



TOWN OF RICHMOND
RICHMOND TOWN CENTER
203 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 285
Richmond, Vermont 05477



Senator Bernie Sanders
1 Church St.
3rd Floor,
Burlington, VT 05401

April 20, 2022

RE: Congressional Directed Spending Request
Richmond Town Center Energy Efficiency Project

Dear Senator Sanders,

I am writing to officially ask for your help through the Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) program. I am a Richmond Select Board member and Chair of the Richmond Town Committee that has been working on the rehabilitation and renovation of our Town Center Campus for the past three years. The campus consists of our wonderful Richmond Free Library which is located in a renovated 1897 Universalist Church and across the parking lot is the old Richmond High School building which was built in 1907 and now houses our Town Municipal Offices, Police Station, Planning and Zoning Offices, Community Senior Center office, Richmond Historical Society office, US Post Office, MMCTV Community Access TV station and Radiate Art Space.

Our committee has been working diligently over the past three years to prioritize critical building related needs for both buildings and to develop a vision for what our Town Center can be for the next hundred years. We commissioned Bread Loaf Construction to develop a Facilities Assessment for both buildings and have begun to address urgent structural needs for the library. Our next step is to focus on the future of our Town Center building.

A glaring problem with the Town Center building, which has only been exacerbated by the pandemic, is the lack of adequate ventilation. In fact there is no outdoor fresh air ventilation in the building at all except for what comes through the leaky 100 year old windows. To address either the leaky windows or the mechanical ventilation system requires that we address both. If we don't, we will either oversize the ventilation equipment or if we were to replace the windows without installing a fresh air ventilation system, we would create an unhealthy workspace for employees and the public using the building. However, addressing both ventilation and windows is an expensive proposition.

Our goal is to develop a comprehensive renovation plan for the building. We want to bring this well used and well loved community asset into the 21st Century. In addition to dealing with the windows and mechanical systems, we want to make the space more functional and we want to do our best to make it net zero or at least net zero ready.

Obviously we will need to bond for any or all of these projects. We are projecting total renovation costs could be as much as \$5,000,000 maybe more. However, this building is worth it. It is not only in the center of Richmond, it is the heart of Richmond. A CDS grant would help us immeasurably not just because of the money. It would also help us build community support for the bond vote for the entire project.

I understand you need a statement certifying that the organization applying is a non-profit. The formal applicant is the Town of Richmond, a local government entity. I can also assert that neither the Senator nor any family member has any pecuniary interest in the project.

This project will be a big deal for our Town. We will be rebuilding this building in a way that it can serve our community going forward for another hundred years. This CDS money will help make this vision a reality.

Thank you so much for all you do. We are so fortunate in Vermont to have you as our Senator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Forward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jeff Forward
Richmond Select Board Member
Chair of the Richmond Town Center Committee



Sen. Sanders Congressionally Directed Spending Request

— **FY2023** (Richmond Town Center Energy Efficiency Project)

Name & Contact Info	Mailing Address	Permanent Address
Jeff Forward Mobile: 8027353026 forward@gmavt.net	2899 Hinesburg Rd Richmond VT 05477	2899 Hinesburg Rd Richmond VT 05477

* indicates a required field.

Section 1. Applicant

1. Applicant Organization *

Town of Richmond

2. Street Address Line 1 *

203 Bridge St

3. Street Address Line 2

No answer.

4. City/Town *

Richmond

5. State *

VT

6. ZIP Code *

05477

7. Email *

forward@gmavt.net

8. Phone Number *

802-735-3026

9. Tax Identification Number *

36000646

10. Type of Applicant *

Local Government

11. If Non-Profit Organization with 501(c)(3) status, is this a National organization or a Vermont Organization? *

Vermont

11.1 If national, is there a local Vermont chapter?

Yes

12. * Senate rules require transparency for projects nominated for funding. Does applicant consent to posting all of the information submitted on a US Government website? *

Yes

Section 2. Project Location

1. Is this a statewide project or a regional project? *

Regional

- 1.1 If regional, provide further information:

No answer.

2. Does your project have multiple locations? *

No, it is just one location.

- 2.1 If multiple locations, please include each address below.

No answer.

3. Address Line 1

Fill this section only if your project has **one** location.

203 Bridge St

4. Address Line 2

No answer.

5. City/Town *

Richmond

6. State *

VT

7. ZIP Code *

05477

8. County *

Chittenden

Section 3. Project Information

1. Project Title *

Richmond Town Center Energy Efficiency Project

2. Type of Project *

e.g. Housing, Wastewater, Education, Drinking Water, Energy Efficiency, Social Services, Agriculture, etc.

Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy

3. Project Description *

Brief description of the proposal that includes the benefit to Vermont and the local community.

The Richmond Town Center building has served our community well for over 100 years. The pandemic has highlighted that the building has no mechanical ventilation of any sort. The only source of fresh air in the building comes from the quite leaky 100 year old windows. We would very much like to address the ventilation issues, but find that in order to do so, we also need to replace the windows. We cannot properly size the ventilation equipment unless we replace the windows and we cannot replace the windows unless we provide for mechanical ventilation. Both projects must happen simultaneously.

The Richmond Town Center building is a key element of our community and commercial center. When Hurricane Irene struck Richmond, community volunteers arrived at the Town Center to assess how we could help our neighbors. It houses essential services such as the US Post Office and Police and it anchors our commercial district in the village. This building has served our community well for over 100 years and the investment we plan to make in it will set it up for another 100 years.

By renovating this historic building and rehabilitating it for the next 100 years, we reaffirm our commitment to vibrant village centers which is one of the key goals for development planning in the state.

4. Justification: Why is this request an appropriate use of taxpayer funds? *

This description should provide a brief (250 words or less) summary of the project including its purpose, goals, history, and current status, as well as the justification for the project (i.e., why funding is in the interest of taxpayers). Please be specific when describing the activities and expenditures. The justification should also state what performance standards will be used to measure whether this project has achieved its objectives.

We are two years into planning for the rehabilitation of our historic Town Center building. This project will bring this critical community resource up to state of the art efficiency standards and allow it to continue to serve as an example of our commitment to clean energy and our community for the next 100 years.

This funding will help us ensure fresh air ventilation for town staff and the public that uses it every day.

This building needs extensive renovation in order to for it to be used safely and efficiently. There are very few grant sources that could be used for a project of this nature. As a consequence we will be going to the voters for a substantial bond vote to support this project as soon as next Town Meeting. A CDS appropriation will help us build local public support for the significant investment that will be needed.

5. Is this funding for an existing project or a new project? *

Existing Project

5.1 If an existing project, what new activities will this funding be used for?

No answer.

6. Has this organization received funding from the federal government in the prior three fiscal years?

No

6.1 If yes, please describe the funding in detail.

No answer.

7. **Was This Project Request Submitted to Senator Sanders in the Fiscal Year 2022 Congressionally Directed Spending Process? ***

No

8. **List Any Entities or Organizations Partnering in or Supporting the Project.**

- o Preservation Trust of Vermont
- o Efficiency Vermont

9. **Project Website (if applicable)**

<http://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-minutes/town-center-library-building-committee/>

Section 4. Project Budget

1. **Total Budget ***

5321261

2. **Congressional Request ***

1000000

3. **Amount of Other Committed Funds ***

500000

4. **Short description of project budget ***

The description should explain how the money will be spent (i.e., \$ -x- for salaries; \$ -x for programming; \$ -x- for specific equipment; etc.)

This request will support our overall goal of doing a net zero rehabilitation of our historic Town Offices. We are in the process of planning for this renovation now. Our next step is to hire an architect to help us develop the design and pull together a proposal to present to Town voters hopefully by Town Meeting 2023. These CDS funds will help us go from a more conventional renovation to a net zero rehabilitation of the building. Additional funding will come from building rental income. Right now the building is carrying no debt service so the \$100,000/ year rent from the US Post Office will go a long way toward paying a municipal bond. We may also put some of our ARPA money toward this project as it is considered a legacy project for the town.

5. **This is one-year funding for federal fiscal year 2023. Will applicant be able to spend monies, if awarded, by September 30, 2023? ***

No

6. **Has this request been submitted to any other member of Congress? ***

Yes

6.1 **If yes, who?**

Senator Leahy

7. **Has the organization previously received an earmark from Senator Sanders? ***

No

7.1 **If yes, please describe the earmark.**

No answer.

8. **What is the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that has jurisdiction over this request, if known?**

Energy and Water Development

For the question below. For a list of accounts, please review the list in this link: <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/FY22-EligibleAccounts.pdf>

9. **Federal account or program for which project is eligible, if known.**

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)

Section 5. Multiple Projects Request

1. **How many projects are you submitting? ***

1

1.1 **If you are submitting more than one project, please indicate the rank of this project**
(1=1st choice, 2=2nd choice, etc.)

1