





Vermont Creative Sector Legislative Summary

Historic Creative Sector Investments

 A historic level of investment in Vermont's creative sector was made during the 2021-2022 legislative session to support the continued recovery and revitalization of Vermont's creative industries.

 These investments will help creative enterprises rebound from the pandemic, build resiliency, and pave the way for a more vibrant, prosperous future for all Vermont.

Highlights include:



The [Vermont Creative Futures Program](#) from the Vermont Arts Council invests a total of \$9 million in grants to cover monthly operating costs to creative entities that have sustained economic harm due to the pandemic.

Why this matters: One of the hardest hit by the pandemic, the creative sector has responded in imaginative ways, but re-engaging audiences is expensive, and many business and nonprofits are still scrambling to make up for losses, all at a time when audiences are still reluctant to gather.



The Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant Program from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development invests a total of \$40 million in grants to help businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities recover, retain jobs, and spur economic growth.

Why this matters: These grants invest in existing and new businesses across Vermont. In order to have strong, healthy communities, every region of our state needs good jobs and thriving downtowns.



The [VEDA Short-Term Forgivable Loan Program](#) invests a total of \$19 million in small businesses and non-profits continuing to face financial insecurity due to Covid-19.

Why this matters: Vermont for-profit and non-profit businesses continue to struggle in the economic fallout of the pandemic. These loans will help to bridge the gap.



Vermont Department of Libraries will invest a total of \$16.4 million in capital projects to support improvements to public libraries in the response to the Covid-19 public health emergency. Broadband infrastructure is a priority of these grants, which will launch in 2023.

Why this matters: Public access to high-speed internet emerged as a critical need during the pandemic. Vermont's aging libraries serve as the only source of high-speed internet and public computers for many, and it is vitally important to maintain our library buildings to ensure that all Vermonters have internet access to support work, education, and health monitoring.

Powered by federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, this crucial aid is part of an unprecedented investment in economic and workforce development. Tied together, these initiatives will help one of the most impacted sectors—the creative sector—recover from the pandemic and work toward a stronger future for all Vermont.