

**CDBG Success Story Template**  
**Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 1974-2014**

**Grantee Name:** City of Burlington Community & Economic Development Office

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**Name of Project:** City Market Onion River Co-op

**Type of Project:** Economic Development

**Area Served:** Urban

**Primary Beneficiary/Category:** Low/mod job creation and services to meet needs of elderly, disabled, and low income.

**General Project Information:**

- a) Amount of CDBG funds: \$66,000
- b) Year that activity was funded: 2000
- c) Project Start Date: 2000
- d) Project Completion Date: 2002

**Sources of leverage: Were other funds, besides CDBG, leveraged for this project?**

- a) Yes  No
- b) If any, list other sources, amounts and uses of funding, please include in-kind contributions: \_\_\_City guaranteed \$2M Section 108 HUD construction loan; Preservation Trust of VT raised \$200,000 to help restore and repurpose part of the building that was deemed historic; Senator Patrick J. Leahy secured a HUD Economic Development Initiative earmark for \$600,000 to pay for brownfield cleanup, the shoring up of the ravine, and preparing the site for construction; a private philanthropist donated equipment; City Market raised \$600,000 in equity from members and other City residents.
- c) What was the total project cost including CDBG and leveraged funds? About \$3,466,000

**Other Partners:**

Names of sub-recipients/non-profits involved with this project: Preservation Trust of Vermont; University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies; Hanover Food Co-op

Public departments and agencies involved with this project: Community & Economic Development Office; Department of Housing and Urban Development; City of Burlington; Burlington City Council; City Commissions; Neighborhood Planning Assemblies

Other key players who contributed to the project (lenders, schools, business owners, elected officials)? Mayor Peter Clavelle; Senator Patrick J. Leahy

**SUMMARY OF SUCCESS STORY:**

Please provide a general summary of the project. Some suggestions are listed below—you do not need to answer these specific questions.

The need to develop a supermarket downtown came up in the early 1980s when the only downtown grocery store announced that it would be closing its doors. With the nearest grocery store located more than a mile away, low-income residents without transportation would have been significantly affected by the change. The story behind the development of City Market is a study of perseverance and determination to locate a healthy foods option downtown. It took 17 years from the initial idea to opening of the store and the realization of this goal, which was achieved through strong partnerships, and a lot of time, investment, and hard work. City Market opened its doors in 2002 and is now the highest-grossing single store grocery co-op in the United States with annual sales of \$34M per year. It serves 4,200 customers daily and has about 9,000 members. Of these 9,000 members, about 1,110 are low-income. City Market has worked hard over the years to meet the needs of low-income, disabled, and elderly residents. City Market works with over 500 Vermont vendors to feature the widest selection of local products in the state. Of the 191 employees, 75% are full time and 65% live in Burlington. Average wages exceed livable wages in Burlington by \$.93 per hour, and on average, employees earn 25% more than those at conventional supermarkets. They also have a generous benefit package including 100% of premiums paid on healthcare insurance for full time employees.

**DOCUMENTATION:**

Please include hyperlinks and/or photos, video clips, news media coverage, and/or statistics summarizing your success or other tangible materials to help further illustrate your story.

<https://www.citymarket.coop/>

<https://www.ncga.coop/partners-find/vt/city-marketonion-river-co-op>

<http://www.wcax.com/story/12133247/city-market-goes-green>

<http://www.wcax.com/story/16925735/city-market-looks-at-expansion>