

Dear Selectboard and Josh,

Here is a link the home page for the Rural Economic Development Initiative administered by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

<https://vhcb.org/redi>

In short, VHCB recognized that small rural communities did not have enough staff to access all of the potential grant funding that could be available to them. So, they created this program to pay for consultants to help with grant research and grant writing. I spoke to the program manager, Mariah Noth, and she was very encouraging. She told me that Richmond seemed like an excellent candidate for the program and encouraged us to apply. She said it was a very simple on-line application process and to feel free to cut and paste language we used for other purposes if possible to make it easier.

Attached is draft language for the REDI application. The Town Center Committee voted at our most recent meeting to ask the Selectboard for authorization to apply. The program will fund 100% of the costs of a consultant up to \$7,500 to help with grant research and grant writing. The consultant contracts directly with VHCB and no matching money from the Town is required.

Please feel free to call or write if you have any questions or would like more information about this program.

Thank you for your consideration

Jeff Forward

Richmond Select Board Member/Town Center Committee Chair

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