

# Granite City Community-Innovation Funding Letters of Interest

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which provides \$350 billion to state and local governments across the nation for the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Of Vermont's \$1.25 billion share, over \$200 million (about \$300 per Vermonter) was allocated to municipalities. Barre City received \$2.5 million.

## Program Details

### **Why is Barre requesting letters of interest for potential grant funding?**

This special, one-time funding is intended to support transformative projects leveraged by additional funding from outside organizations, helping Barre respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **What are allowable uses of the funds?**

The U.S. Department of Treasury, the [Vermont League of Cities and Towns \(VLCT\)](#), and other organizations have issued guidance on the allowable use of funds. The City will evaluate proposals to ensure eligibility prior to proceeding with applications.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Groups of people, individuals or organizations working for the public benefit in Barre City, Vermont.

### **How could funds be disbursed?**

Although no details are final, prospective funding may be disbursed in up to three phases (an initial payment to get started, a mid-term payment upon demonstration of progress, and a final payment upon completion of remaining documentation).

### **What record-keeping will be expected of grantee?**

All applicants will be expected to keep detailed records of every transaction and provide invoices and proof of payment.

### **How will projects be evaluated?**

Eligible projects will be evaluated by a review panel to be determined at a later stage. The criteria may include but will not be limited to:

- Clearly defined need
- Outcome-based impact (how will the project improve the lives of the people of Barre City)
- Cost-effectiveness
- Leverage (extent to which project has additional outside funding and support)
- Readiness (is the project well framed, well-backed, and able to be implemented)

### **What is ineligible?**

At this time, the following will not be considered for funding:

- Any partisan or political activities (or organizations that use funding for partisan or political activities)
- Projects incompatible with the City's plans or regulations
- Ongoing operational costs or reimbursement of expenses that occurred before the grant was issued
- The establishment of reserve funds for use beyond the grant cycle
- The purchase of materials or equipment unrelated to the grant
- Paying staff or volunteers to administer the grant

### **When should letters of interest be submitted?**

Letters of interest will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning **September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**. Due to capacity constraints for related public outreach on the use of the City's ARPA funds, no final application deadline, review process, or award schedule has been established at this time but could be as early as December 2022. Updates to the process will be communicated widely, including via the [Barre City website](#). The letters of interest will help the City and Council understand projects as part of its ongoing outreach. People and organizations will be invited to apply based on their letter of interest. All projects must target a completion date by December 2026.

# Letter of Interest

## Prospective Applicant

**Organization Name/Applicant Name**

**Mailing Address**

**Website (if one is available)**

**Name of Primary Contact for Application**

**Phone Number of Primary Contact**

**Organizational Status (such as a City Committee, 501(c)(3) non-profit, etc.)**

**If defined, what is the mission of your organization?**

**If different from the applicant, who will be the primary project manager?**

**What is the background and experience of the project manager as it relates to this project?**

**If your organization has done similar project(s), please describe the project(s), when they occurred, and any measurable results and goal-based outcomes.**

Youth in our programs experience a STEAM-centered curriculum with a foundation in social-emotional learning. We have documentation of their learning objectives from September–November 2022, as well as parent feedback and survey forms demonstrating their positive personal and psychological development.

## Project Overview & Impact

**Briefly summarize your project:**

**How did you determine the need for this project?**

There are no programs in Orange or Washington County that combine nature-based STEM curriculum with the support of social workers and counselors for emotional and psychological support and development.

**How will your project transform Barre City and provide public benefit for its people in a positive way for years to come?**

skills

**How will you measure and evaluate the success of your project beyond inputs?**

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact youth in our community. Families in our target community also face rising fuel costs and economic challenges to provide for basic needs. With less money, it's often Vermont's children who suffer with fewer programs available to them at low or no cost and transportation. For many, cost, cultural barriers and transportation keep such opportunities out of reach. Many low income families in our project area of Orange & Washington County have limited access or guidance to public forest lands because they do not own a vehicle. Without the ability to drive, many underserved families miss out on opportunities for environmental education that other privileged Vermonters take for granted. While outdoor education programming can be affordable and accessible to many families in Vermont, most is out of reach to BIPOC or low-income youth due to cost and/or transportation. Our program would specifically address these disparities, providing no cost tuition and transportation in support of accessibility for all. Further economic impacts on the community, including the closure of a main middle school afterschool program, remove access to education and care for local families with middle school youth. Youth in our community will soon be voters, select board members, committee members and citizens making decisions that affect their community. Our project's responsibility is to help provide services to our youth, especially the underserved and under-represented that local and state agencies cannot, to help build strong future leaders and protectors of Vermont's human and nonhuman communities.

We hope our project will foster the academic, social and emotional growth of underserved middle school youth in our community. The curriculum will expose participants to local and state governance, featuring agency officials and municipal leaders as guest teachers. State representatives will join us to teach students how they may submit their research from our program in support of the work of state agencies or conservation legislation. Youth will have opportunities for civic engagement on natural resource concerns through activities like letter writing and testimony. The structure of the daily program will integrate objectives from nationally-adopted models of youth education to support mental and emotional wellness. Facilitators support youth in the face of growing social, cultural, and personal challenges. Our educators have certificates in trauma informed facilitation and nature therapy. State agencies will provide guest teachers and advise our curriculum to ensure that technical training and preparation for future employment in forestry and agriculture fields will be a bedrock of our program.

Our program leadership combines 70 years of experience in nonprofit administration, outdoor education, trauma-informed care, and wildlife conservation, directed by a team of women and Indigenous leaders. The program will also collaborate with local Abenaki leaders to situate place-based, Indigenous science at the heart of our curriculum. Guest speakers will facilitate activities alongside core staff to provide a diversity of perspectives.

Effectiveness of our program will be measured through formal and informal evaluation methods such as focus groups and evaluations including program staff, youth and families, to identify program

strengths and areas in need of change. Data collection from youth, their families and staff will also help us evaluate our program's processes, content and structure to gauge effectiveness and will be used to guide improvements. Resources such as the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality's Youth Program Quality Intervention and the New York State Network for Youth Success' Quality Self-Assessment Tool will be used to self-evaluate and take a critical look at where improvements can be made to better serve youth in our project, specifically those low-income, BIPOC and LGBTQ+. Collected data will also assess the effectiveness of the project based on skill based assessments of youth participants, whether goals to achieve inclusiveness were met, a safe and welcoming environment were met, and staff evaluations that provide meaningful data on how improvements can be made in future programming.

With the combination of hands-on learning, civic empowerment, and culturally-competent facilitation, our project will establish healthy outdoor educational programming to benefit disenfranchised and underserved youth, primarily those residing in Orange & Washington Counties. We anticipate participants will gain knowledge of bioregional ecology, understanding of advocacy and policy, and experience in physical and mental wellness into a daily practice. Program outcomes include youth experiencing greater awareness of and relationship with the natural world, actively participating in civic opportunities, advocating for wildlife now and as they enter adulthood, and greater health outcomes in areas of physical and mental wellness.

In focus, we will address the needs of youth in the program by:

- providing transportation, and sliding scale and scholarship tuition, to ensure access to all families
- providing trauma-informed, social-emotional learning to support mental health outcomes
- providing healthy snacks and outdoor activity to support physical health outcomes
- providing nature-based, youth-led activities each day of the program to ensure engaged, authentic learning

## Estimated Project Budget

**What is the total cost of your project? Please identify any ongoing and/or recurring costs.**

\$

We have received initial grant support to underline the continuation of this program into the 2023-2024 academic year.

**How did you estimate or determine the cost of your project?**

**How much ARPA funding are you requesting from the City of Barre?**

\$

**Would this funding be used as minimum required match for other funds?**

Yes

No

**What are the other prospective sources of funding and are they secured?**

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Secured (yes or no)
	\$ 99947.88	
	\$ 60,000	
	\$ 10,000	
	\$ 4900	
	\$ 24000	
	\$ 55000	

## Project Approach

### How long is the project estimated to last and when will it be complete?

This project began 9/1/22 and continues through the school year plus seven weeks of summer camp. The goal is to continue this as an ongoing full time program after a successful pilot year.

### Will your project involve contracted or sub-contracted components?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe (1) which components will be contracted and/or sub-contracted, (2) how contractors and/or sub-contractors will be selected to obtain the best value for taxpayer funding, and (3) how favoritism and conflicts of interest will be avoided?

### Complete the Work Plan & Budget Breakdown Please see attached project budget

*Actions should break down the project into milestone parts and not be overly detailed or overly broad.*

Action <i>(e.g. build a trail bridge)</i>	Materials <i>(e.g. lumber for trail bridge)</i>	Responsibility <i>(e.g. contracted trail crew)</i>	Budget	Target Completion Date

## Submission

Submit completed form to:

**Roxanne Pike**

**Executive Assistant to the City Manager**

[ExecAssist@barrecity.org](mailto:ExecAssist@barrecity.org)

Please use "ARPA Letter of Interest – [Organization/Applicant Name]" in the email subject line.



Afterschool Session Program Budget

<i>Afterschool Session (Sept 1 22- June 23 23)</i>	Expenses	VT Afterschool Expanding Access Grant	In Kind Contributions	Other Secured Funding outlined below	Funding Needed	Notes
Coordinator	\$25,000.00	\$10,000.00			\$15,000.00	
Staff 1	\$42,560.00	\$17,150.00			\$25,410.00	
Staff 2	\$17,150.00	\$17,150.00			\$0.00	
Guest Teachers	\$7,306.25	\$7,306.25			\$0.00	
FICA	\$7,039.24	\$4,712.88			\$2,326.36	
Medical and insurance	\$2,162.38	\$1,447.75			\$714.63	
Staff Training	\$3,360.00	\$3,360.00			\$0.00	
Professional Development	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00			\$0.00	
Peer Support and Networking	\$500.00	\$500.00			\$0.00	
Supplies/Materials	\$5,250.00	\$5,250.00			\$0.00	
Equipment - Computer	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00			\$0.00	
Curriculum Equipment / Supplies	\$700.00	\$700.00			\$0.00	
Outdoor Equipment	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00			\$0.00	
Tracking and Wildlife Monitoring	\$3,900.00	\$1,400.00	\$2,500.00		\$0.00	Deerlab Sponsorship 2500
Yurt	\$11,009.00		\$10,910.00		\$99.00	Groovy Yurts Sponsorship
Yurt Platform, Awning, Furnishings	\$4,289.21	\$2,650.00			\$1,639.21	
Yurt Heat (woodstove & wood supply)	\$4,200.00				\$4,200.00	
Yurt Electric Installation + Monthly	\$4,800.00				\$4,800.00	
Payroll	\$4,600.81				\$4,600.81	
Bookkeeping	\$5,000.00				\$5,000.00	
Background Checks	\$600.00	\$600.00			\$0.00	
Insurance	\$9,723.00				\$9,723.00	
Transportation (drivers, insurance, and winter road maintenance)	\$52,500.00				\$52,500.00	
Nutrition	\$17,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$7,500.00		\$0.00	In-Kind Retail Donations
Licensing for Staff and Site	\$5,000.00				\$5,000.00	
Marketing	\$307.08				\$307.08	
Facilities Overhead	\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00	
<i>Subtotal before Indirect</i>	<i>\$253,656.98</i>					
<i>Indirect - 10%</i>	<i>\$25,365.70</i>	<i>\$13,521.00</i>			<i>\$11,844.70</i>	
<i>Contributions</i>		<i>\$99,947.88</i>	<i>\$20,910.00</i>	<i>\$75,150</i>	<b>\$83,014.80</b>	
<b><i>Afterschool Total</i></b>	<b>\$279,022.68</b>					
	<b>INCOME TO DATE:</b>	\$99,947.88	\$20,910.00	\$75,150	<b>\$83,014.80</b>	\$75150 = Canaday Family Foundation: \$60,000. Andrew Family Foundation: \$4,900. Couch Family Foundation: \$10,000. Northfield Savings Bank \$250
						* Note: Canaday Family Foundation pledge is \$60,000 for 2022-2023, with recurring \$60,000 contributions in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025