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<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Vermont Council on Rural Development</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>e-Vermont: The Vermont Community Broadband Project</b>
<b>Project Type:</b>	<b>Sustainable Broadband Adoption</b>
<b>State(s):</b>	<b>Vermont</b>
<b>Federal Award:</b>	<b>\$2,525,675</b>

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The Vermont Community Broadband Project plans to increase broadband Internet access and adoption in 24 small, mostly rural communities through a comprehensive effort combining broadband training, access, awareness, and planning. The Vermont Council on Rural Development and its project partners plan to train more than 1,800 individuals and distribute an estimated 1,200 computers to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in these communities. The project will help teachers integrate broadband usage into lesson plans and implement a mentoring program in which middle and high school students help 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students build Web sites with local content. The project's awareness campaign expects to reach 300,000 residents throughout Vermont via local and regional radio, newspaper and TV news stories, program announcements, and other communication tools.

The Vermont Community Broadband Project also proposes to:

- Provide training in online communication applications for local governments and community organizations and facilitate community workshops to encourage residents to use online tools for education, finance, and job creation.
- Help local small businesses utilize the benefits of broadband and computer technology.
- Provide free broadband service to a total of 30 community anchor institutions in 10 communities, in partnership with Comcast.
- Enhance computer access, software, and broadband capabilities at area libraries.

**ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY**

The Vermont Council on Rural Development is the federally recognized State Rural Development Council charged by the Farm Bill to coordinate rural policy and program development in Vermont. It has a strong track record of implementing broadband adoption projects. Additionally, the Council has advocated for universal broadband service for 10 years and has built strategic plans with more than 30 Vermont communities during the past 15 years.

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

- Comcast
- Dell Inc.
- Digital Wish
- The Evslin Family Foundation
- Front Porch Forum
- Microsoft
- The Snelling Center for Government
- University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies
- The Vermont State Colleges
- The Vermont Department of Libraries
- Vermont Small Business Development Center
- Vermont Community Foundation
- Vermont Rural Partnership

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on [www.broadbandusa.gov](http://www.broadbandusa.gov).

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