preliminary – you have determined a project's scope and budget. Projects in this stage are focused on gathering support and marshaling resources.
- ☐ Stage 3: Program implementation – you are ready to start the outward-facing work or have recently begun. Projects in this stage are 'shovel ready' or already underway.
- ☐ Stage 4: Operational maintenance – projects in this phase are underway, and looking to extend a program's services or offerings.

### Project Timeline & Milestones \*

Character limit: 1200

*Describe the overall project timeline, the current stage of the project, and any impediments to proceeding. Include factors such as site control, engineering and design, financing/funding identification and commitment, and permitting required/whether or not permits are in progress or in place. Clearly identify where the project is in the timeline and what work remains. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN UPLOAD A DOCUMENT WITH THIS INFORMATION*

### Project Timeline Document Upload (optional)

**Upload** or drag files here.

*Project Timeline, Milestones, and Status if desired*

**Project Budget \***

Character limit 1000

*Provide the total project cost, and where possible describe the amount of funds/financing that have been identified or received, and any funding gaps. OPTIONAL: UPLOAD MORE DETAILED PROJECT BUDGET WITH THIS INFORMATION*

**Project Budget File Upload (Optional)**

Upload

 or drag files here.

**Please select the geographic region your project encompasses \***

- ☐ A Single Town In Bennington County
- ☐ A Single Town in the Windham Region
- ☐ Multiple Towns in Bennington County
- ☐ Multiple Towns in the Windham Region
- ☐ Multiple Towns in both regions but not all of Southern Vermont
- ☐ Bennington County
- ☐ Windham Region
- ☐ Southern Vermont



## Project Category

Please identify the category/subcategory that best describes your project. **Note: if you leave this section blank, a category will be chosen by the CEDS Project collection staff at BDCC/BCRC.**

### Infrastructure

☐ Water/Wastewater

☐ Broadband

☐ Transportation

☐ Public Facility

☐ Other

### Workforce or Business Development

☐ Workforce Development

☐ Business Development

☐ Other

### General Development

☐ Industrial

☐ Commercial

☐ Housing

☐ Mixed Residential/Commercial

☐ Site/Facility Development for Specific Business

☐ Redevelopment

☐ Other

### Other Category not Represented

## Alignment with CEDS Objectives

*Check all boxes that apply to your project and provide a brief explanation.*

### CEDS Objective #1: Increase Our Population \*

- ☐ Attract and retain young people    ☐ Attract and retain workforce
- ☐ Attract and retain a more diverse population
- ☐ Other (My project addresses the objective but does not fall under a strategy listed)
- ☒ Not Applicable

### CEDS Objective #2: Improve Our Physical Infrastructure \*

- ☐ Expand broadband and cell infrastructure
- ☐ Enhance transportation infrastructure
- ☒ Increase amount and variety of housing options for all incomes
- ☒ Address water and wastewater issues throughout the region
- ☐ Support vital downtown and village centers
- ☐ Other (My project addresses the objective but does not fall under a strategy listed)
- ☐ Not Applicable

### How does your project meet the CEDS objective and strategies? \*

Character Limit: 600

*Briefly describe how your project meets this CEDS objective and strategies*

**Do you want to have your project considered for inclusion in the RDC Priority Project list for 2023?**

☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

Regional Project Prioritization (RPP) lists are developed annually by Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) to identify projects of priority and importance in the region using input from Regional Planning Commissions, municipalities, partners, and communities. The State of Vermont hopes that the information provided in the Regional Project Prioritization lists will prove useful when considering federal and state funding sources and community planning processes.

### **Job Creation Questions (additional criteria considered as part of State Priority Project Ranking)**

Job creation is one of 6 criteria included in the RPP ranking. Your project is not required to create jobs to be included in the ranking, but projects that create new, high-paying jobs with good benefits have the potential to score higher.

#### **Job Creation \***

**Provide the number of full-time jobs to be created and/or retained by the project.**

#### **Average Wages for Jobs Created/Retained \***

☒ Above median area wages ☐ Equal to median area wages  
☐ Below median area wages ☐ Not Applicable

Median individual wage **Bennington County** \$35,475 (2017-2021); Median individual wage **Windham Region** \$35,856 (2017-2021)

#### **Benefits included with Jobs Retained/Created \***

☒ The majority of the jobs created/retained will provide benefits  
☐ Less than half of the jobs created/retained will provide benefits  
☐ Not Applicable ☐

### **Additional Supporting Documents (optional)**

Upload

or drag files here.

- *Examples of supporting documents include business plan, feasibility study, marketing plan etc. (Maximum of 3 uploads)*

Submit

Save



**Your progress has been saved.**

Copy or email the link below and return to your form to complete your submission.

**Copy your form link:**

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/BDCC1/SouthernVermont>

**Email me my link:**

Send

# What is the submission timeline?

- Projects Submission Period: through September 8, 2023
- Project Review/Ranking Period: Fall 2023 (October/November)
- Project Ranking Released: December 2023
- Alignment for resource referrals
  - RDCs also collect projects to submit to ACCD as Priority Projects (December), which help inform funding priorities for state and federal programs

# Who does the review and ranking?

- Peer committee made up of local leaders from Southern VT
- NOT BDCC/BCRC Staff (we just support the process)
- Drawn from both Bennington and Windham regions
- Wide range of interests and expertise.



# Can I get a copy of my previous submission?

Email [rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com](mailto:rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com) and she'll email you your previous submission.

Not sure if you've submitted your project in the past? you can find a full list of projects submitted, by year, at

<https://www.vermontzone.com/ceds-projects>

# Questions and Comments

# Contact for Questions

*For inquiries, questions and clarifications, contact:*

**Rachel Shields Ebersole, Community Projects Specialist**

Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation,

[rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com](mailto:rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com)

(802) 257-7731 x218

**Jonathan Cooper, Community & Economic Development Specialist**

Bennington County Regional Commission

[jcooper@bcrcvt.org](mailto:jcooper@bcrcvt.org)

(802) 442-0713 x 311