



Opportunity Finance Network: Member Profile



Community Capital of Vermont

Barre, VT

Small businesses are the primary means of support for many families in Vermont, and Community Capital of Vermont (CCV) is a critical resource for building businesses throughout the state. Founded in 1995, CCV specializes in providing loans and technical assistance to low- and moderate-income business owners who lack the collateral or credit history to qualify for traditional bank loans. In addition, the organization is a founding member of Credit Builders Alliance, a nonprofit that helps clients of community lenders build stronger credit profiles.

Success Story: Local Agricultural Community Exchange, Barre, VT

Conceived as an alternative to chain supermarkets, LACE is an innovative market and café that provides farm-fresh — and affordable — foods from local growers. To ensure its shelves remained stocked year round, the company operates its own commercial kitchen that processes and packages foods harvested at their prime. LACE opened in 2007, thanks to financial support from CCV and others.

“Without a resource like Community Capital to help people finance their business start-ups and expansions, many Vermonters would have fewer opportunities to lead economically secure and successful lives.”

*Emily Kaminsky
Fund Manager, Community Capital of Vermont*



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Mission

To contribute to a strong Vermont community by helping small businesses prosper through the provision of flexible financing and ongoing technical assistance.

Products and services

- Traditional business loans up to \$50,000
- Revolving lines of credit up to \$25,000
- Post-loan technical assistance for borrowers
- Business education grants up to \$250 to help borrowers cover the costs of attending business workshops and trade shows
- Administration of revolving loans funds on behalf of Vermont municipalities

Financial and social impact

- Loans made = 120, totaling \$2.3 million
- Businesses started or expanded = 94
- Average number of jobs created by each business = 1.5
- Loan loss rate (since 2004) = 3% or less