



Vermont Center for
Independent Living

People with disabilities working together for dignity, independence, and civil rights

November 25, 2019

Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager
Town of Bennington
P.O. Box 469
Bennington, VT 05201

Dear Mr. Hurd and voters:

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL), a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, respectfully requests funding from the Town of Bennington for our fiscal year 2019.

Annual support from over 150 cities and towns across the State helps VCIL assist Vermonters with disabilities achieve dignified and self-determined lives. VCIL works to serve individuals who can benefit from our direct services as well as to educate and inform members of the community about disability related issues and independent living. Direct services are available to residents of Bennington in a number of ways. Peer counselors work with residents in their homes; small grants for adaptive equipment; Meals on Wheels for people under the age of 60; Home Access modifications; individual and systems advocacy and programs for youth. Information, Referral and Assistance is available to all residents by calling VCIL's I-Line, at 1-800-639-1522 (Voice and TTY).

This past year VCIL spent **\$38,599.00** on modifications through our Home Access Program (HAP), **\$19,900.00** on meals through our Meals on Wheels program (MOW), **\$2,944.00** spent on assistive technology (dentures, scooter, hearing aids) through our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) and **\$1,185.00** on adaptive telephone equipment through the VT Telecommunications Distribution Program (VTEDP) for Bennington residents. We are requesting \$7000.00 from the town to continue helping people with disabilities in the coming year. Enclosed you will find a summary of VCIL's programs and services for the town and a copy of our FY'19 budget.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Sarah Launderville
Executive Director
slaunderville@vcil.org

Enclosures

1. *The Mission of the Vermont Center for Independent Living is to empower Vermonters with disabilities, Deaf Vermonters, and others to tear down the physical, communication, and attitudinal barriers that keep us from realizing our full human potential.*
Together, we will build communities to:
 - *achieve our human and civil rights and equal access to services and opportunities;*
 - *have available ongoing resources and options for independent Living;*
 - *realize our power to control and direct our own lives.**We join together to celebrate our diversity and the common goal for the full inclusion of all persons in the life of our communities.*
2. See attached FY'19 Budget to Actual (preliminary) and FY'20 Approved Budget
3. VCIL will use the funding for our Peer Advocacy Counseling Program (PAC) and for Information, Referral and Assistance (IR&A). These programs are at the heart of VCIL's work and allow residents to access information about disability-related laws, services and programs. The PAC program provides residents one-on-one support when overcoming barriers they are experiencing because of disability. We work with residents to develop an Independent Living Plan and set goals. We then work one on one in helping residents achieve those goals. Our peer counselors **all** have disabilities themselves and understand through personal experience and training how to overcome obstacles that people with disabilities often face, especially when seeking housing, employment and transportation services. In FY'19, **55** (unduplicated >70 enrolled in PAC program) Bennington residents utilized our Peer Advocate Counselling Program (PAC) to help them attain their independent living goals.
4. Please see attachment A

**THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
TOWN OF BENNINGTON
SUMMARY REPORT**

Request Amount: \$7000.00

For 40 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'19 (10/2018-9/2019) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **250** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **6** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **163** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **122** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **86** individuals with information on assistive technology; **46** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **499** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which served **40** people and provided **31** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our Peer Advocate Counselors and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Windham County office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) (previously under the VT Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil and recreational settings.

During FY '19, **202** residents of **Bennington** received services from the following programs:

- Home Access Program (HAP)
(**\$38,599.00** spent on modifications)
- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
(over **\$19,900.00** spent on meals for residents)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
(**\$2,944.00** spent on assistive technology)
- VT Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP)
(**\$1185.00** spent on adaptive telephone equipment)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling Program (PAC)
- Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:
1-800-639-1522, or, visit our web site at **www.vcil.org**.

4. Attachment A

City/Town	FY'20 Request	FY'19 Funding
Albany	100.00	100.00
Alburgh	175.00	175.00
Andover	55.00	55.00
Arlington	295.00	295.00
Bakersfield	95.00	95.00
Barnet	280.00	280.00
Barre City	3000.00	3000.00
Barre Town	2000.00	2000.00
Belvidere	195.00	195.00
Bennington	7000.00	7000.00
Berkshire	180.00	180.00
Berlin	1000.00	1000.00
Bethel	150.00	150.00
Bloomfield	75.00	75.00
Brattleboro	1600.00	1600.00
Bridport	190.00	190.00
Brighton	150.00	150.00
Brookfield	310.00	310.00
Brookline	80.00	80.00
Brunswick	50.00	50.00
Burlington	0.00	0.00
Cabot	165.00	165.00
Calais	800.00	800.00
Cambridge	385.00	385.00
Cavendish	100.00	60.00
Charlotte	200.00	200.00
Clarendon	345.00	345.00
Corinth	170.00	170.00
Coventry	130.00	130.00
Craftsbury	140.00	140.00
Danby	180.00	180.00
Dummerston	100.00	0.00
Duxbury	150.00	150.00
E. Montpelier	400.00	250.00
Eden	165.00	165.00
Elmore	175.00	175.00
Enosburg	270.00	270.00

City/Town	FY'20 Request	FY'19 Funding
Essex/Junc.	1000.00	1000.00
Fairfax	220.00	500.00
Fairlee	155.00	155.00
Fayston	100.00	100.00
Ferrisburgh	250.00	250.00
Fletcher	130.00	100.00
Glover	245.00	245.00
Goshen	80.00	80.00
Grafton	105.00	105.00
Granby	105.00	105.00
Granville	80.00	80.00
Greensboro	210.00	210.00
Guildhall	75.00	0.00
Hartford	845.00	845.00
Hartland	160.00	160.00
Highgate	380.00	380.00
Hinesburg	260.00	200.00
Hubbardton	155.00	155.00
Huntington	250.00	250.00
Isle La Motte	295.00	295.00
Jamaica	250.00	250.00
Jay	200.00	200.00
Jericho	150.00	150.00
Leicester	145.00	145.00
Lemington	75.00	75.00
Lowell	90.00	90.00
Ludlow	360.00	360.00
Lunenburg	200.00	200.00
Maidstone	150.00	150.00
Manchester	420.00	420.00
Marshfield	150.00	150.00
Middlesex	195.00	199.00
Middletown Springs	100.00	100.00
Milton	800.00	0.00
Monkton	195.00	195.00
Montpelier	5000.00	5000.00
Mount Holly	100.00	100.00
Mount Tabor	55.00	55.00

City/Town	FY'20 Request	FY'19 Funding
New Haven	215.00	215.00
Newark	55.00	55.00
Newbury	460.00	460.00
Newfane	220.00	220.00
North Hero	310.00	310.00
Northfield	1000.00	1000.00
Peru	140.00	140.00
Pittsfield	75.00	75.00
Pittsford	314.00	314.00
Plainfield	250.00	150.00
Plymouth	175.00	175.00
Poultney	420.00	420.00
Pownal	440.00	440.00
Proctor	250.00	250.00
Randolph	1000.00	1000.00
Readsboro	230.00	230.00
Richmond	375.00	375.00
Royalton	305.00	305.00
Rupert	120.00	120.00
Rutland Town	535.00	535.00
Ryegate	265.00	265.00
S. Burlington	1400.00	0.00
Sandgate	95.00	95.00
Searsburg	90.00	90.00
Shaftsbury	1000.00	1000.00
Sheffield	55.00	55.00
Sheldon	140.00	92.00
Shrewsbury	170.00	170.00
St. Albans	200.00	200.00
St. George	100.00	100.00
Stannard	80.00	80.00
Starksboro	250.00	250.00
Stockbridge	230.00	230.00
Stowe	420.00	420.00
Strafford	200.00	200.00
Stratton	105.00	105.00
Sudbury	80.00	80.00
Sutton	1000.00	1000.00
Swanton	675.00	0.00
Tinmouth	80.00	80.00

City/Town	FY'20 Request	FY'19 Funding
Townshend	255.00	255.00
Tunbridge	150.00	150.00
Underhill	200.00	200.00
Victory	70.00	70.00
Waitsfield	620.00	350.00
Walden	145.00	145.00
Wallingford	280.00	250.00
Waltham	100.00	100.00
Warren	480.00	480.00
Washington	365.00	365.00
Waterbury	600.00	600.00
Weathersfield	185.00	185.00
Wells	160.00	160.00
West Fairlee	130.00	130.00
West Windsor	140.00	140.00
Westfield	95.00	95.00
Westford	100.00	100.00
Westminster	110.00	110.00
Westmore	80.00	80.00
Weston	230.00	230.00
Wheelock	85.00	85.00
Whiting	55.00	0.00
Williamstown	400.00	500.00
Williston	600.00	600.00
Woodbury	210.00	210.00
Woodford	250.00	250.00
Worcester	200.00	200.00

Vermont Center for Independent Living
FY'20 Approved Budget

INCOME	FY20 Budget Approved	EXPENSES	FY20 Budget Approved
Federal Grants		Specific Assistance	
704 North	678,494	VHCB (FY20)	398,000
704 South	295,320	VHCB (FY19)	36,240
SILC grant	150,000	Meals on Wheels	387,879
NIDILRR	18,700	SILC Grant	35,000
USDA (FY20-21)	70,000	EDP equipment	35,250
USDA (FY19-20)	16,619	USDA (FY20-21)	59,500
		USDA (FY19-20)	16,619
State Grants		VIRS "Off-Contract" Interpreters	10,000
VHCB (FY'20)	545,000	Total Specific Assistance	978,488
VHCB (FY'19)	36,240	Operational Expenses	
Meals on Wheels	484,972		
		Salaries	928,668
Other Grants		Fringe Benefits	360,984
Wellness Workforce Coalition	0	Total Personal Services	1,289,652
VIRS	55,000		
VIRS - "off-contract" Interpreters	10,000	Agency Operating Expenses	
EDP grant	75,000	Professional Services	64,264
VR Youth	80,000	Board Expenses	3,000
		Occupancy	76,784
Misc Income		Travel - mileage	19,000
Cities & Towns	48,000	Printing & Publication	11,000
Donations - Unrestricted	25,000	Telecommunications	22,708
Program/Restricted Donations	0	Supplies	31,000
Subscriptions/reimburs.	3,500	General Insurance	46,000
VIRS referral fees	55,000	Postage	11,400
Other Income	5,000	Equip Lease, Repair & Maint	24,500
Investment Income	0	Advertising & Outreach	6,500
		Dues & Subscriptions	7,500
		Training/conferences/travel	21,348
		Depreciation Expense	29,701
		Peer Skills Trainings	4,000
		Miscellaneous	5,000
		Wellness Workforce Direct Exp	0
		Total Operating Expenses	383,705
Total Income	2,651,845	Total Expenses	2,651,845
		Net Income	-

			FY19 PRELIMINARY		
			Actual	Actual	
	budgeted	budgeted	Expense	Expense	
	%	\$	%	\$	
Specific Assistance	38.68%	1,103,120	41.56%	1,232,216	
Personnel					
Executive Director		72,523		71,419	
CFO		46,624		52,841	
Deputy Director		56,100		63,322	
Admin		88,446		85,680	
Development		34,310		34,783	
PAC's		325,765		319,668	
Other Program Staff		287,062		269,938	
Total Personnel	31.93%	910,830	30.27%	897,651	
Fringe Benefits	12.84%	366,291	11.49%	340,584	
Total Salaries & Fringe	44.78%	1,277,121	41.76%	1,238,235	
Professional Services	4.08%	116,361	4.53%	134,346	
Board Expenses	0.14%	4,000	0.11%	3,125	
Occupancy	3.05%	87,092	2.92%	86,723	
Travel, Conf, Trainings & Mtgs	1.45%	41,307	1.33%	39,306	
Printing & Publication	0.37%	10,500	0.32%	9,355	
Telecommunications	0.83%	23,576	0.75%	22,219	
Supplies	1.25%	35,718	1.13%	33,631	
General Insurance	1.39%	39,521	1.48%	43,823	
Postage	0.40%	11,400	0.33%	9,895	
Equip Lease, Repair/Maint.	0.70%	20,000	0.81%	24,057	
Advertising & Outreach	0.58%	16,500	0.56%	16,683	
Dues & Subscriptions	0.28%	7,850	0.26%	7,590	
Depreciation Expense	0.90%	25,600	0.80%	23,650	
Miscellaneous	0.00%	-	0.21%	6,254	
WWC Expenses	1.14%	32,500	0.62%	18,260	
Special Event Expense	0.00%	-	0.53%	15,644	
Total Expenses	100.00%	2,852,166	100.00%	2,965,012	
Net Operating Income		-		24,195	
Investment Income		-		5,788	
Net Income		-		29,983	