



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members
From: Daniel Dickerson, Fiscal Analyst *DWD*
Date: December 31, 2018
Subject: Grant Request #2942 - 2944

Enclosed please find three (3) items, which the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the Administration. **The Administration has requested expedited review of these grants by the JFC.** Members will be contacted by January 7, 2019 for a decision unless the member has responded prior to that time.

JFO #2942 – \$10,000 from the Castanea Foundation to the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Funds from this grant will be paired with \$50,000 in funds from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant program to provide a third round of Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grants (VPSIG) since 2017. The VPSIG funds go to produce growers to implement on-farm food safety practice improvements, transition to compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, and meet market demands for on-farm food. VPSIG funds will be awarded by March 2019 with work to be completed by December 31, 2019.

[JFO received 12/28/18]

JFO #2943 – \$219,213 from the Northern Border Regional Commission to the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Funds from this grant will be used for pilot projects in 3 northern Vermont villages aimed at comprehensive wastewater infrastructure planning and implementation. The ultimate goal of the project is to determine how the state might adjust funding, permitting and assistance programs for local wastewater improvement projects in order to improve outcomes for communities in need of wastewater improvements but with a small base of users from which to draw funding. DEC will hire a consultant to serve as coordinator for the 3 pilot communities and provide more in-person support from project start to finish. The 3 pilot communities are Wolcott, East Burke and West Burke. The pilot will take place over three years. A local match will be provided in the form of state funding and local in-kind volunteer effort. State match will total approximately \$112,000 over the three-year project period.

[JFO received 12/28/18]

JFO #2944 – \$279,330 from Green Mountain Power to the VT Public Service Department. \$270,000 in funding would come from Nuclear Electricity Insurance Ltd. (NEIL) credits associated with Green Mountain Power's share of Vermont Yankee. The remaining \$9,329.70 would come from a premium refund to GMP from American Nuclear Insurers Corp.

(ANI). PSD would use \$150,000 to establish a low-income energy pilot program to help GMP ratepayers with limited means to fund home renewable energy projects. The remaining \$130,000 would fund a stove to wood pellet change-out program for low and moderate income households focused mainly in Rutland County where particulate air quality issues are most acute.

[JFO received 12/28/18]

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Daniel Dickerson at (802) 828-2472; ddickerson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like an item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by January 7, 2019 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.

JFO 2942

State of Vermont
 Department of Finance & Management
 109 State Street, Pavilion Building
 Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

[phone] 802-828-2376
 [fax] 802-828-2428

Agency of Administration
RECEIVED
 DEC 28 2018
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

**STATE OF VERMONT
 FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM**

Grant Summary: This grant is a \$10,000 pledge from the Castanea Foundation to supplement USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funding. This program helps Vermont produce growers implement on-farm food safety practice improvements.

Date: 12/20/2018

Department: Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Legal Title of Grant: Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grant

Federal Catalog #:

Grant/Donor Name and Address: Castanea Foundation, PO Box 64, Montpelier, VT 05601

Grant Period: **From:** 12/1/2018 **To:** 12/31/2019

Grant/Donation: 10,000

	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Total	Comments
Grant Amount:	\$10,000	\$	\$	\$10,000	

Position Information:	# Positions	Explanation/Comments
	0	

Additional Comments: Attached email and letter serves as the notice of award. This indicates the dollar amount, and the letter shows that the grantors want a report after 12 months, which is evidence of a 1 year grant period.

Department of Finance & Management	<i>AM</i>	(Initial)
Secretary of Administration	<i>BZ</i>	(Initial)
Sent To Joint Fiscal Office	12/27/18	Date



RECEIVED
FEB 11 1964
JOINT LEGAL OFFICE



Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets

116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620

www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov

Memorandum

To: Mike Middleman, Budget Analyst, Agency of Administration,
Dan Dickerson, Fiscal Analyst, Joint Fiscal Office

From: Anson Tebbetts, Secretary
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

e-Signed by anson tebbetts
on 2018-11-09 21:26:55 GMT

Date: November 9, 2018

Re: VAAFMM receives support from Castanea Foundation to leverage Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grant Funds

This memo is to inform the Agency of Administration that the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFMM) has been pledged \$10,000 in funding from the Castanea Foundation to supplement our USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) of \$50,000 for the Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grant Program. This program provides cost-share grants to Vermont produce growers to help implement on-farm food safety practice improvements, transition to compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR), and meet market demands for on-farm food.

In calendar year 2017, the Vermont State Legislature awarded VAAFMM capital funds (\$75,000/year over two years) for cost-share grants to produce growers for on-farm produce safety improvements. We utilized these funds to establish the Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grant (VPSIG) Program. The program awarded all dollars to 17 Vermont produce farms that identified necessary produce safety improvements on their farms and proposed how such improvements would help them to achieve compliance with the PSR and/or meet buyer requirements. In both rounds, eligible application requests exceeded the total available funds; a total of 44 applicants requested \$353,470 in VPSIG funds.

This substantial demand for funds to improve on-farm produce safety demonstrates significant unmet need for cost-share capital assistance among Vermont produce growers. We intend to utilize SCBGP funds combined with Castanea Foundation investments to provide a third round of Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grants to Vermont produce growers. These grants will partially defray the costs of implementing on-farm food safety practices in order to help growers transition to compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule and/or meet market demands for on-farm food safety. All grants will be awarded by March 2019 and work must be completed by December 31st, 2019.

Enclosed is the confirmation email announcing the pledge of \$10,000 from Tim Storrow, Executive Director of Castanea Foundation.



NOV 19 2018

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
1. Agency:	Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets			
2. Department:				
3. Program:	Agriculture Market Development			
4. Legal Title of Grant:	Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grant			
5. Federal Catalog #:				
6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:				
Castanea Foundation PO Box 64 Montpelier, VT 05601				
7. Grant Period:	From:	12/1/2018	To:	12/31/2019
8. Purpose of Grant:				
<p>The Castanea Foundation has pledged \$10,000 in funding to supplement funding from USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) for the Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grant Program. This program provides cost-share grants to Vermont produce growers to help implement on-farm food safety practice improvements, transition to compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, and meet market demands for on-farm food.</p> <p>These pledged funds will provide a third round of Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grants (VPSIG) to Vermont produce growers (first 2 rounds were supported by State of Vermont capital funds). These grants will partially defray the costs of implementing on-farm food safety practices, infrastructure improvements and equipment upgrades necessary to help growers transition to compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule and/or meet market demands for on-farm food safety. Since the USDA SCBGP funds cannot fund construction, building or equipment costs, Castanea's investment will allow applicants to engage in larger infrastructure updates to packhouses and installation of washable walls and concrete drainable floors. All grants will be awarded by March 2019 and work must be completed by December 31, 2019.</p>				
9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:				
<p>This public/private partnership will allow us to collectively respond to the produce industry interest in making on-farm produce safety improvements to comply with federal regulations and remain competitive in the marketplace. These additional funds are greatly needed to improve quality, efficiency, and food safety in our produce community and help mitigate the financial risks associated with meeting FDA's FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements.</p> <p>Without these supplemental funds we will be unable to provide complete financial assistance to as many local produce growers through the VT Produce Safety Improvement Grant program. Limiting the available funds will hinder the program's ability - due to USDA SCBGP fund restrictions - to fund infrastructure improvements to produce production and processing areas.</p>				
10. BUDGET INFORMATION				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
Expenditures:	FY 19	FY	FY	
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$	\$	\$	
Grants	\$10,000	\$	\$	
Total	\$10,000	\$	\$	

NOV 19 2018

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

Revenues:				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$	\$	\$	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source Castanea Board)	\$10,000	\$	\$	
Total	\$10,000	\$	\$	

Appropriation No:	2200030000	Amount:	\$10,000
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
		Total	\$10,000

PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION

11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts? Yes No
 If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.
 Appointing Authority Name: _____ Agreed by: _____ (initial)

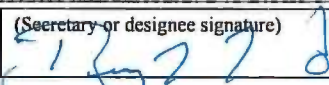
12. Limited Service Position Information:	# Positions	Title
Total Positions		

12a. Equipment and space for these positions: Is presently available. Can be obtained with available funds.


13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):	Signature:	Date:
	Title: Secretary	e-Signed by anson tebbets on 2018-11-09 21:26:55 GMT
	Signature:	Date:
	Title:	

14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved:	(Secretary or designee signature) 	Date: 12/21/18
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STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Check One Box: Accepted	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rejected	Date: 12/24/18
(Governor's signature) 		
16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED		
Required GRANT Documentation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any) <input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable)	
End Form AA-1		
(*) The term "grant" refers to any grant, gift, loan, or any sum of money or thing of value to be accepted by any agency, department, commission, board, or other part of state government (see 32 V.S.A. §5).		

Daniel Dickerson

From: Bothfeld, Diane <Diane.Bothfeld@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:40 PM
To: Janet Ancel
Cc: Middleman, Michael; Daniel Dickerson; Hodgdon, Marcey
Subject: Grant from Agency of Ag needing expedited approval - VT Produce Safety Improvement Grant

Hello Representative Ancel,

Please expedite the above referenced grant through the JFO/JFC process to allow for all grants to be awarded by March 2019 and the work to be completed by December 31, 2019.

This grant was just sent to you from Finance and Management the JFO/JFC by pink mail on December 27, 2018.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane

Diane Bothfeld
Director of Administrative Services, IV and Dairy Policy
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620
www.agriculture.vermont.gov

802-828-5667   

Please complete this [brief survey](#) to help us improve our customer service. Thank you for your feedback!

Willard, Abbey

From: Tim Storrow <tim@castaneafoundation.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 9:26 AM
To: Willard, Abbey
Cc: Donovan, Kathryn; Sweet, Kristina
Subject: Re: Produce Safety Improvement Grant program application from VAAFM

Hi Abbey:

I am happy to report the Castanea Board recently revisited your proposal for the Produce Safety Improvement Grant Program and approved a \$10,000 grant to support your work. Our hope is these funds can be used to match other funding sources and allow for infrastructure improvements on produce farms as well. Congratulations!

I will plan on getting the funds together to send your way. Please let me know if you have any specific payment instructions.

Best-

Tim

Tim Storrow
802-225-1180
413-772-2146
tim@castaneafoundation.org

Castanea Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 64
Montpelier, VT 05601

On Oct 3, 2018, at 9:55 AM, Willard, Abbey <Abbey.Willard@vermont.gov> wrote:

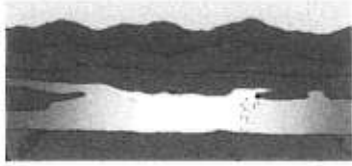
Thanks Tim,

We appreciate the update and thank you for the consideration.
We will look forward to hearing more about the board priorities in spring 2019.

Thanks,
Abbey

Abbey Willard
Agricultural Development Division Director | Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
116 State St., Montpelier Vermont 05602-2901 | <http://agriculture.vermont.gov>
Tel:802-272-2885 | <image001.gif> <image002.png> <image003.jpg>

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for the VAAFM Agriview E-Newsletter!



Castanea Foundation, Inc.

November 14, 2018

Ms. Abbey Willard
Agricultural Development Division Director
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2901

Dear Abbey,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Castanea Foundation, Inc., I am pleased to inform you that Castanea Foundation has approved a \$10,000 grant to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets in support of the Produce Safety Improvement Grant Program. Enclosed is a check for the full amount of the grant.

As you know, Castanea Foundation, Inc. is interested in supporting the Agency of Agriculture's efforts to preserve the State's working landscape and significant agricultural lands by enhancing Vermont's farm economy through investments in agricultural infrastructure and other means. The Produce Safety Improvement Program will be of great assistance to Vermont produce farmers in meeting the various compliance requirements related to food safety and enhance their economic viability.

Please be advised that no part of this grant may be used for the benefit of any private donor, political campaign, or to support or influence legislation of any governmental body other than making available the results of nonpartisan analysis, study and research.

In order for us to remain informed on how the grant is used, we would like to request a brief written report in twelve months updating us on project developments.

It has been a pleasure working with you and we look forward to hearing how things progress.

Regards,

CASTANEA FOUNDATION, INC.

Tim Storrow
Executive Director