



INTRODUCTION

The Problem: Municipal Government Capacity

- Unprecedented amount of state and federal funds available to municipalities.
- Small towns lack internal capacity to develop local projects and access grant funds.
- Towns with the highest needs are those with the highest priority economic indicators.
- Rutland County is second lowest in Vermont for accessing state/federal grant funding.

The Solution: Municipal Technical Assistance (MTA) Program

- April 2023, Vermont Legislature passed H.145/Act 3, “to provide expanded technical and administrative assistance to municipalities with **high need** that may be eligible for state or federal funding.”
- Agency of Administration (AOA) contracted with Regional Planning Commissions to implement MTA Program.
- AOA developed the Vermont Community Index (VCI) based on **capacity and need**.
- Towns ranked in the top 25th percentile are pre-approved for funding/assistance.

RUTLAND REGION PRE-APPROVED TOWNS

TOWN	CAPCITY	NEED	INDEX
Ira	95	45	97.1
Benson	82	55	95.9
Mt. Tabor	87	45	65.9
Tinmouth	79	47	82.1
West Haven	89	37	81.7
Pawlet	69	56	79.7
Middletown Springs	81	43	77.7

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- **Water/Wastewater**
- **Housing**
- **Community recovery, workforce development, and business support**
- **Climate change mitigation and resilience**
- **Other economic development projects (subject to approval by State)**



RRPC SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1: Community Needs Assessment

- Review Town Plan (goals & action items) and scoping/feasibility studies.
- Identify projects and eligibility.
- Conduct strategic planning (if necessary).

Task 2: Opportunity Assessment

- Assess funding opportunity from State, Federal, Local, Private, etc.
- Evaluate eligibility/compliance and feasibility analysis of capacity.

Task 3: Application and Permit Assistance

- Assist with preparing applications, permits, and regulatory requirements.

Task 4: Project Management and Implementation

- On-going project management, program compliance, and administrative support.

Task 5: Other Capacity Building Activities

- Additional assistance (subject to approval by State)



BENSON

Benson 2019 LHMP, Statement of Growth Potential: Benson’s population has been steady since 2000. The presence of seasonal homes associated with the lakes causes the population to fluctuate by season. Significant growth is not anticipated within the foreseeable future.

Benson 2017 Town Plan, Economic Development Goal(s): While Benson is a farming community, the Town also supports a range of other businesses and pursuits. The most promising and undeveloped aspect of the local economy relates to tourism and recreation. Entrepreneurship is encouraged along with home businesses and cottage industries. Encourage the development of home occupations and cottage industries. Encourage the expansion of local businesses. Maintain the village core, the character of the Town, and the landscape and natural resources. Conditionally permit future small commercial and light industrial developments that are consistent with the Town's rural character and complementary to its agricultural heritage.

Benson 2017 Town Plan, Water/Wastewater Goal(s): Ensure that the Town’s wastewater treatment facility does not contribute to degradation of water quality. Encourage the efficient use of the Town’s wastewater treatment facility by encouraging such things as more compact development in the village area rather than elsewhere in the Town. Encourage water savings devices in homes and businesses. Investigate as needed the expansion of wastewater treatment facilities to meet current and future needs of the Village. Major expansion of the Town Wastewater Treatment Facility’s Collection District should be at the builder’s or developer’s expense. As warranted, investigate options, and develop a plan to improve the water supply to the Village. (A municipal water supply serving all village homes and businesses could solve the quantity issue in the village.)

2020 CENSUS DATA

POPULATION	974
MEDIAN AGE	51
POVERTY LEVEL	10.7%
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE	3.47
AVERAGE HOUSE BUILD	1979
OWNERSHIP RATE	81.3%
RENTAL RATE	18.7%
OWNER UNITS	274
RENTAL UNITS	63
SEASONAL UNITS	100
AVERAGE SALE PRICE	\$200,000
ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE	\$54,766