Town of Richmond

Request for Special Appropriations

Request for Fiscal Year: 2027

Organization's Name: VT Center for Independent Living

Address: 453 Stone Cutters Way, Ste. B,

City, State, Zip: Montpelier, VT 05602

Website address: www.vcil.org

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Program Name: N/A
2. Contact Person/Title: Linda Schwaner, Development Director

   Telephone Number: 802-224-1819 E-mail address: lindam@vcil.org
3. Total number of individuals served in the last complete fiscal year by this program: ~1,800
4. Total number of the above individuals who are Town residents: 4

   Please attach any documentation that supports this number. *Please see attached summary report.*

   Percent of people served who are Town residents: <1%
5. Amount of Request: $375.00
6. Total Program Budget: $3,221,568

   Percent of total program budget you are requesting from the Town of Richmond: <.01%
7. Please state or attach the mission of your agency: *Please see attached.*
8. Will the funding be used to:

   X Maintain an existing program _____Expand an Existing Program

   _____Start a new program
9. Has your organization received funds from the Town in the past for this or a similar program? Yes.

   If yes, please answer the following:

   a. Does the amount of your request represent an increase over your previous appropriation? If yes, explain the reason(s) for the increase. N/A

   b. Were any conditions or restrictions placed on the funds by the Selectboard? If yes, describe how those conditions or restrictions have been met. N/A

B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. Statement of Need: Identify the issue or need that the program will address (use statistical data to justify the need for the program). To what extent does this need or problem exist in the Town of Richmond?

VCIL has specific programs that benefit the residents of Richmond, including the Sue Williams Freedom Fund, which provides grant dollars for assistive technology not otherwise covered by insurance (hearing aids, vehicle modifications, scooters etc), Meals on Wheels for people under the age of 60 and who have a disability (the Council on Aging serves people over the age of 60) and the Home Access Program, providing ramps and bathroom modifications to residents. VCIL's Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) offer peer-to-peer services for people seeking assistance because of barriers they are experiencing. **All** of our PACs have disabilities themselves and have navigated many of these barriers already. This past year one residents received meals from our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program, one resident enrolled in our eer Advocacy Counseling program, one resident received technology from our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) and one resident utilized our Information, Referral and Assistance program.

In addition to people served, VCIL offers technical assistance to the business community on the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws.

According to the U.S. Census, 20 percent of Vermonters have a disability. The programs offered at VCIL to residents of Richmond afford them greater independence.

2. Program Summary:

a. Identify the target/recipients of program services. Specify the number of Town residents your program will serve during the fiscal year and explain the basis upon which this number is calculated. Indicate any eligibility requirements your program has with respect to age, gender, income or residence.

In the previous year, VCIL served four residents of Richmond. Considering that 20 percent of the population has a disability, this number can vary greatly from year to year depending on the needs of the residents.

In addition to the number of residents, the type of service will vary. Some business owners needing technical assistance can reach out for a quick phone call, while another resident may need a home modification which can cost over $17,000.

Eligibility varies from program to program. For the business community, anyone that has a question about disability-related laws can contact us.

For the Home Access Program and Sue Williams Freedom Fund there are income limits (must not exceed 80 percent of the HUD median income), and one must have a disability that directly relates to the need requested (home modification or assistive technology). Our Meals on Wheels program is for people with disabilities under the age of 60 (Council on Aging takes over at 60).

The Peer Advocate Counseling Program is offered to anyone who has a disability and wants to work on specific independent living goals. The peer must be engaged in the process of working on goals identified.

b. Identify what is to be accomplished or what change will occur from participating in the program. How will people be better off as a result of participating in the program? Describe the steps you take to make the project known to the public, and make the program accessible and inclusive?

VCIL staff work with program participants to develop an Independent Living plan and that plan addresses specific goals to living independently and the steps needed to obtain the goals. The peer advocate counseling staff work with peers to achieve those goals. Residents on our Meals on Wheels program receive one hot and nutritious meal a day which they do not feel they are able to do on their own in their current living situation. Our outreach team continues to work to let more people know who VCIL is and what we do with a focus on underserved populations.

Other outreach techniques include social media (Facebook and YouTube), VCIL's website, and outreach to community organizations, the state and other partners about our services/programs.

VCIL strives to be accessible and inclusive. We have policies and procedures for reasonable accommodations. We complete cultural competency assessments and continuously work to be more inclusive of our programming, additional training will take place in early FY'26,

3. Program Funding:

a. Identify how Town funds, specifically, will be used (i.e., funds will provide "X" amount of units of service.)

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.

b. List the other agencies to whom you are submitting a request for funds for this program and the amount requested. How would this program be modified should revenues be lost? VCIL appreciates the assistance from the town and these funds, combined with grants received from other organizations, cities/towns and private donations, enable us to offer the services when needed to individuals with disabilities. *(please see attached budget and FY'26 Towns Requesting allocations from)*

C. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

1. Describe your agency's capability to provide the program including its history, previous experience providing this service, management structure and staff expertise.

Since 1979, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has provided services to enhance the lives of people with disabilities with a vision of people with disabilities living independently and staying where they choose, in their Richmond home.

VCIL evaluates the needs of individuals with disabilities through an annual survey. The need of individuals ranges from getting and understanding information to access programs/services, accessing transportation, needs for meals on wheels and accessibility modifications in the home. Many of the individuals VCIL works with are considered "vulnerable" and through support and other services residents are less exposed to vulnerabilities.

VCIL employs people who have disabilities and they work 1:1 with residents who have disabilities and use their personal experience as an individual who has a disability to help others navigate complicated systems, and teach the skills that allow individuals to be more confident and advocate for their own needs.

VCIL provides technical assistance to business owners and municipalities on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other disability related laws. This allows for businesses to be less exposed to complaints and litigation and allows people with disabilities to have access to goods, services and employment opportunities.

VCIL provides home access modifications to those who have physical disabilities and need a ramp or bathroom access, Meals on Wheels to people with disabilities under the age of 60 who cannot prepare their own meal, assistive technology grants and farm assessments. VCIL is also home to the VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which provides telecommunications equipment to enable low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, and hard of hearing individuals to communicate by telephone.

These services all make a difference in individual lives and allow individuals with disabilities to achieve personal goals of living in their own home, raising children, going to community outings, employment and volunteerism.

2. How will you assess whether/how program participants are better off? Describe how you will assess program outcomes. Your description should include: what (what kind of data), how (method/tool for collecting the data), from whom (source of data) and when (timing of data collection).

Every January, VCIL sends out a survey to over 1,000 peers statewide that measures overall satisfaction with VCIL, what has improved in their life as a result of working with VCIL, advocacy issues peers would like to see us focus on and satisfaction within the particular program peer was enrolled in. Since many of our peers have compromised immune systems we have found that many are still feeling isolated because for them, the pandemic is not over. We continue to have our Traumatic Brain Injury support group (zoom), Men's Group, Women's Group and a Deaf and Hard of Hearing support group. There is also a "Long Haulers Group" that VCIL is involved in for people experiencing ongoing issues from Covid-19. This year the results still seemed focused on the pandemic and flooding issues.

As an organization, VCIL uses Results Based Accountability as the tool for evaluation and planning. We also see the direct result of skills training and social interaction in the increase in peer leaders who are conducting workshops, facilitating meetings, and talking to their legislators about advocacy issues that affect them. An audit at the end of a fiscal year to determine how many of our peers have reached their set goal is also a way for our Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) to measure success or to follow-up with said peer to find out what else needs to be done.

3. Summarize or attach program and or service assessments conducted in the past two years.

Please find peer survey attached. In addition, programs within VCIL have evaluation procedures.

4. Does your organization have a strategic plan and a strategic planning process in place? If yes, please attach your plan.

The strategic plan should include a mission statement, goals, and action steps to achieve the goals, and measures that assess the accomplishments of the goals.

Please find our strategic plan attached.

5. What is the authorized size of your board of directors? Up to 15 members.

   How many meetings were held by the board last year?

Full board meetings are held quarterly, in addition we have Program, Executive and Finance Committees made up of board members, and the committees meet six times a year.

6. Does your organization have an audit performed? If yes, the audit must be provided to the Town Manager upon request. Yes.

I, the undersigned, confirm the information contained herein is accurate and can be verified as such. I understand and agree that if the requested funds are approved, the disbursement of funds are subject to all conditions established by the Richmond Selectboard.

Signature of Applicant: Sarah Launderville Date: 10/6/2025

Print Name of Applicant and Title: Sarah Launderville, Executive Director

4a THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING #03-0271000
TOWN OF RICHMOND
SUMMARY REPORT

Request Amount: $375.00

For over 46 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'25 (10/2024-9/2025) 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 **140** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and our VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **178** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **115** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **73** individuals with information on assistive technology; **41** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **379** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served **17** people and provided **7** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone. In addition to our standard programs, this past year we were awarded with the Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Grant through the Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) which has enabled VCIL to move peers off of waiting lists and fund their request.

VCIL's central office is now located at **435 Stone Cutters Way, Ste. B** in Montpelier and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'25, **4** resident of **Richmond** received services from the following programs:

- Meals on Wheels (MOW) - **$1,240.00** spent on meals for residents
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund **$1,500.00** spent on assistive technology
- 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**.

Mission Statement

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.

B.3.b C&T's VCIL Requested Appropriations From

City/Town	FY25 Amount Requested		City/Town	FY25 Amount Requested
Albany	150.00		Fayston	100.00
Alburgh	175.00		Ferrisburgh	250.00
Andover	55.00		Fletcher	75.00
Arlington	295.00		Glover	245.00
Bakersfield	95.00		Goshen	80.00
Barnet	280.00		Grafton	105.00
Barre City	3000.00		Granby	105.00
Barre Town	2000.00		Granville	80.00
Belvidere	195.00		Greensboro	210.00
Bennington	10000.00		Guildhall	75.00
Berkshire	180.00		Hartford	845.00
Berlin	1000.00		Hartland	160.00
Bethel	150.00		Highgate	380.00
Bloomfield	75.00		Hinesburg	200.00
Brattleboro	1600.00		Hubbardton	155.00
Bridport	190.00		Huntington	250.00
Brighton	150.00		Isle La Motte	295.00
Brookfield	500.00		Jamaica	250.00
Brookline	80.00		Jay	200.00
Brookline	80.00		Jericho	150.00
Brunswick	50.00		Leicester	145.00
Calais	415.00		Lemington	75.00
Cambridge	385.00		Lowell	90.00
Cavendish	100.00		Ludlow	360.00
Charlotte	200.00		Lunenburg	200.00
Corinth	170.00		Maidstone	150.00
Coventry	130.00		Manchester	420.00
Craftsbury	140.00		Marshfield	150.00
Danby	180.00		Middlesex	195.00
Dummerston	100.00		Middletown Springs	100.00
Duxbury	150.00		Milton	300.00
East Montpelier	250.00		Monkton	195.00
Eden	165.00		Montpelier	5000.00
Elmore	400.00		Mount Holly	100.00
Essex/Junc.	1500.00		Mount Tabor	55.00
Fairfax	500.00		New Haven	215.00
Fairlee	155.00		Newark	300.00

City/Town	FY25 Amount Requested	
Newfane	220.00	
North Hero	310.00	
Northfield	1000.00	
Peru	140.00	
Pittsfield	75.00	
Pittsford	314.00	
Plainfield	100.00	
Plymouth	175.00	
Poultney	420.00	
Pownal	440.00	
Proctor	250.00	
Randolph	1000.00	
Readsboro	230.00	
Richmond	375.00	
Royalton	305.00	
Rupert	120.00	
Rutland City	10,000	
Rutland Town	535.00	
Ryegate	265.00	
Sandgate	95.00	
Searsburg	90.00	
Shaftsbury	1000.00	
Sheldon	100.00	
Shrewsbury	170.00	
St. Albans Town	500.00	
St. George	100.00	
Stannard	80.00	
Starksboro	250.00	
Stockbridge	230.00	
Stowe	420.00	
Strafford	200.00	
Stratton	500.00	
Sudbury	80.00	
Sutton	1000.00	
Swanton	500.00	
Tinmouth	80.00	
Townshend	255.00	

City/Town	FY25 Amount Requested
Tunbridge	150.00
Underhill	200.00
Victory	70.00
Waitsfield	450.00
Walden	145.00
Wallingford	250.00
Waltham	100.00
Warren	480.00
Washington	365.00
Waterbury	600.00
Weathersfield	185.00
Wells	160.00
West Fairlee	130.00
West Windsor	140.00
Westfield	95.00
Westford	100.00
Westminster	110.00
Westmore	80.00
Weston	230.00
Wheelock	85.00
Williamstown	500.00
Williston	600.00
Woodbury	210.00
Woodford	250.00
Worcester	200.00

C.3 **VCIL 2025 peer survey**

VCIL 2024 peer survey (services received Jan. 2023-Dec. 2024

Thank you for taking time to let us know about your experience with our organization this **past** year. For those of you who return completed surveys **postmarked by March 21, 2025** you will be entered in a drawing to receive one of three $100 debit cards.

If you would prefer to take the survey:

Over the phone, please call 1-800-639-1522 (voice)

By using ASL, please call Val Hughes at 802-275-0099 (videophone)

Satisfaction with VCIL Overall

1. Please select which program(s) you have utilized (select all that apply)

	Americans with Disabilities Act Technical Assistance		Peer Advocacy Counseling Program
	Home Access Program (HAP)		Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
	Meals on Wheels (MOW) (if under age 60)		VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP)
			Other: _____

Please rate your overall experience with VCIL. Select Agree to Disagree for each of the following items.

		Agree	Disagree
2.	Staff members are well informed		
3.	Staff members treat me with respect		
4.	I receive(d) my services in a timely manner		
5.	I am satisfied with my overall experience		

6. What has improved in your life as a result of working with VCIL?

_____

_____

7. VCIL works with the Vermont Coalition of Disability Rights (VCDR) which sends regular legislative updates related to disability issues through email.

Yes! Add me to the email list serve!

Name:_____ Email:_____

8. Have you gotten a rebate from Efficiency Vermont? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, for what? If no would you be interested? (write below)

_____

9. I'd like to become a member of VCIL to receive the quarterly newsletter and invites to VCIL events. Yes ☐ No ☐

Name:_____E-mail:_____

☐ I do not have email, please mail my newsletter (**provide name)**

10. If VCIL offered a service of assisting people with Social Security applications (SSI or SSDI), would you be interested in that service?
Yes ☐ No ☐

11. Are you registered to vote? Yes ☐ No ☐

12. If no, would you like to be? Yes ☐ No ☐

***Digital Access: Tell us what your experiences are around access to computers and the internet*:**

13. Are you able to afford internet services (if you want them)? Yes ☐ No ☐

14. Are you able to afford a computer if you wanted one? Yes ☐ No ☐

15. If VCIL offered classes on how to use a computer, would you be interested?
Yes ☐ No ☐

16. Any other details you'd like to share about your access to digital services like the internet, computers, computers, etc.?_____

VCIL Planning

17. What services do you wish VCIL offered that we currently do not?

_____

18. What advocacy issues would you like VCIL to work on over the next three years? _____

19. What other resources do you wish were available to people with disabilities? _____

County of Residence (optional)_____

Thank you for your input!

If you **do not** receive Meals on Wheels through VCIL, the survey is now complete. (**If you are 60 or over, VCIL does not provide your meals.**)

Satisfaction with Meals on Wheels (if you are under age 60)

		Agree	Disagree
21.	I received my application in a timely manner.		
22.	VCIL Meals on Wheels staff were helpful.		
23.	Meals on Wheels staff were easy to reach.		

24. Do you eat the meals that are delivered?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometim ☐

25. On the days you eat a meal from Meals on Wheels, how much additional food do you eat? (check all that apply)

☐ t is my only meal ☐ at 2 other meals

☐ I eat 1 other meal ☐ I eat snacks

26. How often are you satisfied with the variety of foods.

☐ Always ☐ Usually ☐ Sometimes ☐ Seldom ☐ Never

27. How would you rate the quality of Meals on Wheels overall?

☐ Excellent ☐ Very Good ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Do services received from Meals on Wheels help you to:

28. Eat healthier foods? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

29. Feel better? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

30. Improve your health? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

31. Continue to live at home? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

32. What recommendations do you have for improving VCIL's Meals on Wheels?
(please note, **we do not prepare or deliver the meals**)

_____

33. In addition to my Meals on Wheels meal, I eat the following:
(**check all that apply)**

	I eat microwavable meals		I eat at community meals
	I eat sandwiches		I eat with family/friends
	I eat take-out food		Other:

34. If VCIL no longer provided Meals on Wheels for you, what would you do?

	Get help from family and friends		Move to a nursing home or assisted living facility
	Move in with family		Other:

THANK YOU!!

C.4

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

VISION:

To be recognized as the place where we join together to celebrate our diversity and the common goal for the full inclusion of all persons in the life of our communities

STATEGIC PILLARS:

Independent Living	Program Awareness	Financial Sustainability	Organizational Effectiveness	Legislative Advocacy
STATEGIC OBJECTIVES:				
1. Provide access to services/equip. that will enable People with Disabilities to remain in their own homes and access their communities.	1. Better define & articulate what VCIL is and does. 2. Develop a PR Campaign. 3. Increase Membership.	1. Diversify & expand revenue sources. 2. Build financial Reserves.	1. Refine program procedures. 2. Continue collaborations and partnerships with other agencies.	1. Assess important disability related issues at the local, state, and federal level. 2. Prioritize & Develop strategies for advocacy.
LONG TERM STRATEGIC OUTCOMES:				
• Accessible housing stock is increased • Peers are able to advocate for their needs • Adaptive Equip is readily available	• VCIL will be recognized as the place to go for help with disability related issues	• VCIL's dependence on state and federal grants will be reduced • Adequate operating reserves	• Strong program offerings with VCIL • No wrong door – peers can enter any agency and get referred to services needed	• Public buildings and events will be accessible to all • The disability voice will be included in laws
PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT:				
• #/% increase in # living indep..	• Awareness levels	• % Revenue by source	• Consumer satisfaction	• Increased access