



ADDISON COUNTY

Economic Development Corporation

Great starts here.



ACEDC hosts staffers from the Agency of Commerce & Community Development, the Agency of Natural Resources, and the State Land Use Review Board for a Visit to Vermont Farms in Starksboro. Jan. 23, 2026

SPRING 2026

From the Executive Director



Alex Armani-Munn

It's been an exciting start to 2026 for the Addison County Economic Development Corporation. In January, we welcomed staff from the State's Agency of Commerce & Community Development, Agency of Natural Resources, and the State Land Use Review Board for a visit to Starksboro-based Vermont Frames for a discussion on how State permitting affects business improvements and expansions. Then, in February, we closed our first new loan of 2026, providing \$10,000 in startup funding for Nest & Gather, a new business opening at the Deer View Business Park in New Haven that will cater to new and expecting mothers with classes, support groups, and specialized retail products. Also in February, we were excited to execute service agreements with the City of Vergennes to help prepare two separate applications to the State's new Community Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) that, if successful, will provide tax-increment financing for infrastructure expansions and improvements that will serve two new housing developments. In March, we had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the recently formed New Haven Housing Task Force. This group of citizen volunteers came together as a result of the Vermont Council on Rural Development's series of technical assistance visits to New Haven throughout the winter. We commend the valuable work this group is doing to facilitate much-needed housing development in their community and look forward to supporting their grassroots efforts and promoting them as a model for people-centered housing strategies in other Addison County communities.



Great starts here.

New ACEDC Board Members



Ron Dendas brings 40 years of experience addressing the vital conditions that drive health and well-being of communities, with a focus on physical and mental health, housing, cradle-to-career education, and authentic community engagement. Before retiring to Bristol, VT in 2023, Ron worked as Director of Health Improvement at the Leonard Parker Pool Institute of Health and as a Program Officer at the Rider-Pool Trust and Foundation in Allentown, PA.



Matthew Senter is a Relationship Manager with Agri-Access, a secondary market capital provider supporting banks that lend to agricultural and forest-based businesses. Matthew has worked in commercial and agricultural banking roles in the Northeastern U.S. for over 30 years. He holds a degree in economics from St. Lawrence University, an MBA from Thomas College, and is a graduate of the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking.



Elise Shanbacher is the Executive Director of Addison Housing Works, a non-profit organization serving over a thousand residents in more than 750 homes throughout Addison County. Elise's prior work includes positions with the National Governors Association, the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics, and Public Policy, and the Executive Office of Governor Peter Shumlin. Elise is a graduate of Middlebury College and also holds a master of public policy degree from Harvard University.



NEW ACEDC MEMBERS



ACEDC RENEWING MEMBERS



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ACEDC IN THE NEWS

The Addison Independent (March 12, 2026):

ACEDC picks top 10 county projects

Read this article from the Addison Independent to learn more about the important role ACEDC plays in compiling Addison County's annual Regional Priority Project List. View the full 2026 RPP list [here](#).

Vermont Business Magazine (January 27, 2026):

Fifteen organizations approved for GROW grants

ACEDC was excited to be awarded two more years of funding through the Department of Tourism & Marketing's "Grants for Relocation Outreach Work" (GROW) program. This funding will extend the [Imagine Addison County](#) program managed by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce with administrative support from ACEDC.



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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

CHECK IT OUT

VERMONT'S INDEPENDENT VOICE MARCH 11-18, 2026 VOL.31 NO.27 SEVENDAYSVT.COM

FREE
kids
MONEY ISSUE
INSIDE!

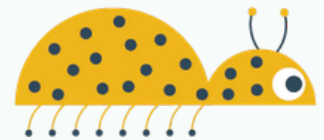
A New Republic

From Goshen to Erewhon, a maple and honey biz bottles and sells Vermont
BY JORDAN BARRY, PAGE 28

» **RACE TO THE BOTTOM** PAGE 14
Another Burlington election gets messy

» **IN THE BAGS** PAGE 34
BirdieBlue upcycles skiwear

» **FAMILY FARE** PAGE 36
Spaghet takes on Olive Garden



republic of vermont



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Addison Independent (January 29, 2026):
Bristol's Four Blooms Farm keeps
growing



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Lost Lantern Looks Back On A Successful 2025, & Forwards To 2026

How did a small Vermont whiskey bottler earn national acclaim and \$1M in funding during a challenging year? Lost Lantern's 2025 journey reveals the answer.



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UPCOMING BUSINESS EDUCATION WEBINARS



ADDISON COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation
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Addison County
Chamber of Commerce

CONNECT | CONTRIBUTE | THRIVE

May 12th 9:30 - 10:30 AM	Small Business Lending	Dan Winslow, VCLF; Alex Rob, CCoV; Michael Corbett, NBM
June 9th <i>*[In-person]</i> 9:30 - 10:45 AM	Managing Difficult Conversations	Mark Haymen, HR Happens
July 14th 9:30 - 10:30 AM	Digital Marketing	Will Skolochenko, Vox
August 11th 9:30 - 10:30 AM	Business Expansion & Relocation	<i>More Details Coming Soon</i>
September 8th <i>*[In-person]</i> 9:30 - 10:30 AM	Small Business Health	<i>More Details Coming Soon</i>
November 10th 9:30 - 10:30 AM	Cyber Security	<i>More Details Coming Soon</i>
December 8th 9:30 - 10:30 AM	Small Business 401k	<i>More Details Coming Soon</i>



Great starts here.

COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS

First Annual New England Family Theatre Festival

The first annual [New England Family Theatre Festival \(NEFTF\)](#) will bring a vibrant, multidisciplinary celebration of the performing arts to Middlebury this spring. Running from Friday, May 8 through Saturday, May 16, the weeklong festival features an exciting lineup of theatre, music, circus, puppetry, and dance, alongside interactive experiences and community engagement activities designed to spark creativity and connection for audiences of all ages.



Great starts here.

LANDLORDS OF ADDISON COUNTY:

Housing is the #1 need in our communities.

Join us for presentations and conversation

Housing in Addison County: Providing it. Managing it. Maintaining it.

April 22, 2026 5:30 PM – 7:30

Addison Community Action
50 Industrial Avenue
Middlebury, VT 05753

Discussion Topics Include:

Fair Housing Law • Should I have a business plan?
Federal and State programs to assist and support landlords
Anticipating maintenance costs • Communication with tenants.

Brief presentations from

CVOEO Financial Futures Program • **The VT Landlord Association**
Addison Housing Works • **CVOEO Housing Advocate**
CVOEO Fair Housing Project • **AC Economic Development Corporation**

Hearty Snacks provided by Addison County's *Viva el Sabor*.
This free event is in acknowledgement of **FAIR HOUSING MONTH**.



RSVP Here



Addison Community Action cvoeo.org

Sponsored in part by Addison
County Economic Dev. Corp.



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COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

VtSBDC

VERMONT SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Since 1992, VtSBDC has provided professional expertise and friendly guidance to thousands of business owners statewide.

Start. Grow. Thrive. Transition.

VtSBDC delivers Results in 2025 with core funding of \$1.3 million *



\$9.7 Million*
Capital Infusion
59 Transactions



203
Jobs Created &
Retained



24
New Businesses
Started



445
Clients Served with
1 to 1 Advising

*Data verified and attributed by clients



Great starts here.

Whether you are an experienced business owner, a first-time entrepreneur, or a student with the spark of an idea, we can assist with:

- Start-up Education & Planning
- Financing Guidance
- Sales & Marketing Strategies
- Growth Strategies
- Financial Management
- Risk Management
- Operations Recommendations
- Innovation & Technology Commercialization
- Entrepreneur Education for Collegiate-age Students, High School Students & Faculty

The VtSBDC Business Advisor for Addison County is Sarah Kearns. Sarah has worked to support Addison County businesses for nearly a decade.

Find sarah at:

<https://www.vtsbdc.org/team/sarah-kearns/>

Contact Sarah via email at:

skearns@vtsbdc.org



UPCOMING VtSBDC WEBINARS & TRAININGS


April

[MORE INFO](#)

Apr
22
2026

Starting Your Own Business - with VtSBDC


Wed, Apr 22 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM Topic: Start-up Assistance

 On-line Training - Statewide

Apr
28
2026

Financial Hygiene 2.0: Clean & Confident Decision-making

Tue, Apr 28 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Topic: Managing a Business

 On-line Training - Statewide


May

[MORE INFO](#)

May
6
2026

Starting Your Own Business - with VtSBDC


Wed, May 6 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM Topic: Start-up Assistance

 On-line Training - Statewide

May
20
2026

Starting Your Own Business - with VtSBDC

Wed, May 20 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM Topic: Start-up Assistance

 On-line Training - Statewide


June

[MORE INFO](#)

Jun
3
2026

Starting Your Own Business - with VtSBDC


Wed, Jun 3 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM Topic: Start-up Assistance

 On-line Training - Statewide

Jun
17
2026

Starting Your Own Business - with VtSBDC

Wed, Jun 17 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM Topic: Start-up Assistance

 On-line Training - Statewide



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BEFORE YOU GO...

1. ACEDC is accepting project submissions for the RPP mid-year update through Friday, May 8th. Learn more about the RPP and how to submit a project [here](#).
2. The Agency of Commerce & Community Development is accepting applications for Downtown & Village Center Tax Credits through July 1, 2026. Interested parties can learn more about the program [here](#). For assistance with an application, contact ACEDC Assistant Director Richard Worsman at rworsman@addisoncountyedc.org.
3. Support ACEDC as a member or sponsor! If you are not already a member, you can register [here](#). To learn more about sponsorship, email Executive Director Alex Armani-Munn at aarmani-munn@addisoncountyedc.org.





ADDISON COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation
Great starts here.

We Help Businesses Launch, Grow & Thrive

- Growth Planning
- Referrals
- Market Research
- Business Loans
- Grant Services
- Advising
- Startup Assistance
- Advocacy
- Site Selection
- Networking



Alex Armani-Munn
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Richard Worsman
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Nichole Bachand
OFFICE OPERATIONS MANAGER



Camille Lyons
PROJECTS & GRANTS MANAGER



Rebecca Carter
WORKFORCE EXPANSION PROGRAM COORDINATOR
(VDOL)



Sarah Kearns
VTSBDC BUSINESS ADVISOR

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