

## Community Innovations for Aging in Place

### Project Summary

**Grantee Organization:** City of Montpelier

**State:** Vermont

**Project Title:** Rural Elder Assistance for Care and Health (REACH)

**Project Period:** September 30, 2009 to September 29, 2012

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#### **Project Summary:**

The City of Montpelier will lead a collaborative effort building on the success of the Onion River Exchange (ORE), an existing Time Bank, to promote coordination between agencies and emerging networks of community-based services. A new social enterprise called REACH -- Rural Elder Assistance for Care and Health -- will foster health, wellness, and resiliency for elders and caregivers, expand services to facilitate aging-in-place, and build livable communities for elders of all income levels.

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

The goal is to create a community support system for elders in Central Vermont to provide innovative, reliable, and affordable personal, health, and social services. Objectives are to: 1) develop REACH social enterprise infrastructure enabling stakeholders, community members, elders, and caregivers to build networks of giving/receiving; 2) establish innovative REACH social insurance model to expand delivery of basic, assisted, and specialized services by rewarding community-based contributions; 3) integrate paid and community-based services; 4) create affordable access to preventive care for elders; 5) evaluate impacts of REACH; 6) disseminate results and lessons learned.

#### **Outcomes and Products:**

The expected outcomes are to: a) increase vulnerable elders' ability to stay in their communities; b) expand services for elders, especially low-income rural elders, foster behaviors that sustain health and independence; c) increase ratios of community based and paid services; d) improve social, physical and mental wellbeing for elders and caregivers; e) improve community resilience, economic empowerment and livability; f) demonstrate viability of the REACH social insurance model for aging-in-place in rural settings. Products will include: 1) replicable social enterprise model to support aging-in-place and promote preventive elder care in rural settings; 2) community-based directories of REACH services; 3) customized Community Weaver software for rural settings.