



News Release

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USDA Rural Development Invests \$1.07 Million in Community Wastewater Solution for Lindale Mobile Home Park

Middlebury Community to Benefit from State and Federal Funding

MONTPELIER, VT, August 23, 2021 – Today, the United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development (RD) announced \$1,079,000 in funding for the Addison County Community Trust (ACCT) to install a septic system in the Lindale Mobile Home Park in Middlebury, Vermont. The investment is packaged as a \$203,000 loan and \$876,000 grant through RD’s [Water and Waste Disposal Loan & Grant program](#). Other contributions to the project include \$111,072 from the ACCT, a \$450,000 Vermont Community Development Block grant and \$500,000 from the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board. USDA and ACCT also worked closely with the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) to facilitate the project.

Acting USDA Rural Development State Director Cheryl Ducharme was happy to make the recent announcement. “Water and waste solutions are essential for our mission to make the lives of rural Vermonters safer, healthier and happier,” she said. “People should feel comfortable and secure in their homes, and this investment will give families in Middlebury a newfound peace of mind about their lifestyle and well-being. We are proud of this funding and the many benefits it will provide.”

ACCT Executive Director Elise Shanbacker is also confident the project will have long-lasting impacts. “Lindale Mobile Home Park is a critical source of affordable workforce housing just a few miles from downtown Middlebury,” she said. “This investment will replace the ailing, 50-year-old septic systems and ensure that the 67 families residing at Lindale will have clean water and an affordable, sustainable place to call home for generations to come.”

Owned and operated to create affordable housing by Addison County Community Trust, Lindale Mobile Home Park sits on 38 acres off Route 116, directly east of downtown Middlebury. Individual septic systems were inadequate and posing a potential pollution issue, so this project will create a community system with a leach field on 25 acres of recently purchased land.

Founded in 1989, ACCT has been providing quality affordable homes to low- and moderate-income Vermonters for over 30 years. As of 2021, ACCT owns and manages 670 permanently affordable apartments and manufactured housing lots and provides homeownership grants for a portfolio of 75 shared equity single-family homes. Additionally, ACCT provides Support and Services at Home (“SASH”) programming to nearly 200 elderly housing residents and area seniors.

The VHFA was established in 1974 to finance and promote affordable, safe and decent housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income Vermonters. Since its inception, VHFA has helped 29,000 primarily first-time home buyers and their families purchase homes. It also provides financing, development and management support, subsidy

administration and tax credits for approximately 8,800 affordable apartments statewide. Each U.S. state has a housing finance agency.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports housing, infrastructure improvements, business development, high-speed internet access, and community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

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