

Better Middlebury Partnership

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Kick Start Middlebury Offers a New Round of Grants to Bring New Businesses to Town

Middlebury, Vermont – March 11, 2022 – Last year, the Kick Start Middlebury program, created by a partnership of property owners and government, economic development, educational, and business entities, sponsored a business plan contest to attract new or expanded businesses to Middlebury. The initiative offered at least two applicants an incentive package that included free or discounted services and products donated by area businesses, a \$10,000 grant made available by the Town of Middlebury's business development fund, and various benefits offered by property owners. Thanks to gracious contributions from the Middlebury Rotary and Table 21, Kickstart Middlebury was able to award larger incentive packages to six finalists. More than a cash prize and valuable start-up services, the initiative offers business support, coaching and connections that will help all applicants, regardless of outcome, advance their ideas. See award announcement media release [here](#).

The program rules required the winners to establish their Middlebury operation within six months of the award announcement. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond the control of the awardees, two of the winners have not moved forward with their projects and will not use their grants.

Kickstart Middlebury has announced that the remaining funds will be used to provide grants of \$10,000-\$35,000, on a first-come, first-served basis to a business or businesses that plan to start-up, relocate, or expand to the remaining vacant properties in Middlebury, with priority given to downtown locations.

Kickstart Middlebury has reopened the application process. Potential grantees must submit an application, business proposal, financial projections and financial documents (for existing businesses) to be considered. Program information and the application can be found on the Kickstart Middlebury website, [here](#). A review committee, comprised of community stakeholders, will evaluate applications against a set of criteria.

"We're seeing downtown Middlebury flourish once again and this is an exciting time to become part of the community as a business," said Better Middlebury Partnership Executive Director Karen Duguay. "We're looking forward to hearing some of the ideas that could be a good fit for our community and to be able to offer some financial support to get those ideas off the ground."

The collaborating partners that have created the Kick Start Middlebury program are the Town of Middlebury, Better Middlebury Partnership, Addison County Chamber of Commerce, Addison County Economic Development Corporation, Vermont Small Business Development Center, Middlebury College, and several Middlebury area businesses and property owners. Grant funds were contributed by the Town of Middlebury, Middlebury Rotary, and Table 21.

The Kick Start Middlebury website has links to application forms as well as details on program eligibility, rules, process, selection criteria and timeline. Visit www.kickstartmiddlebury.com for complete details.

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