

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

**Jonathan Cooper**  
Bennington County Regional Commission

**Owen Perry, Meg Staloff, Rachel Shields Ebersole**  
Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation

**July 30, 2025**



# CEDS vs. RPP: Two Project Paths - One Form

- **CEDS Projects**

- Show alignment with the region's economic development strategy
- Open to all project stages

- **RPP Projects**

- Prioritized by the State for funding readiness
- Further along in the planning process
- Require detailed planning information

**You submit once and can opt into both tracks**

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

- CEDS = Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Strategy-driven, federal planning process for regional economic development
- Includes SWOT, goals, and resilience strategy
- Required for designation as an Economic Development District
- Fully updated every 5 years (latest approved: June 2025)
- Projects align with the region's economic future

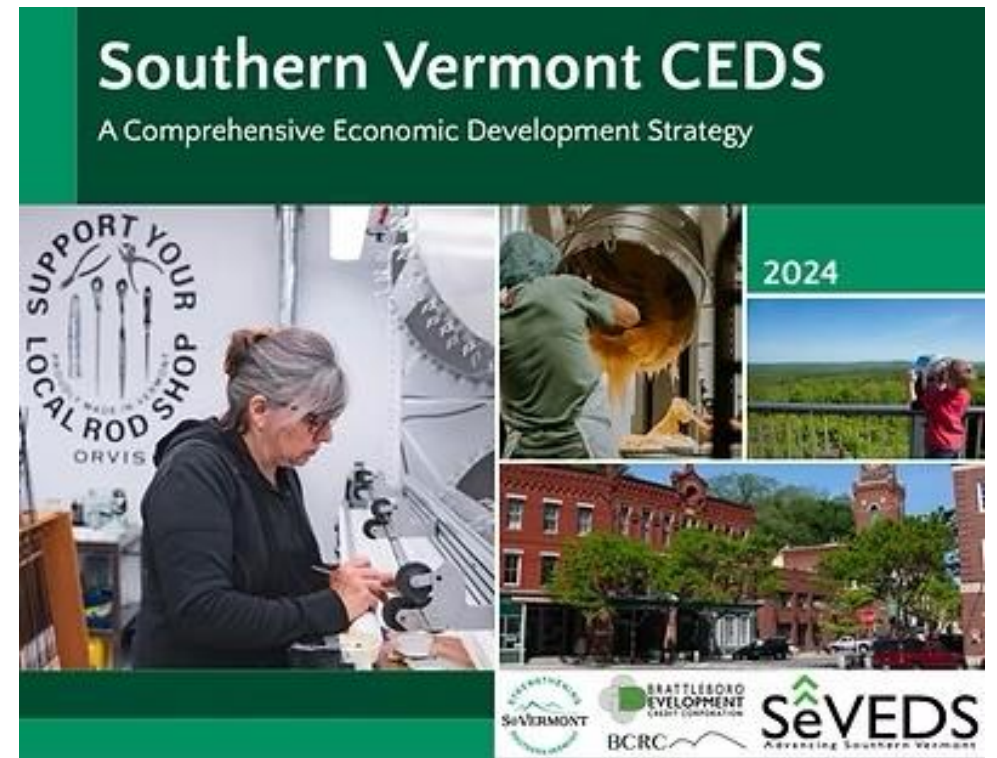
You can find the 2024 CEDS at: <https://www.vermontzone.com/ceds>

# SoVT Zone CEDS

- The CEDS has a list of objectives and strategies that were developed with a steering committee, consultant (Camoin) and with public input as part of the CEDS development process.

Each year, the CEDS is updated with a list regional projects that demonstrate how they help advance the plan's stated objectives.

Partners BDCC/BCRC put out a call for project submissions yearly so that we can learn about new projects and get updates from previously submitted projects.



# CEDS Objectives and Strategies:

- **Objective 1 – Address Our Critical Population Needs for the Future**
  - **STRATEGY 1.A:** INVEST IN COMMUNITY ASSETS THAT ARE ATTRACTIVE TO YOUNG PEOPLE
  - **STRATEGY 1.B:** PURSUE TARGETED ATTRACTION EFFORTS OF THOSE WITH NEEDED SKILLS
  - **STRATEGY 1.C:** FOSTER POPULATION GROWTH THAT SUPPORTS REGIONAL WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC ALIGNMENT.
  - **STRATEGY 1.D:** CONTINUE TO SUPPORT POLICIES THAT IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN THE CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEMS
- **Objective 2 – Empower Businesses to Thrive Long-Term**
  - **STRATEGY 2.A:** ENHANCE BUSINESS POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH
  - **STRATEGY 2.B:** STRENGTHEN THE SOUTHERN VERMONT ENTREPRENEURIAL AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM
  - **STRATEGY 2.C:** ESTABLISH A COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

# CEDS Objectives and Strategies:

- **Objective 3 – Foster Resilient, Adaptable Communities**

- **STRATEGY 3.A:** INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEM UPGRADES TO ADAPT TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
- **STRATEGY 3.B:** INCREASE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ALL INCOMES AND AGES
- **STRATEGY 3.C:** IMPROVE CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- **STRATEGY 3.D:** REINFORCE THE REGION'S RECREATION AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

- **Objective 4 – Promote Regional Economic Development Cooperation**

- **STRATEGY 4.A:** CREATE AND STRENGTHEN STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT CEDS IMPLEMENTATION
- **STRATEGY 4.B:** INCREASE ACCESS TO INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SPACE

# What is the value of submitting my project?

For both Submission streams:

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

# What is the RPP list and how is it Different from the CEDS project Collection Process?

- The Regional Priority Project list is a State of Vermont driven list that each of the 12 RDC's compiles projects for each year
- It requires projects to be aligned with regional goals and priorities (which is why projects will be submitted to the CEDS as well as RPP in this process)
- In general these projects are further into their planning process and closer to 'shovel ready'
- Additional criteria considered like job creation and wages for those jobs
- RPP lists help the state determine funding priorities and inclusion on the list is a 'must' for Northern Border applications.



# Additional Requirements for RPP Submission:

You will need to have:

- Job creation/retention numbers
- A detailed budget
- Funding Sources & Uses

Optional to strengthen application:

- Proof of site control (if required)
- Engineering & Design Plan (if required)
- Permitting (if required)
- Letters of Commitment from funders or lenders
- Project principal experience

# What is the submission timeline?

## **CEDS**

- Projects Submission Period: Through September 5th, 2025
- Project Review/Ranking Period: Fall 2025 (September-November)
- Project Ranking Released: December 2025

## **RPP**

- Submit project by the CEDS deadline (September 5th)
- If you do not have all information required, upload a placeholder or draft.
- Additional information must be updated/submitted by September 19, 2025
- Project Ranking Released: December 2025

# Who does the review and ranking for CEDS/RPP Projects?

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

# Previous Submitters

- If you submitted a project in 2023 or 2024, you should have received an email directly from the BDCC Cognito form system that contains any information that carries over from the previous form.
- If you didn't receive that email, reach out to Rachel Shields Ebersole at [rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com](mailto:rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com) or call (802) 257-7731 x218

# Demonstration of how to access the forms

# Contact for Questions

*For inquiries, questions and clarifications about CEDS Project submission, contact:*

- **Rachel Shields Ebersole, Community Projects Specialist/Grow Program Manager**
  - Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation,
  - [rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com](mailto:rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com)
  - (802) 257-7731 x218

*For inquiries, questions and clarifications about RPP Project submission, contact:*

- ***In the Windham Region (includes Readsboro, Searsburg, Winhall, and Weston)***
  - **Al Claussen, Real Estate Director/Owen Perry, Leasing**
  - Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
  - [propertymanager@brattleborodevelopment.com](mailto:propertymanager@brattleborodevelopment.com)
  - (802)257-7731 x 213
- ***In Bennington County*** Jonathan Cooper, Community & Economic Development Specialist
  - Bennington County Regional Commission
  - [jcooper@bcrcvt.org](mailto:jcooper@bcrcvt.org)
  - (802) 442-0713 x 311

# Questions and Comments