

# Business Resources



FRANKLIN COUNTY  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

Created in 1971, FCIDC is a private, non-profit development corporation sponsored by the State of Vermont and Franklin County businesses and municipalities.

FCIDC's mission is to strengthen our region's economy through the creation and retention of new jobs and by building a business environment suitable to host capital investment.

Franklin County is a mix of lakeshore, rolling farmland, and hilly terrain tucked into the northwest corner of Vermont.

The county's economic history has been strongly influenced by its environmental assets, dairy industry, and its proximity to Montreal, Quebec.

Canadian companies have located their United States operations within many industrial parks throughout Franklin County, while many new residents have settled here because of the excellent quality of life and access to jobs.

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**Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIDC)**, through its revolving loan fund offers fix rate loans for both existing and start-up businesses. FCIDC also works extensively with local banks and other financial organizations to provide gap funding.

[http://www.fcidc.com/index.php?p=1\\_22\\_Revolving-Loan-Fund](http://www.fcidc.com/index.php?p=1_22_Revolving-Loan-Fund)

**Vermont Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC)** provides no-cost professional expertise and guidance to business owners through training programs and one-on-one confidential advising. <https://www.vtsbdc.org/>

**Vermont Department of Economic Development (ACCD)** works to improve the economic well-being and quality of life of Vermonters, while preserving natural resources and community values. Current initiatives include an Economic Development Marketing Plan and a comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDs). <https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development>

**Vermont Employee Growth Incentive (VEGI)** provides cash payments to businesses that have been authorized to earn the incentive and who then meet performance requirements. The value of each payment is based on the revenue return generated to the State by prospective qualifying jobs, payroll creation, and capital investments. <https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development/funding-incentives/vegi>

**Vermont Training Program (VTP)** partners with employers and training providers to prepare Vermont's employees for the jobs of tomorrow. VTP provides performance-based workforce grants for pre-employment training, training for new hires, and training for incumbent workers. This training can either be on-site or offered through an outside provider. VTP grants may cover up to 50% of the training cost. <https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development/funding-incentives/vtp>

**Vermont Department of Labor (DOL)** provides information and assistance to both employers and job seekers, from job matching services, apprenticeship programs, and job search/job placement services. <http://labor.vermont.gov/workforce-development/>

**Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEC)** works "to strengthen and empower Vermont manufacturers" by acting as a Trusted Advisor to leverage VMEC expertise and other public and/or private resources to achieve operational excellence and sustainable profitable growth, while maximizing enterprise value. This may include providing hands-on implementation assistance, consulting, training and coaching to help accelerate growth through innovation, increased productivity, and improved manufacturing and business processes. <https://www.vmec.org/>

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**Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA)** is Vermont's statewide economic development finance lender. VEDA's mission is "to contribute to the creation and retention of quality jobs in Vermont by providing loans and other financial support to eligible and qualified Vermont industrial, commercial and agricultural enterprises." <https://www.veda.org/>

**Community Capital of Vermont** provides flexible financing through small or microbusiness loans to people who do not otherwise have access to capital. Its Business Advisory Services program ensures borrowers' success through technical assistance in the areas of marketing and business operations. <https://www.communitycapitalvt.org/>

**USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Assistance** staff is dedicated to assisting rural Vermont communities through loans, loan guarantees, and grants. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/vtnhAllProgramGuide2018.pdf>

**Small Business Administration (SBA)** works with small businesses from planning a business to growing a business. SBA provides free business counseling, guaranteed business loans, and certification to qualify to win federal contracts. <https://www.sba.gov/>

**Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC)** serves Northern Vermont and New Hampshire by providing capital and expertise to strengthen businesses, communities and employment opportunities. <https://www.ncic.org/>

**Vermont Chamber of Commerce** is the largest statewide business organization, representing all industries and sectors from tourism to manufacturing to retail to health care to construction to technology. Through networking events, policy advocacy, and marketing opportunities the Chamber works for Vermont. <https://www.vtchamber.com/>

**Efficiency Vermont** provides a wide array of services for businesses and residential property owners, including energy assessments, financing options, and one-on-one assistance for new construction. <https://www.encyvermont.com/>

**Opportunities Credit Union** provides innovative and affordable loan and deposit programs for credit building and repair, business and home ownership, consumer needs, modified vehicles, adaptive equipment and energy improvements along with financial education and counseling solutions. <https://www.oppsvt.org/>

**Vermont Community Loan Fund** provides loans and other resources to local businesses, community organizations & nonprofits, early care & learning providers and developers of affordable housing who don't qualify for a loan from a traditional lender. <https://www.investinvermont.org/>

**Franklin County Regional Chamber of Commerce (FCRCC)** engages in local dialogue with businesses, non-profits, manufacturing and service industries, promotes the region beyond its borders, and provides membership benefits including discounted health and dental insurance. <https://www.fcrcvt.com/>

