

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application**

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

For publication on or before 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Tear Sheet Requested.

**Notice of Public Hearing**

The Town of Rochester {is/are} considering making application to the State of Vermont for an Implementation Grant under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held at 5:00 PM on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at Rochester Town Office, 67 School St, Rochester, VT 05767 to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the amount of funds available and the range of community development activities that may be undertaken under this program, the impact to any historic and archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine the proposed statement of projected use of these funds. The proposal is to apply for \$ 600,000 in CDBG funds which will be used to accomplish the following activities:

The Rochester High School Repurposing Project will transform the closed former high school into a vibrant, multi-use community hub that restores a vital civic, educational, and cultural anchor for Rochester and the surrounding region. Since the building's closure in 2020 under Act 46, the community has lacked an accessible facility for events, performances, and programs. The adaptive reuse will preserve this historic structure while introducing essential new services including childcare, intergenerational learning, and older adult programming, alongside space for small businesses and community gatherings.

The project directly addresses pressing community needs by providing accessible childcare and elder services, supporting low- and moderate-income households, and restoring the only local facility with a 300-seat auditorium. Its location within the designated Village Center—adjacent to the elementary school, library, and local commerce—positions it as a catalyst for economic revitalization and social connection.

VCDP funding is essential to move this project forward, providing the capital required for design and construction while leveraging regional partnerships to align with Vermont's economic and

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community development goals. By repurposing the former high school into a resilient, multi-generational center, Rochester will preserve a key historic asset and create a lasting resource that supports community vitality, inclusion, and economic growth.

Copies of the proposed application are available at Rochester Town Office, 67 School St, Rochester, VT 05767 and may be viewed during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Monday through Thursday. Should you require any special accommodation, please contact Kristen Lapell at 802-767-3631 to ensure appropriate accommodation is arranged. For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) # 1-800-253-0191.

Legislative Body for the Town of Rochester Selectboard