



Vermont's CDBG-Disaster Recovery II Partial Action Plan October 31, 2013



CDBG-DR II Partial Action Plan

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
Section 1: Introduction	1
Section 2: Remaining Needs	9
Housing	10
Special Needs Housing	13
Economic Recovery	14
Community Infrastructure	15
Section 3: Method of Distribution	17
Activities	17
State Direct Grants	20
Competitive Grants	26
Administration	28
Section 4: Performance Schedule	32
Performance Schedule Expenditures and Outcome Measures	32
Section 5: Other Criteria	34
Construction Standards	34
Displacement Plan of Persons or Entities	35
Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	35
Demonstrable Hardship	36
Program Income	36
Non-duplication of benefits	36
Accounting and Procurement	37
Accountability	37
Sanctions and Penalties for Fraud, Abuse, and Mismanagement	37
Monitoring Standards and Procedures	37
Quality Assurance and Investigation	39

Internal Audit Procedures..... 39

Building Capacity for Implementation and Compliance 40

Action Plan Amendments..... 41

Section 6: Citizen Participation and Consideration of Public Comments 42

Appendix A – Vermont Citizen Participation Plan for CDBG Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)..... 48

Appendix B – Performance Projections 56

Appendix C – DHCD Letters of Interest Summary..... 59

Appendix D – State of Vermont Government Organization Chart..... 61

Appendix E – Third Irene Recovery Report 62

Appendix F – SF424.....

Appendix G – Certifications (revised)

Executive Summary

On August 28, 2013, Vermont marked the second anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene, the largest natural disaster to hit the state in nearly a century. Vermonters remembered the lives lost and devastation caused, celebrated the progress made since that time and resolved to complete the state's recovery. This Action Plan outlines how the State of Vermont proposes to support these efforts with Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds in the amount of \$17,932,000. The CDBG-DR II allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development supplements an award of \$21,660,211 made to the State in 2012.

As provided for by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, Vermont will use CDBG-DR II for housing, economic recovery and infrastructure activities. Funds will be made available to meet remaining unmet needs. These are needs that cannot otherwise be satisfied by public sources such as FEMA's Individual, Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation Grant programs, the Small Business Administration and private resources including the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund. The Action Plan proposes uses that meet HUD's requirement that the funds be directed to the most impacted counties – Washington, Windsor and Windham. It also outlines activities that ensure the primary beneficiaries are low and moderate income populations and can be completed within the required two year timeframe. In addition to those related to Tropical Storm Irene, the funds may be used to meet remaining needs associated with the other presidentially-declared disasters of 2011 and 2012.

Two years after the storm, there is clarity around the recovery work that remains, needs that cannot be met by other sources and how HUD's disaster recovery funding can be used. The Action Plan proposes using CDBG-DR II for property buyouts, replacement housing, business assistance and community infrastructure recovery and repair. The allocation will be administered by Vermont's Department of Housing and Community Development of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

This Action Plan represents but one element of Vermont's broader recovery effort. DHCD will coordinate these activities with the wide range of policy and program initiatives underway at the state and local level to complete the recovery while making the state more resilient to natural disasters in the future. The extreme weather experienced by Vermonters earlier this year and the resulting floods and presidential declarations of disaster confirm that this work must continue.

Section 1: Introduction

Tropical Storm Irene and the other flooding events of 2011 and 2012 had an unprecedented impact on Vermont. Nothing since the Great Flood of 1927 so devastated the state. Damage was severe and widespread. Six Vermonters lost their lives. Fifty thousand homes lost power. More than 3500 homes were damaged or destroyed displacing 1500 families. Transportation and public infrastructure were decimated. Of Vermont's 251 cities and town, 225 reported damage to their municipal infrastructure. In excess of 300 businesses sustained losses and the agricultural impacts included 20,000 acres of flooded farmland, lost crops and livestock. The largest state office complex was overrun by flood waters forcing the evacuation of state employees and clients of Vermont State Hospital. Several state agencies and 1500 workers were displaced.

Much has been accomplished since Irene hit two years ago this month. Vermont is well along the road to recovery thanks to the work of countless volunteers, federal, state and local officials, public and private organizations. They have been supported by public and private resources including state funding, FEMA and SBA assistance, the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund, local charitable funds, the Vermont Community Foundation and many others. The CDBG Disaster Recovery allocation received by the Vermont in 2012 has played a critical role in recovery thus far. As outlined in the state's CDBG-DR I Action Plan, the funding is being used in the following broad categories:

- Housing Recovery – Repairs, Downpayment Assistance and Financial Counseling
- Housing Replacement – Development of Housing to Replace Lost Affordable Units
- Business Assistance – Grants and Low Interest Loans for Flood-impacted Businesses
- Property Buyouts – Local 25% match for FEMA-approved and 75% of FEMA-denied Projects.
- Downtown Assistance – Planning, Revitalization, and Project Feasibility
- Community Infrastructure – Grants to Municipalities and Nonprofits for Repair and Redevelopment of Infrastructure and Facilities.
- Planning – Feasibility and Planning Activities in Support of Recovery

In some instances, CDBG-DR I funds are helping a community meet its single most critical need such as bringing a grocery store back to the Village of Johnson. In others, they are making possible a variety of recovery projects such as new municipal office, redeveloped child care center, and new affordable housing in the Town of Waterbury. Businesses are receiving grants allowing them to recover from flood damages and keep their doors open. Low and moderate income households are repairing their homes. Municipalities are buying out damaged properties to allow their owners to recover, restore floodplains and mitigate future damages. A team of experts is helping devastated communities determine how to leverage their downtown and community assets for economic recovery. At the time of this

plan's submission to HUD, approximately \$18.4 million of the first \$21.6 million CDBG-DR allocation has awarded by DHCD for the activities above.

Nonetheless, more work remains to be done. FEMA and SBA data were the primary sources for identifying unmet needs to be addressed by the state's first allocation. At this point in the recovery of Vermont's individuals, households, businesses and communities, much more specific information is available on the remaining needs that are eligible for CDBG-DR funding and cannot be met by other sources. The proposed uses of the second allocation are based on the following:

- More than 60 letters of interest from eligible entities for proposed projects.
- A public hearing and public comment.
- DHCD's experience administering CDBG-DR I
- Ongoing communication with and reports from state agencies, the Irene Recovery Office, disaster case managers, municipalities, long term recovery committees, regional planning commissions, regional development corporations, and housing nonprofits.
- Need to use and build local capacity to apply and administer CDBG-DR funds in compliance with HUD requirements.

To this information the State applied the overarching goals of meeting the most pressing needs, maximizing benefits, leveraging other sources and rebuilding stronger and safer. This Action Plan also proposes uses that meet HUD's requirement that the funds be directed to the most impacted counties – Washington, Windsor and Windham. It outlines activities that ensure the primary beneficiaries are low and moderate income populations and can be completed within the required two year timeframe.

The State proposes a range of programs that will allow Vermonters and their communities to continue and in most cases complete their recovery. It proposes additional funding for property buyouts. Because committing CDBG-DR funds early in the process for the local match of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program encouraged many municipalities to pursue buyouts, the demand now exceeds funds available under CDBG-DR I. The business assistance programs have been very successful but the need for business assistance also exceeds what is currently available and the plan proposes additional funding for grants and low interest loans to businesses as well.

With respect to housing, there is sufficient funding under CDBG-DR I to meet the needs of eligible households for repairs, downpayment assistance and financial counseling. There is a remaining need, however, for funding the relocation and redevelopment of impacted affordable housing out of floodplains, most significantly the Brattleboro Housing Authority's Melrose Terrace. The plan includes substantial funding for this critical project that will relocate public housing units for the elderly and disabled out of harm's way.

Now that funding totals from the FEMA Public Assistance program have been, for the most part, resolved, municipalities are turning to CDBG-DR to meet the remaining needs. The plan

proposes dedicating funds to community infrastructure for which municipalities can apply to DHCD. Because many of the impacted villages and towns have limited organizational capacity, the plan proposes funding the regional planning commissions, led by the Windham Regional Commission, to assist these municipalities. For funding within this category, DHCD also welcomes applications from communities for projects developed through the Downtown Assistance Program.

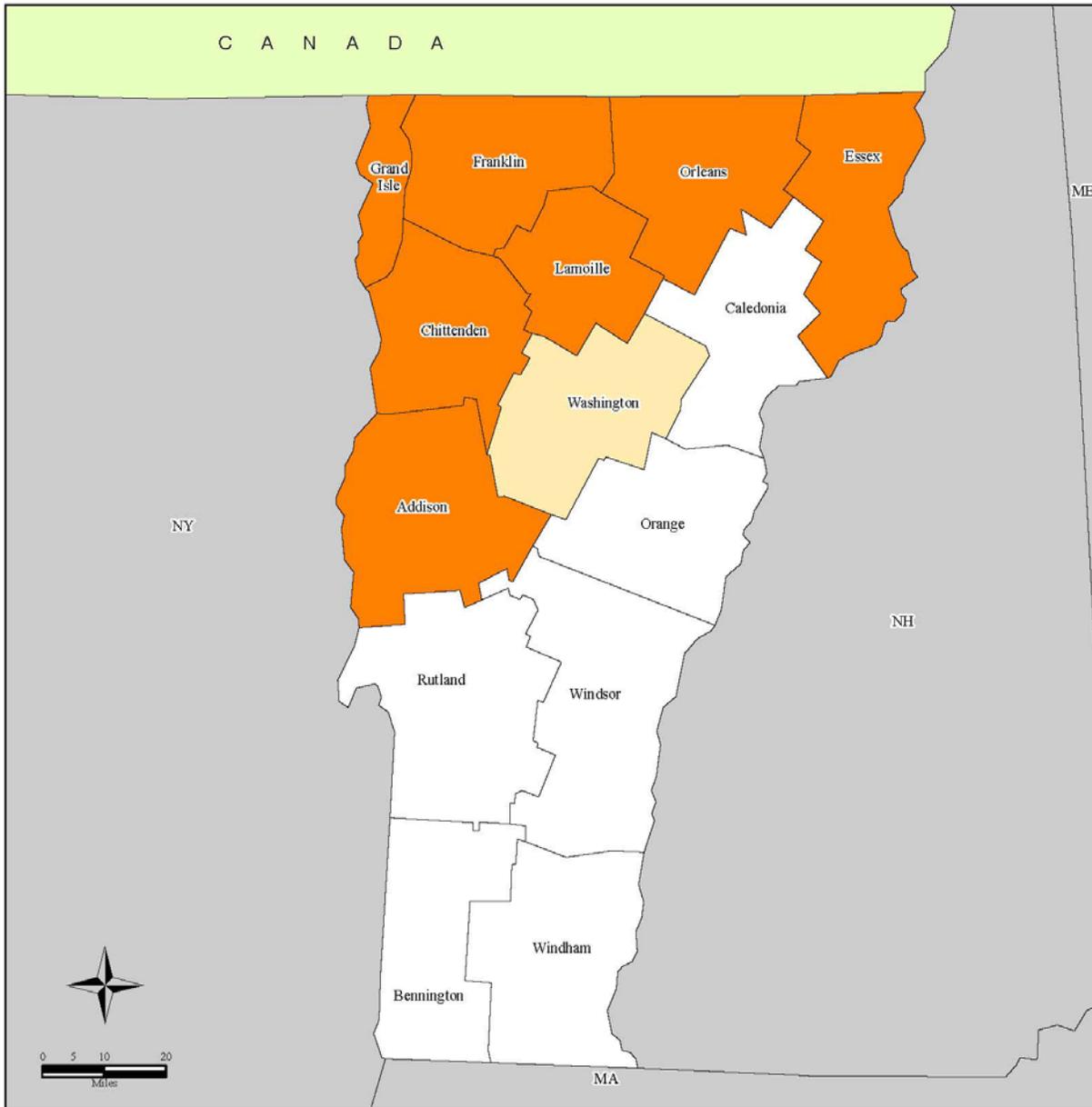
In the sections that follow, the Action Plan provides an assessment of the remaining unmet needs, outlines the proposed activities in more detail, describes how HUD's targeting requirements will be met, lays out a performance schedule and addresses other criteria pertaining to Vermont's use of CDBG-DR funds based on HUD guidance.

This CDBG-DR II Partial Action Plan builds on the information in and supplements the activities in the State's Action Plan for CDBG-DR I. As with the first plan, this proposal may require updating as the remaining needs continue to be prioritized and the timing of projects becomes clear. Programs may be altered or funding levels modified necessitating amendment.

The State asks HUD to obligate only \$13,232,000 or approximately 74% of the total \$17,932,000 in CDBG-DR funds allocated to Vermont at this time. As projects get underway, DHCD will amend this Partial Action Plan and request that HUD obligate the additional funds, thus starting a new two year expenditure timeline for the additional funds requested.

CDBG-DR II funds can be used to address needs related to two disaster declarations that were not covered by the first allocation. The scope of these events were much smaller and fall within the same areas being served by recovery efforts related to Tropical Storm Irene and flooding in the Spring of 2011. As illustrated in the maps that follow, the natural disasters covered by this Action Plan are FEMA Disaster Declaration 1995 (April 23-May 9, 2011 flood), FEMA Disaster Declaration 4001 (May 26-27, 2011 flood), FEMA Disaster Declaration 4022 (August 27- September 2, 2011 Tropical Storm Irene), FEMA Disaster Declaration 4043 (May 20, 2011 flooding) and FEMA Disaster Declaration 4066 (June 29, 2012 Tornado and flooding).

FEMA-1995-DR, Vermont Disaster Declaration as of 06/20/2011



Location Map

Legend

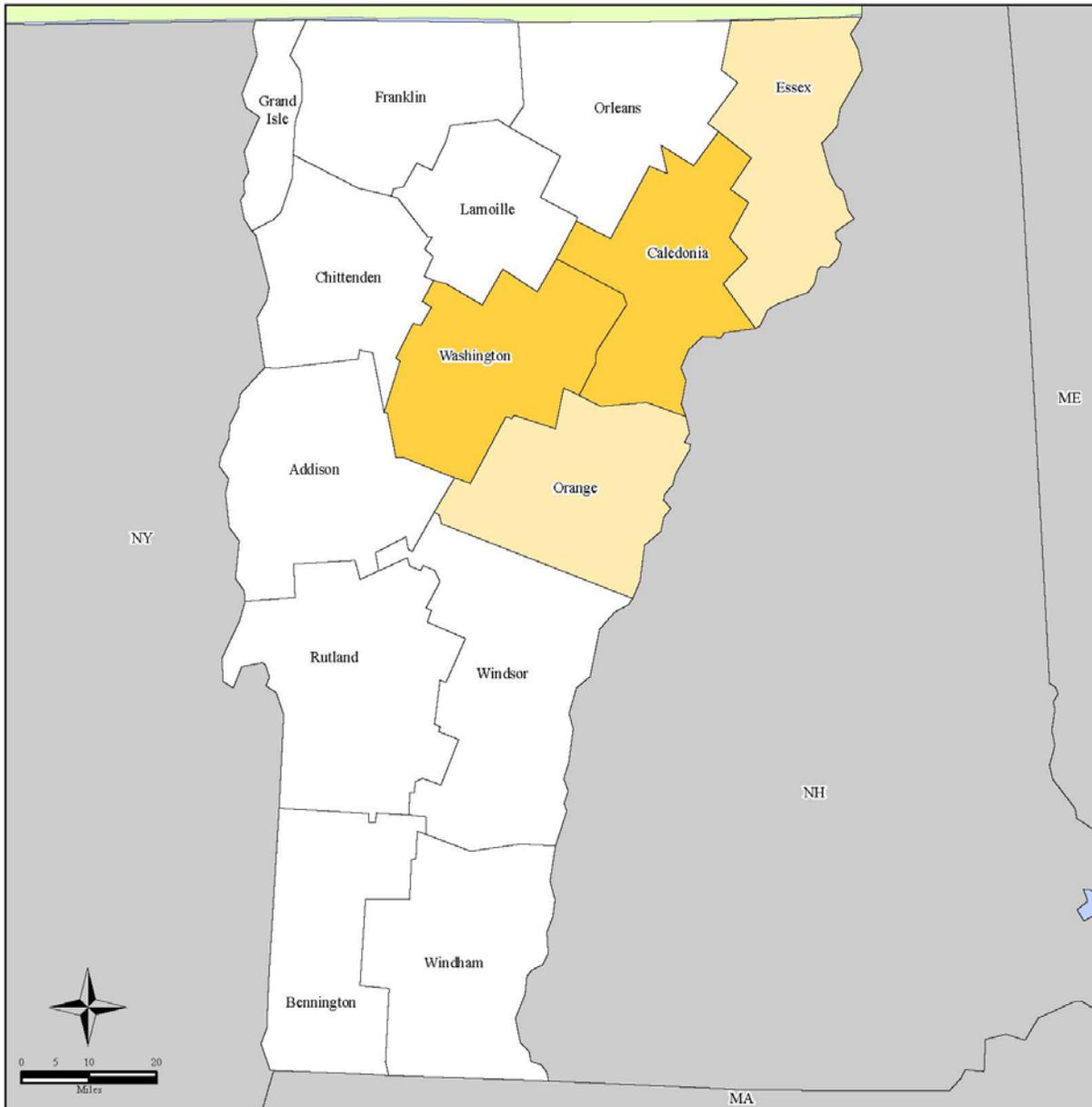
Designated Counties	
	No Designation
	Public Assistance
	Individual Assistance and Public Assistance

All counties in the State of Vermont are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

FEMA
ITS Mapping & Analysis Center
 Washington, DC
 06/20/11 - 17:11 PM EST
 Source: Disaster Federal Registry Notice
 06/20/2011 - Amendment 1

MapID 7161aa61f320620111618hqprod

FEMA-4001-DR, Vermont Disaster Declaration as of 07/25/2011



Location Map

Legend

Designated Counties

- No Designation
- Public Assistance
- Individual Assistance & Public Assistance

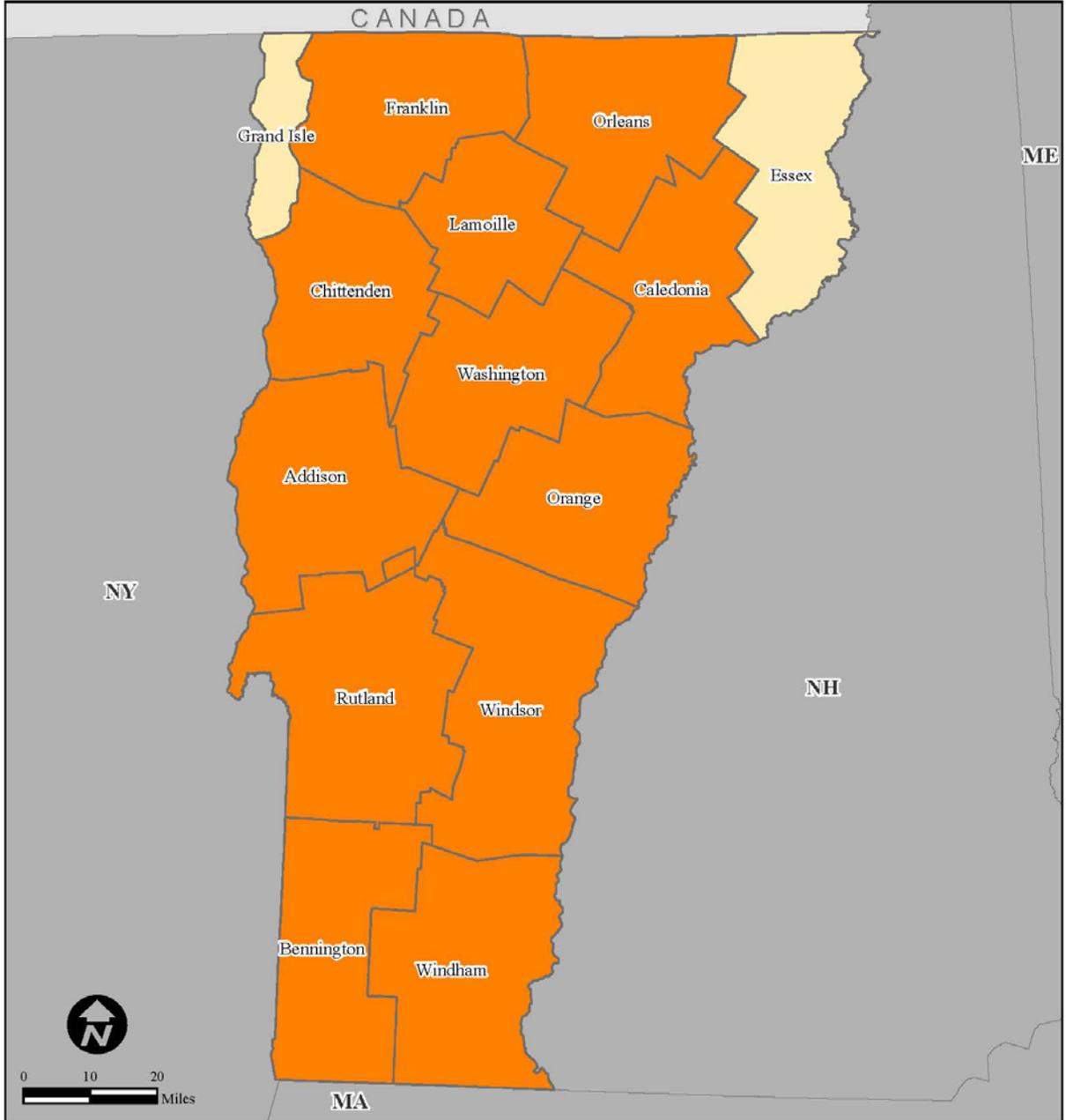
All counties are eligible for Hazard Mitigation

FEMA

ITS Mapping & Analysis Center
Washington, DC
07/25/11 -- 18:24 PM EST
Source: Disaster Federal Registry Notice
And No. 1: 07/25/2011

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FEMA-4022-DR, Vermont Disaster Declaration as of 09/16/2011



Location Map

Designated Counties	
	No Designation
	Public Assistance
	Individual Assistance and Public Assistance

All counties in the State of Vermont are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

FEMA
 ITS Mapping & Analysis Center
 Washington, DC
 09/16/11 -- 15:46 PM EST
 Source: Disaster Federal Registry Notice Amendment No. 7: 09/16/2011

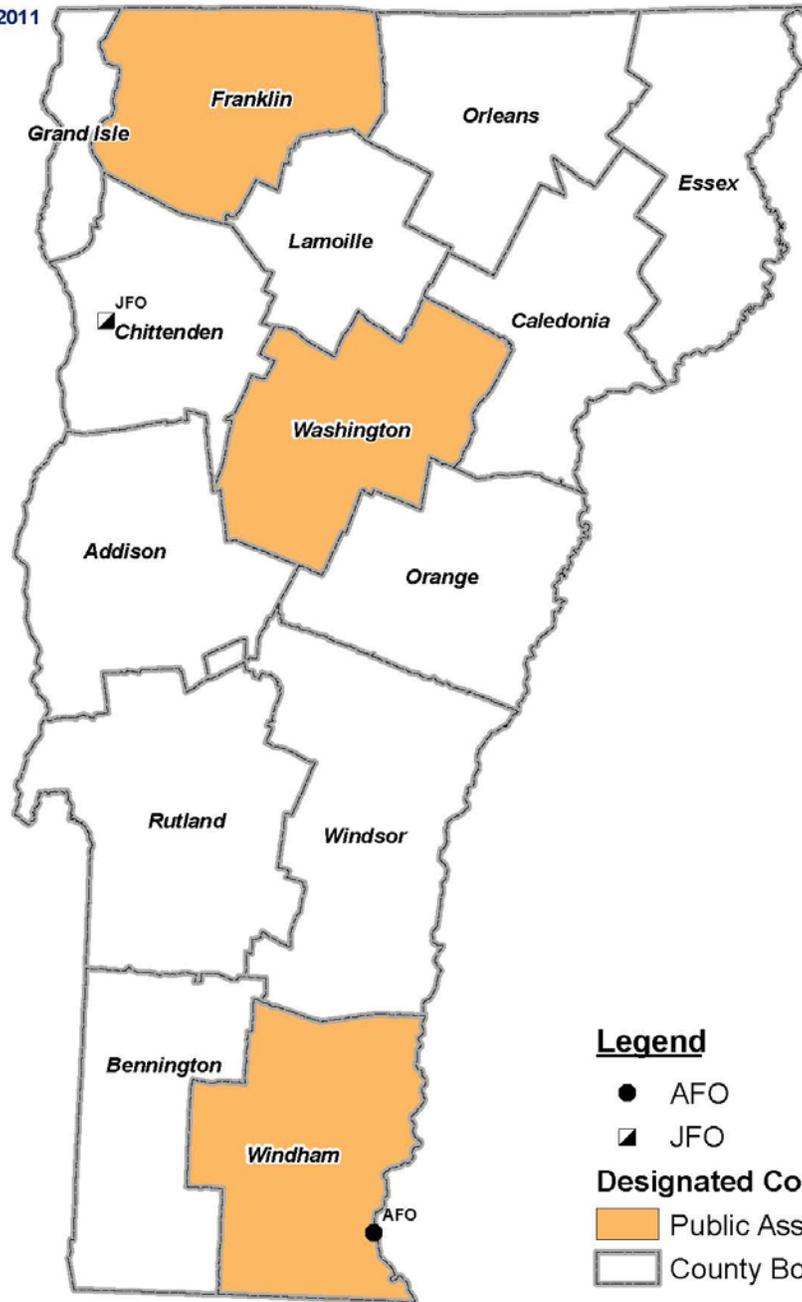
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FEMA-4043-DR-VT Severe Storms and Flooding Designated Counties



Declaration Date: November 8, 2011
Incident Period: May 20, 2011



Legend

- AFO
- ▣ JFO

Designated Counties

- Public Assistance
- County Boundary



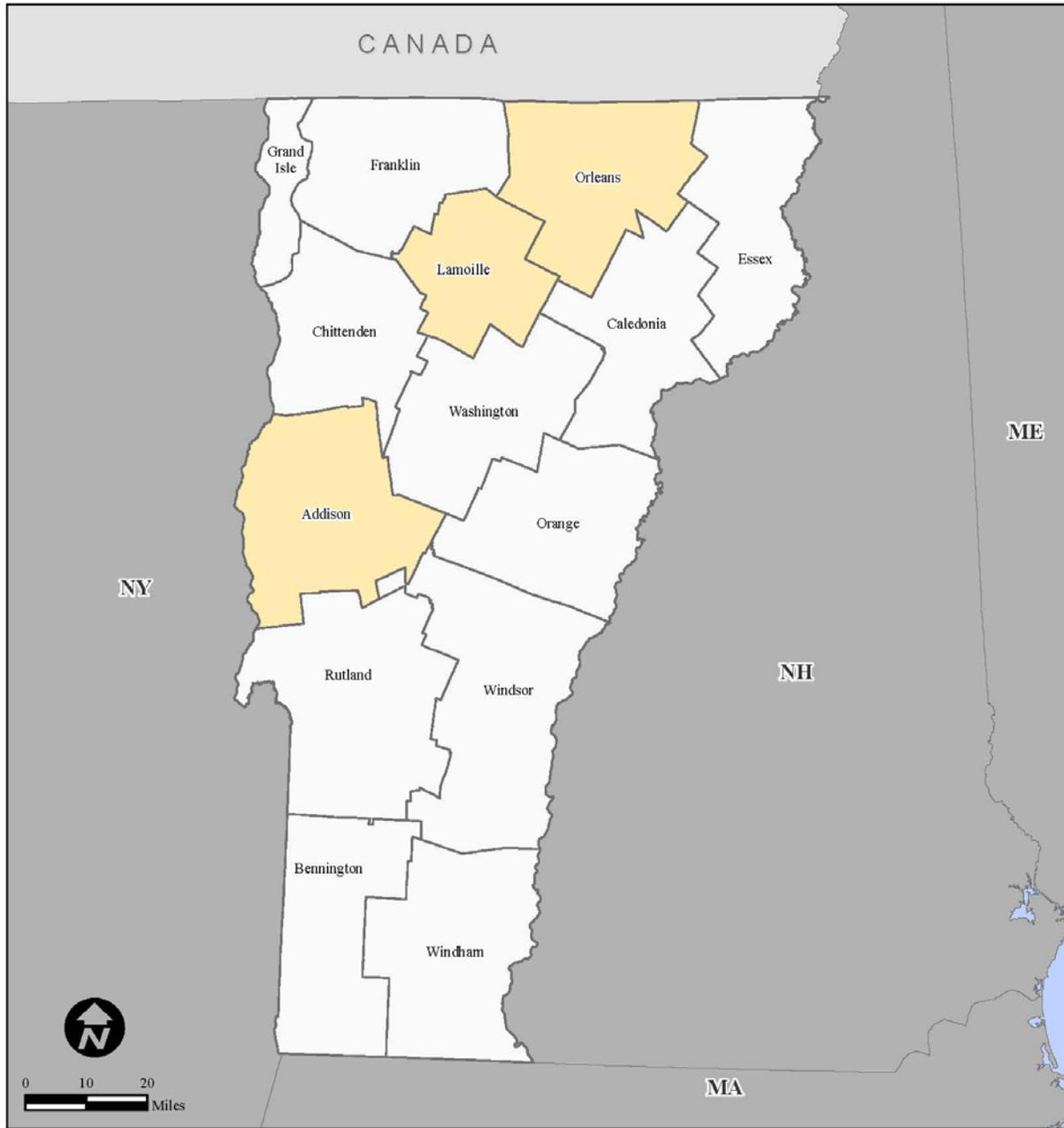
All Counties eligible for HMGP



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November 8, 2011
FEMA-JFO
Burlington, VT
Designated_Counties_4043.mxd
msmoot

FEMA-4066-DR, Vermont Disaster Declaration as of 06/22/2012



Designated Counties

- No Designation
- Public Assistance

All counties in the State of Vermont are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.



MS-CI-AE-EG
Mapping and Analysis Center
06/25/12 -- 10:19 AM EST

Source: Disaster Federal Registry Notice
06/22/2012

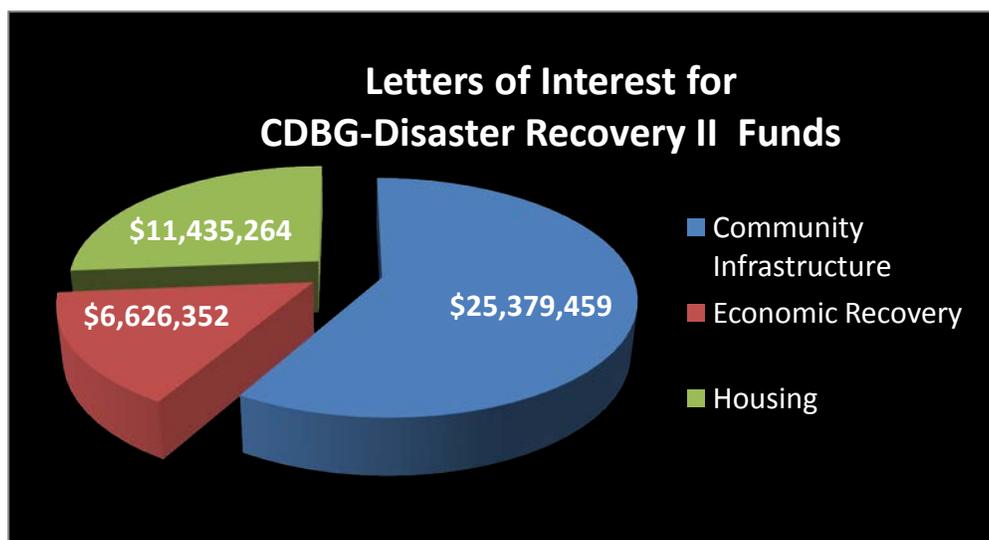
MapID f67e0e921fd0625120850hqprod

Section 2: Remaining Needs

Tropical Storm Irene and the other disasters of 2011 and 2012 resulted in disaster declarations for every county in the State for purposes of FEMA's Public Assistance program and all counties but two (Grand Isle and Essex) for Individual Assistance. The needs of Vermonters and their communities following these events were outlined in the Action Plan for CDBG-DR I. Since that time, many millions of dollars and hours have been spent helping them recover. These efforts are most completely summarized in the *Sustaining Our Progress: 3rd Irene Recovery Report* issued April 2013 and included as *Appendix D*. Nonetheless, significant needs remain.

This plan proposes activities and a method of distribution based on the following assessment of unmet needs in the areas of housing, economic recovery and infrastructure. The analysis focuses on the needs of low and moderate income persons in the most severely impacted counties. (CDBG-DR II funds may be used to address disaster needs in any county that received a disaster declaration but HUD requires that no less than 80% of the allocation be used in Washington, Windsor and Windham.) It also considers HUD requirements regarding eligible activities and the two year expenditure period. Sources relied upon for this assessment include more than 60 project proposals submitted to DHCD in response to a request for letters of interest based on remaining needs and CDBG-DR eligibility criteria. This request was distributed widely to municipalities, state and local officials and organizations engaged in recovery efforts, DHCD's partner agencies, and through the Department's distribution lists for its ongoing CDBG program, the Vermont Community Development Program.

DHCD received indications of interest for approximately \$43 million in projects, - more than twice the \$17.9 million available. *Appendix C* details the LOIs and the chart below summarizes them by activity area.



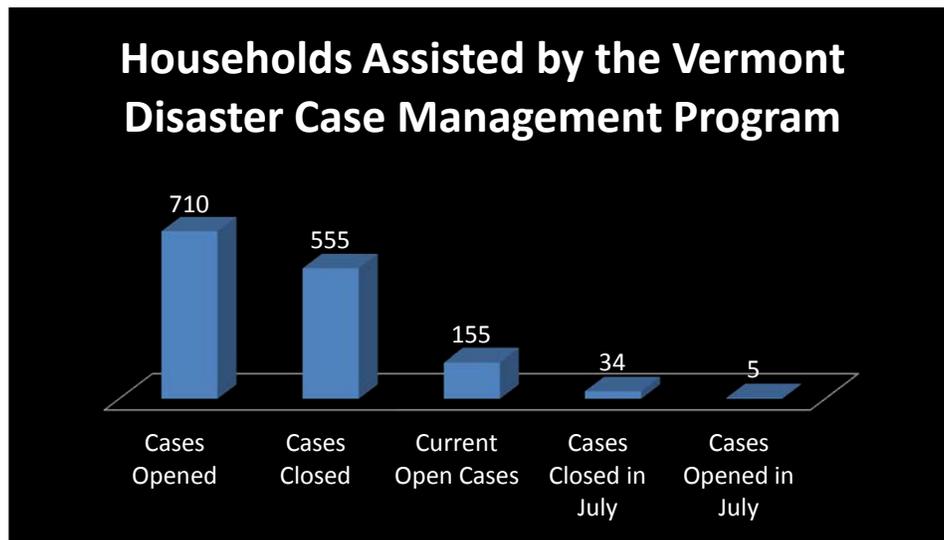
Source: DHCD Data effective July 2013

Other sources used to identify remaining needs include ongoing communication with and reports from state agencies, the Irene Recovery Office, disaster case managers, municipalities, long term recovery committees, regional planning commissions, regional development corporations, and housing nonprofits.

Housing

Vermont's housing sector was significantly impacted by Tropical Storm Irene. More than 7,200 households registered for FEMA Individual Assistance and 1500 were displaced. According to FEMA data, 681 homes received substantial damages and 500 mobile homes were damaged and destroyed. Long Term Recovery Committees and the Disaster Case Management Program established with FEMA and state funding have been working to address these needs over the past two years. CDBG-DR I funding in the amount of \$3,398,649 has been allocated to the state's network of homeownership centers for downpayment assistance, financial counseling and repairs. The Vermont Disaster Relief Fund is also a major source of support for individuals and households.

The table below summarizes the status of cases related to Tropical Storm Irene and the spring floods of 2011. The other declared disasters for which CDBG-DR II can be used, did not result in a significant damage to homes.



Source: DCMP Data effective July 2013

To date, the DCMP has opened 710 cases and closed 555. As of July, 155 remained open. The DCMP requested and was granted a program extension from FEMA that will allow four case managers to continue to assist these households through November 30, 2013. In addition to case managers, volunteers from within and outside of Vermont overseen by construction managers and coordinators continue to help households still needing repairs and reconstruction with support from the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund. All those that are potentially eligible for CDBG-DR assistance have been referred to and are being assisted by

the Homeownership Centers through the Housing Recovery Program. The program has sufficient funding from CDBG-DR I for these activities. Through these and other sources, the interim and permanent housing needs of survivors have substantially been met.

CDBG-DR I is also being used to develop new affordable housing to replace lost units. DHCD awarded \$950,000 for 27 new rental units in Waterbury, one of the tightest housing markets affected by Irene. With the necessary environmental review and permitting approvals nearly in hand, construction of the Ladd Hall project is expected to begin in the Spring of 2014.

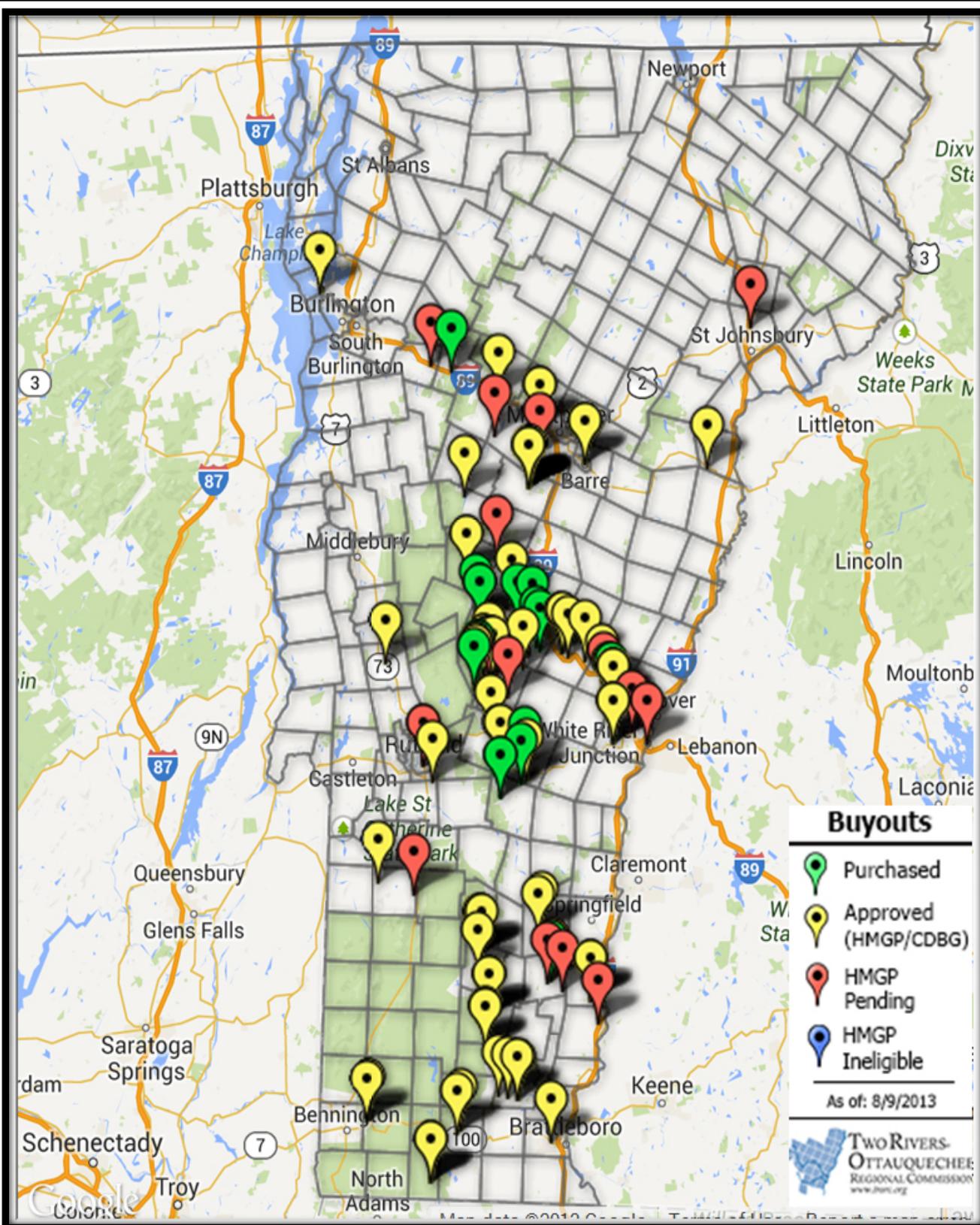


Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and HUD Regional Administrator Barbara Fields Announce CDBG-DR I Award for Ladd Hall in Waterbury, Vermont.

CDBG-DR I funding remains available to address other single and multi-family needs related to redeveloping and relocating housing. Mobile homes and parks were particularly hard hit by Tropical Storm Irene. DHCD and its partners are working with impacted mobile home park owners where possible to keep mobile homes out of harm's way including through FEMA buyouts and relocation projects under CDBG-DR I. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board is leading a pilot program through which highly energy-efficient alternatives to mobile homes are being built. Planning for siting is underway and the effort is likely to seek CDBG-DR I funding.

CDBG-DR II will be used for longer term recovery and resilience efforts. As noted earlier, existing sources are insufficient to meet the remaining need to relocate and redevelop impacted affordable housing out of floodplains. The most urgent of these projects is a public housing authority property in Brattleboro, which provides 80 units of affordable housing for the elderly and disabled. It was severely damaged by Irene and remains in harm's way. It is a high priority for the Brattleboro Housing Authority, the community and the State to address this life and safety issue by redeveloping the units outside of the flood hazard area. This plan includes substantial funding (\$5 million) for this critical project. The State was very fortunate in that the other Public Housing Authorities did not suffer any damage as a result of Tropical Storm Irene or the other Storms listed in the Federal Register for this allocation.

Another remaining housing-related need is for the local match for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program buyouts and funding for projects that have been determined by FEMA to be ineligible. As detailed in Section 3 – Method of Distribution, the State has prioritized HMGP buyouts. Committing CDBG-DR funds for the local match has encouraged broad participation in the program by municipalities. The vast majority of buyout properties are primary homes. Approximately \$5.9 million of CDBG-DR I funds have been awarded for this purpose. This amount is being supplemented by \$2 million in state dollars from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. An additional \$4 million is required and proposed under this Action Plan. The location and status of buyout projects is shown on the graphic below.



Special Needs Housing

Currently, the State has existing programs to support special needs populations, including homeless populations, households at risk of becoming homeless, persons with disabilities, older adults, and other special needs. The State has strong existing programs to produce and provide permanent supportive housing services. The State will also promote the availability of affordable housing in areas of opportunity where appropriate and support plans that are equitable to racial, ethnic, and low-income concentrations.

The Vermont State Hospital and the Mental Health System was thrown into a state of turmoil when Tropical Storm Irene hit the Waterbury State Complex impacting a total of 53 patients that had to be evacuated in the middle of the night to various facilities that were not equipped or readily willing to take mentally-ill patients and others were taken to Correction facilities. The State secured General Funds to fairly quickly renovate or construct new 5-7 unit facilities, and developed agreements with a couple of the larger regional hospitals to add on to their buildings to add psychiatric beds to their facilities as interim measures. FEMA will be providing assistance to the State in the form of a 90/10 federal/state match to rebuild Vermont's mental health care system, including a new 25-bed psychiatric facility in Berlin to replace the State hospital decimated by Irene.

Economic Recovery

Tropical Storm Irene devastated many businesses causing substantial commercial property damage and short and long-term operational losses. State and federal assistance for impacted businesses included loans from the Small Business Administration, the Vermont Economic Development Authority, the Vermont Irene Relief Fund and insurance. At the time of the submission of the State's Action Plan for CDBG-DR I, estimates put the remaining unmet business needs at \$22 million. Farmers also suffered and the Vermont Community Foundation mounted an effort to address agricultural losses that were estimated at \$10 million.

To help meet these needs, two business assistance programs were created by the regional development corporations in the impacted areas – one in Washington and Northern Windsor counties and one in Southern Windsor and Windham counties – and funded with CDBG-DR I funds in the amount of \$1 million each. They are also serving farms. These programs have proven both effective and necessary with demand greatly exceeding funds available. DHCD recently made supplemental CDBG-DR I awards to the programs of \$275,000 and \$500,000 respectively.

Assisted businesses are making great strides forward. For example Dot's Restaurant in Wilmington, Vermont, serves for many as a symbol of destruction and recovery.



Dot's Restaurant, Wilmington Vermont
Irene Storm Damage



Dot's Restaurant, Wilmington Vermont
Post CDBG-DR I Business Assistance

Nonetheless, significant needs remain. Based on their work with flood-impacted businesses to date and understanding of how and when CDBG-DR can be used to help, the Central Vermont Community Action Council (on behalf of the Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation and Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation) and Brattleboro Development Corporation (in coordination with the Springfield Regional Development Corporation) have identified needs for an additional \$3.6 million. Based on data collected by its disaster recovery coordinator, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture

estimates remaining needs related to agricultural impacts at approximately \$2 million. This Action Plan proposes dedicating \$3 million for business assistance which will include grants for farms.

The most significant barrier to recovery is the lack of access to capital such as the CDBG-DR assistance in the form of a grant. The demand has far exceeded the funds available, and potentially the demand will still remain unmet with this new allocation. As we have met with and interviewed the businesses, and in many cases secured financials and analyzed the debt incurred already in their initial actions to remain operational, it has become quite evident these businesses are struggling to repay their debt leaving them no additional funds to complete repairs, buy lost equipment, add to their inventory or adequately install flood mitigation measures while repairing damages.

The second most significant barrier to recovery may be the CDBG-DR assistance if the business is located in a Floodplain with the requirement of the Flood Insurance for the life of the building with the type of assistance being in the form of a grant, and the premiums for flood insurance have quadrupled in the past year. The CDBG-DR assistance no longer is a cost effective solution, and in many cases, the businesses have no other solution.

The types of businesses with unmet needs range from single artists to large manufacturing facilities that will not otherwise be able to recover without the CDBG-DR assistance. In most cases, the assistance will be structured as grants as these businesses are suffering with huge debt loads in their attempts to repair and/or replace lost or severely damaged structures, equipment, lost feed for farm animals, and lost inventory since the 2011 Disaster. The businesses by type and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code to be assisted will be Artists #711510; Book Stores #451211; Bowling Center #713950; Consulting Firm #541611; Bed and Breakfast/Inn #72119; Motel #721110; Motorcycle shop #441228; Museum #712110; Nursery/Garden Center #444220; Organic Farming #111998; Physician Offices #621111; Plastic injection manufacturing #32619; Pottery #327110; Pub #722410; Recreation Vehicle Sales #441210; Restaurant #722511; Ski Facility #713920; Specialty Food Store #445299; Stables #112920; Theater #71110; and Wood Produce Manufacture #32199.

Community Infrastructure

FEMA's Public Assistance program is the primary source of funding for municipalities and nonprofits to address damages to infrastructure and community facilities. The level of damage to the state's infrastructure causes increased FEMA's share of the cost of approved projects to 90%. The State pays 5% but the widespread and heavy damage made the remaining 5% a significant burden on Vermont's small towns and villages. The State took additional steps to help local finances by agreeing to abatement assistance for the statewide education property tax, as well as a package of measures that accelerated highway aid and education payments.

In addition to their 5% share of FEMA-approved projects, municipalities and nonprofits are faced with many projects that have been deemed ineligible for FEMA funding. Also, many have identified projects that are necessary for their recovery but are not PA-appropriate. These include projects that will be identified by the Vermont Downtown Assistance Team as it works with flood-devastated towns to repair and leverage their community assets to revitalize their economies.

CDBG-DR I is already at work funding infrastructure and community facilities projects from a child care center in Waterbury, new municipal offices in Waitsfield and Moretown to a feasibility study in Wilmington for the relocation of fire and police departments. However, funds available under CDBG-DR I are insufficient to the remaining need. Now that funding totals from the FEMA PA program have been, for the most part, resolved, more municipalities are turning to CDBG-DR. Many submitted letters of interest for CDBG-DR II funding as detailed in *Appendix C*.

Throughout the recovery effort, DHCD has worked closely with its sister State agencies through the Irene Recovery Coordination Team. The team includes the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security which helps municipalities access and navigate FEMA's Public Assistance program and the regional planning commissions, which also support impacted towns and villages. Based on information from DEMHS, the RPCs, the Department's own relationship with communities as well as the letters of interest submitted by the municipalities, this Action Plan proposes making \$4.8 million available on a competitive basis for community-driven recovery projects.

Section 3: Method of Distribution

Activities

The State of Vermont has been allocated \$17,932,000 in CDBG-DR funds to address the unmet and long term recovery needs of areas most impacted and distressed as the result of declared major disasters in Vermont in 2011 and 2012. The Federal Register Notice requires the state to target at least 80 percent of this funding (\$14,345,600) to Washington, Windsor and Windham Counties. The state, through the following Method of Distribution, will ensure that CDBG-DR funds are available to help communities with the necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas receiving major disaster declarations. In addition, the following Method of Distribution ensures compliance with the CDBG-Disaster Recovery requirement that at least 50% or \$8,966,000 of the allocation directly benefit Low & Moderate Income (LMI) persons. The state will use 5% of the allocation (\$896,600) for administration to ensure the appropriate management and compliance of the program.

Total Allocation:	\$17,932,000
ACCD Administration - 5%:	- \$896,600
Available for Grants:	<u>\$17,035,400</u>

State Direct Grants

- 1) **Buyouts - HMGP Match and Non-eligible FEMA** **\$4,000,000**
*\$1M **\$2.8M (70%)
Administrator- Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission

- 2) **Replacement Housing for Brattleboro Housing Authority** **\$5,000,000**
*\$5M, **\$5M (100%)
Administrator-Brattleboro Housing Authority & Housing VT

- 3) **Economic Recovery** **\$3,000,000**
*\$2M, **\$2.4M (80%)
Administrator-Brattleboro Dev. Credit Corp. & Central VT Com. Action Council

Total State Direct Grants \$12,000,000

Competitive Grants

Community Infrastructure- Recovery & Repair **\$5,035,400**

***\$2M, **\$4.28M (85%)**

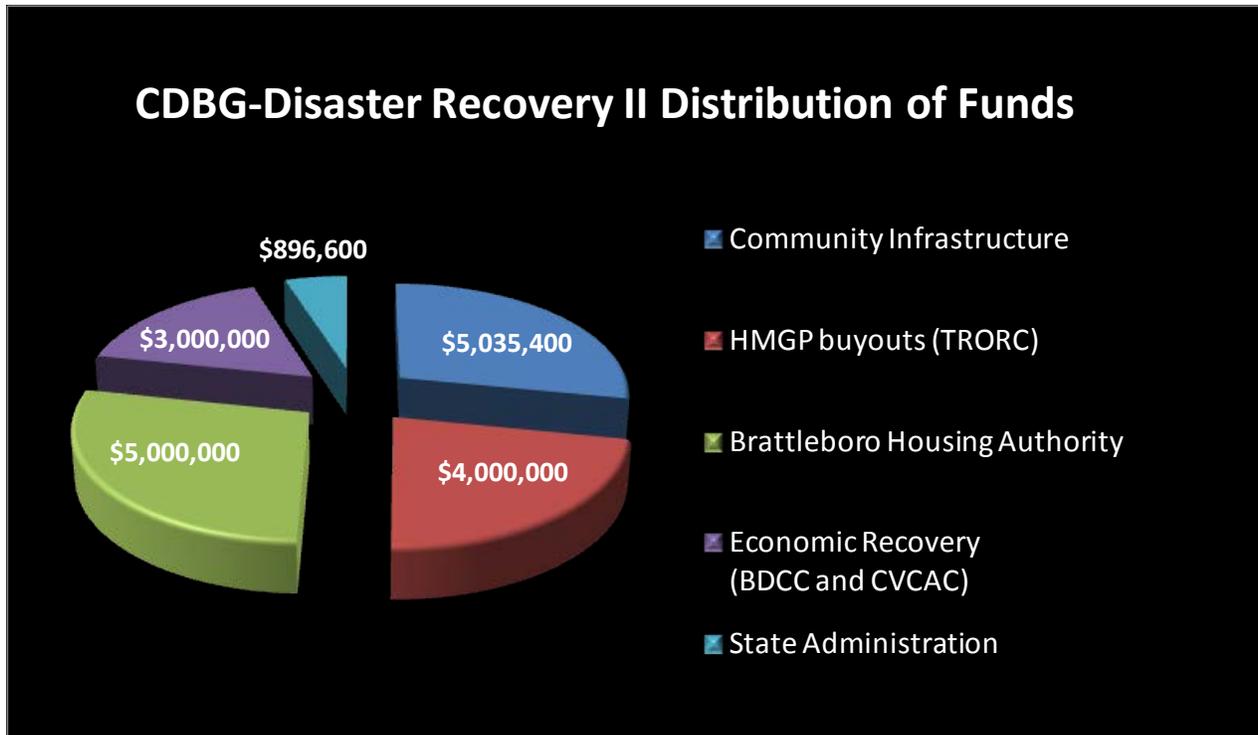
Municipalities & Non-profit Organizations

Total Competitive Grants \$5,035,400

Total Grant Awards \$17,035,400

*This amount of the total for this activity helps meet the threshold of at least 50% or \$8,966,000 of the Disaster allocation directly benefit LMI persons. LMI projects totaling \$10,000,000 have been identified.

** This amount of the total for this activity helps meet 80% or \$14,345,600, of the allocation expended in Washington, Windsor and Windham counties. Projects in targeted counties totaling \$14,479,000 have been identified.



CDBG-Disaster Recovery II Distribution of Funds

Grants and Administration	Amount	Proposed Percentage Allocation	Targeted Counties Washington, Windham and Windsor	All other Counties	Low-Moderate Income
Competitive Grants: Community Infrastructure, etc	\$5,035,400	85%	\$4,280,090	\$755,310	\$2,000,000
Total Competitive Grants	\$5,035,400		\$4,280,090	\$755,310	\$2,000,000
State Direct Grants: HMGP buyouts (TRORC)	\$4,000,000	70%-30%	\$2,800,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,000,000
State Direct Grants: Brattleboro Housing Authority (BHA)	\$5,000,000	100%	\$5,000,000		\$5,000,000
State Direct Grants: Economic Recovery (BDCC and CVCAC)	\$3,000,000	80% - 20%	\$2,400,000	\$600,000	\$2,000,000
Total State Direct Grants	\$12,000,000		\$10,200,000	\$1,800,000	\$8,000,000
Total Grant Allocation	\$17,035,400	85%-15%	\$14,480,090	\$2,555,310	\$10,000,000
State Administration	\$896,600				
Total Allocation	\$17,932,000				

Partial Action Plan CDBG-Disaster Recovery II Distribution of Funds

Grants and Administration	Amount	Proposed Percentage Allocation	Targeted Counties Washington, Windham and Windsor	All other Counties	Low-Moderate Income
Competitive Grants: Community Infrastructure	\$2,635,400	85%	\$2,240,090	\$395,310	\$1,000,000
Total Competitive Grants	\$2,635,400		\$2,240,090	\$395,310	\$1,000,000
State Direct Grants: HMGP buyouts (TRORC)	\$2,000,000	70%-30%	\$1,400,000	\$600,000	\$500,000
State Direct Grants: Brattleboro Housing Authority (BHA)	\$5,000,000	100%	\$5,000,000		\$5,000,000
State Direct Grants: Economic Recovery (BDCC and CVCAC)	\$3,000,000	80% - 20%	\$2,400,000	\$600,000	\$2,000,000
Total State Direct Grants	\$10,000,000		\$8,800,000	\$1,200,000	\$7,500,000
Total Grant Allocation	\$12,635,400	85%-15%	\$11,040,090	\$1,595,310	\$8,500,000
State Administration	\$596,600				
Total Allocation	\$13,232,000				

Remaining Action Plan CDBG-Disaster Recovery II Distribution of Funds

Grants and Administration	Amount	Proposed Percentage Allocation	Targeted Counties Washington, Windham and Windsor	All other Counties	Low-Moderate Income
Competitive Grants: Community Infrastructure	\$2,400,000	85%	\$2,040,000	\$360,000	\$1,000,000
Total Competitive Grants	\$2,400,000		\$2,040,000	\$360,000	\$1,000,000
State Direct Grants: HMGP buyouts (TRORC)	\$2,000,000	70%-30%	\$1,400,000	\$600,000	\$500,000
Total State Direct Grants	\$2,000,000		\$1,400,000	\$600,000	\$500,000
Total Grant Allocation	\$4,400,000	85%-15%	\$3,440,000	\$960,000	\$1,500,000
State Administration	\$300,000				
Total Allocation	\$4,700,000				

DHCD asks HUD to obligate only \$13,232,000 or approximately 74% of the total \$17,932,000 in CDBG-DR funds allocated to Vermont at this time. As projects get underway, DHCD will amend this Partial Action Plan and request that HUD obligate the additional funds, thus starting a new two year expenditure timeline for the additional funds requested.

State Direct Grants

(\$12,000,000)

In order to best address the remaining unmet needs, maximize benefits, ensure efficient and timely project completion and leverage other resources DHCD will direct \$12,000,000 of the CDBG-DR allocation for the following purposes:

1) Buyouts – HMGP Local Match and FEMA Non-eligible (\$4,000,000)

Assisting Vermonters who have lost their homes and businesses, reducing future risks, and mitigating hazards are among the state’s top disaster recovery goals. The state has pursued and has been very successful in receiving all possible assistance through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for buyouts. However, unmet needs remain and more funding for “buyouts” of substantially damaged and destroyed homes and businesses is needed. To-date 134 properties have applied for FEMA buy-outs and FEMA has approved 94, with 27 properties still awaiting FEMA decisions. Thirteen substantially damaged and destroyed homes have been officially denied, after state appeal, by FEMA due to their location outside of a FEMA mapped flood hazard area. Unfortunately, FEMA flood hazard maps do not reflect flood hazards caused by erosion frequently experienced in Vermont and other mountainous areas. An additional \$4,000,000 in CDBG-DR funding combined with the previous CDBG-DR allocation and state general funds through the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board will largely satisfy the remaining unmet needs for “buy-outs”. By making this commitment, the state will maximize participation in the FEMA “buyouts” and at the same time assist those unable to access FEMA funding. This gives those most affected by flooding a better chance at full recovery and removes properties from danger and reduces future impacts from flooding, thus fostering responsible flood plain management.

Activity

CDBG-DR funding will be used to assist communities and property owners meet the FEMA required 25% match and support FEMA-denied property “buy-outs” at 75% of the pre-flood assessed property value statewide. In addition, a small portion of these funds will support Brownfield clean-up on “buy-out” properties and land restoration once the demo and clearance of the parcels has been completed to provide community green space and/or limited recreational facilities in accordance with the deed restrictions to maintain in perpetuity any “buyout” property for a use that is compatible with open space, recreational, or wetlands management practices.

Responsible Entity

This effort includes significant technical assistance to municipalities, property owners and coordination with the Vermont Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS), which administers the FEMA -HMGP. To maximize time, efficiency and build upon the capacity gained to date in regards to “buyout” assistance, DHCD will subgrant CDBG-DR funds to the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TROC). This will build on existing expertise and ensure consistent assistance to municipalities and property owners.

As there is no structured county government in Vermont, the regional planning commissions (RPC's) have been working with the municipalities in their regions since the early days following the disasters to help identify the level of damage incurred, sources of funding to be sought, unmet needs assessments, providing guidance in completing the FEMA applications for the residential and commercial buyouts, and infrastructure assistance.

TROC serves 31 municipalities primarily in Windsor and Orange counties and its region contains the greatest number of homes with severe damage as determined by FEMA. TRORC is governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our member towns. Our primary goals are to advocate for the needs of our member towns, and to articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the region's quality of life. The Commission's staff provides technical services to local, state and federal levels of government and to the Region's non-profits and businesses.

Staff working on the buyouts:

Executive Director

Peter G. Gregory, AICP - pgregory@trorc.org

Peter is appointed by the TRORC Board of Directors and manages professional and support staff in their implementation of Board policy. In addition, Peter is the primary contact with local, state and federal officials on issues affecting the 30 towns in the TRORC region. Peter also interfaces regularly with the Vermont Legislature and the staffs of Vermont's Congressional delegation to ensure that the needs of our communities are known and that they match state and federal programs. In addition to advocacy, Board service and organizational management, Peter works on transportation, economic development, and local land use.

Senior Planner

Kevin W. Geiger, AICP CFM - kgeiger@trorc.org

Kevin is responsible for TRORC's local and regional emergency management planning efforts, assisting towns with regulating floodplain development, regional water quality policy and also assists on planning and zoning projects. Kevin is also involved in brownfields revitalization and housing, and Act 250 development review.

Grant Administrator

Bob Ennis - bennis@trorc.org

Bob administers the grant for the buyout of properties damaged by Tropical Storm Irene. The funding for these buyouts comes from a grant provided to the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief program (CDBG). Additional funding also comes from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Statewide, Bob is assisting approximately 135 buyouts in 41 towns.

CDBG eligibility category

For these “buyouts” it will be **Housing** for residential properties and **Economic Recovery** for the commercial buyouts. TROC will apply for CDBG-DR funding enhancement through DHCD’s IntelliGrants Management System to secure funding for the HMGP 25% match and 75% of the pre-flood assessed property value for FEMA ineligible properties, along with the funds necessary to clear the properties and land restoration, and the associated project delivery costs. These commercial buyouts will allow the affected business to focus on new efforts, thus enhancing Economic Recovery.

National Objective

Approximately 50% of all the homeowners involved in the “buyouts” are at or below 80% area median income (LMI). Under this second allocation of CDBG-DR funding we are targeting 25% of the \$4,000,000 or \$1,000,000 to benefit LMI persons and meet the LMI National Objective. Therefore, the balance of this allocation or \$3,000,000 will be categorized as meeting the Urgent Need National Objective.

Meeting 80% targeting requirement

Under this second allocation of CDBG-DR funding we are targeting 70% or \$2,800,000 of the \$4,000,000 allocated for the “buyouts” activity for use in Washington, Windsor and Windham counties.

Long-term recovery to impacted areas

Buying out severely damaged and completely destroyed properties, demolition and land clearance, and permanent deed restriction against any future development serves a dual purpose of removing blighted structures and debris, and allows the natural course of rivers over time to flow and flood without repeated loss and destruction to property and the need for future public investment. Further, it provides opportunities to move households out of harm’s way to secure a safer, stronger living environment into the future. Finally, by providing the local match, DHCD will leverage and maximize benefits to the most severely impacted Vermonters.

2) Replacement Housing for Brattleboro Housing Authority (\$5,000,000)

In accordance with the May 29, 2013 Federal Register, section V paragraph 1) c. on page 32265, the state will assist the Brattleboro Housing Authority (BHA) relocate the public housing apartment complex known as Melrose Terrace in West Brattleboro. This 80 unit elderly and disabled affordable housing complex was severely damaged by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene. The property sits entirely in the 100 year floodplain with almost half of the units located in the floodway of the adjacent Whetstone Brook. With its precarious location, Melrose Terrance requires frequent evacuation due to flooding. With the population being served this is a very dangerous situation and this property must be relocated to a safer location.

Activity

\$5,000,000 in CDBG-DR funding will be used to assist the Brattleboro Housing Authority relocate 55 units of the Melrose Terrace affordable housing complex to a new community supported location out of the floodplain. A planning grant, funded from the previous

CDBG-DR allocation, has determined the feasibility of constructing a new mixed financing affordable housing complex to serve the residents of Melrose Terrace. This planning grant has determined that a phased approach to the relocation of all 80 units of Melrose Terrace is required. The 50 units, most impacted by flooding, will be replaced first at a new location determined to be the most feasible and desirable for the residents as a result of the planning study.

Responsible Entity

This effort requires significant knowledge and experience in developing affordable housing in Vermont. DHCD will subgrant \$5,000,000 of CDBG-DR funding to a partnership formed by the Brattleboro Housing Authority and Housing Vermont (HV). Housing Vermont is the largest and most experienced affordable housing developer in the state. They bring capacity and development expertise to this project, which will ensure an on-time and within budget project. Specifically, **Housing Vermont** is a not-for-profit syndication and development company founded in 1988 and headquartered in Burlington, Vermont. This highly successful partnership has produced 4,695 affordable apartments in 156 developments. Housing Vermont has raised and deployed more than \$267 million in private equity which has leveraged an additional \$361 million in private financing and public investment. Housing Vermont's New Markets Tax Credit program has created favorable financing in excess of \$62 million for eight economic development projects in low income areas.

Brattleboro Housing Authority has over 50 years of experience managing public housing and serving the needs of low and moderate income families. BHA has been working with the Melrose Terrace residents since the flood waters began to rise. They are uniquely positioned to understand the complex and varied needs of the residents who must be re-located. BHA has also secured experienced consultants with knowledge of HUD requirements for the demolition and disposition of public housing authority units. The state direct allocation to this partnership and development team, which started researching options and development planning many months ago maximizes time, efficiency and builds upon the capacity gained to-date. To be successful this complex effort will also require timely support and review by HUD.

CDBG eligibility category

This funded activity will be **Replacement Housing** and CDBG-DR funding is available for all reasonable and expected costs associated with relocating the residents, including but not limited to: soft costs-(program delivery, engineering/design), property acquisition, new construction/rehabilitation and clearance of flood damaged units. BHA and HV will apply for CDBG-DR funding through DHCD's IntelliGrants Management System to secure the state direct \$5,000,000 in CDBG-DR funding.

National Objective

All Melrose Terrace replacement units will be targeted to households at or below 80% area median income (LMI). All \$5,000,000 in CDBG-DR funding for this state direct activity will benefit LMI persons and meet the LMI National Objective.

Meeting 80% targeting requirement

All \$5,000,000 in CDBG-DR funding allocated to this activity will be used in Windham County, one of the three targeted counties.

Long-term recovery to impacted areas

This project will permanently remove public housing from the floodplain and replace it in a safe and convenient location for residents to access services, transportation and jobs. This project will also allow additional floodplain access for Whetstone Brook, thus restoring natural flows and providing some additional flood benefits to adjacent property owners still in the 100 year floodplain.

3) Economic Recovery for Flood Impacted Businesses (\$3,000,000)

Economic Recovery for flood impacted businesses remains a top priority for the state. Surveys conducted continue to show that flood impacted businesses have remaining unmet needs and further disaster recovery assistance is needed. To ensure a full recovery for the most impacted businesses and to support the economic health of the most impacted communities, DHCD will continue to partner with regional economic service providers to assist those businesses with remaining unmet needs.

Activity

\$3,000,000 CDBG-DR funding will be subgranted to Central Vermont Community Action Council (CVCAC) and the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) to provide direct assistance to flood impacted business including farms by providing technical assistance, grants and loans to businesses with remaining unmet needs as a result of declared disasters. This business assistance program will be administered by the existing partnership of regional economic development organizations formed after Tropical Storm Irene.

Responsible Entity

The state will contract with Central Vermont Community Action Council and the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation as the lead organizations for carrying-out this State Direct Business Recovery Program. Each of these organizations is part of a larger group. Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation and Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation are partnering with CVCAC. Springfield Regional Development Corporation is partnering with BDCC. These regional partnerships formed to assist businesses after Tropical Storm Irene. These groups applied for and received competitive funding under the first allocation CDBG-DR funding. They have established a funding criteria and process for awarding CDBG-DR assistance to businesses with remaining unmet needs. They have allocated all CDBG-DR funding received to-date and continue to receive requests for assistance and from businesses. They have the track record and the extensive experience administering federal funds to continue this effort. To maximize time, efficiency and build upon the capacity gained to date, DHCD will subgrant CDBG-DR funds to CVCAC and BDCC.

BDCC is affiliated with the State of Vermont as the certified Regional Development Corporation (RDC) serving the greater Windham County area. BDCC is one of the 12 RDCs throughout Vermont. **SRDC** is a certified Regional Development Corporation (RDC) serving 10 towns in Southern Windsor County.

Founded in 1965, **CVCAC** helps people achieve economic sufficiency with dignity through individual and family development. CVCAC's senior management team represents a diversity of experiences, backgrounds, and agency tenure. They are part of a nationwide network of community action agencies (CAA) established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 in order to fight America's War on Poverty. Today, there are nearly 1,000 CAAs across the United States located in 98% of our cities and counties. CAAs are a primary source of support for the more than 40 million Americans who are living in poverty in both rural and urban areas. **CVEDC** is one of twelve non-profit regional development corporations in the State of Vermont that serves twenty-three municipalities in the Central Vermont region, which includes Washington County and parts of Orange County. They were organized in 1976 to provide the impetus for the region's economic development. They are structured with an Executive Director, Sam Andersen and a Director of Development, Jennifer Surat with a 35 member volunteer Board of Directors comprised of local business owners, State representatives, lenders and municipal officials. Their funding primarily comes from the State of Vermont, municipalities and business members that pay annual dues. They provide advisory services, education and information to the business community through informational workshops, seminars and confidential one-on-one meetings. **GMEDC** is one of twelve non-profit regional development corporations in the State of Vermont. GMEDC's region encompasses thirty townships in east central Vermont. The eastern border of the region includes the "Upper Valley" of the Connecticut River with its fertile bottom lands. To the west, rolling hills and pristine mountain streams extend to the foot of the Green Mountains. The region offers diverse recreational, cultural and educational opportunities.

CDBG eligibility category

This funded activity will be **Economic Recovery** and specifically **Business Assistance**. CDBG-DR funding will be available for program delivery costs, technical assistance, low interest loans and small grant awards to businesses still recovering from the effects of a declared disaster. CVCAC and BDCC will apply for a CDBG-DR funding enhancement through DHCD's IntelliGrants Management System.

Meeting 80% targeting requirement

The majority of businesses impacted by disasters with remaining unmet needs are in the targeted counties of Washington, Windsor and Windham counties. Therefore we will target \$2,400,000 or 80% of the \$3,000,000 allocated to this activity for business assistance in Washington, Windsor and Windham counties. The remaining \$600,000 under this activity will be available to assist disaster impacted business statewide.

Long-term recovery to impacted areas

Communities experiencing severe disasters often see a decline in economic activity for several years after the disaster. To arrest this economic decline it is important to support

the existing businesses in the region. Many businesses that experienced flooding have a long history in the community and their success is vital to the communities' long term recovery. This activity will ensure that the most impacted business receive the technical and financial assistance needed to be successful. Successful businesses can provide jobs to area residents and this is critical to the long-term recovery of impacted areas.

National Objective

It is anticipated that at least two thirds of the business receiving CDBG-DR assistance under this activity will create or retain Low and Moderate Income Jobs. Based on the experience of CVCAC and BDCC from the existing CDBG-DR funding it is reasonable to target \$2,000,000 or 67% of this \$3,000,000 second allocation of CDBG-DR funding to benefit LMI persons and meet the LMI (Jobs) National Objective. Therefore, the balance of this allocation or \$1,000,000 will be categorized as meeting the Urgent Need National Objective assisting businesses that do not have a majority of their employees at or below 80% area median income.

Competitive Grants

(\$5,035,400)

DHCD will make \$5,035,400 available for Community Infrastructure Recovery and Repair projects, of which \$350,000 will be available for project delivery costs. This funding will be available to Vermont municipalities and non-profit organizations through a competitive grant application process. The unmet needs in this category are broad and varied and far exceed the funding available as was identified in the solicitation of Letters of Interest we requested in preparation for writing this Action Plan. Twenty-six different municipalities submitted LOI's seeking CDBG-DR assistance with their remaining municipal recovery and repair projects. Combined, they requested more than \$20 million in funding, showing significantly more need than any other group represented in a summary of the LOI's. DHCD recognizes that all recovery is local and it is important to provide direct funding to help address the long term recovery needs identified at the local level.

Applicants will use DHCD's IntelliGrants Management System to apply for, secure and manage their CDBG-DR project. Grant applications will be reviewed for eligibility, evaluated and scored on a monthly basis.

Activity

CDBG-DR funding will be available to assist communities and nonprofit entities address remaining disaster recovery needs. Projects selected for funding must demonstrate that unmet need remains and were caused by an eligible disaster event. Typical projects include infrastructure repair and up-grade, relocation of critical public facilities and other eligible CDBG-DR projects which are a direct result of a declared disaster.

Responsible Entity

The responsible entity for carrying-out this activity will be the legal entity or municipality which applies for and receives a CDBG-DR grant from DHCD. However, the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) will be supporting each applicant and providing project delivery. Vermont does not have a county government system and comprises many small

independently governed municipalities. This will build on existing expertise and ensure that municipalities have the capacity to apply for and carry-out CDBG-DR projects in full compliance. WRC provided outreach and assisted communities in its region to submit the Letter of Interest (LOI's). Windham County had the highest percentage of LOI's submitted from municipalities and has been playing a lead role in assisting communities recovering from disaster and plan for resilience, including helping to secure funding from the FEMA's public assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.

CDBG eligibility category

This activity will be funded under **Public Facilities**. DHCD will consider all eligible activities for CDBG-DR competitive funding. Typical activities would include program delivery costs, project management services, design and engineering, clearance, relocation, rehabilitation, new construction and acquisition. Examples of typical projects funded under this activity would include grants for repair and/or replacement of infrastructure that has not been covered by FEMA or other state and federal funding, repair of municipal or other critical public buildings, land restoration, clearance of flood-damaged and abandoned properties. In addition, projects restoring and enhancing facilities in the hardest hit communities will be eligible under this competitive funding and would include streetscapes, lighting, facades, sidewalks, wayfinding and other physical improvements to downtown commercial areas.

Long-term recovery to impacted areas

To fully realize the benefits of disaster assistance, infrastructure systems must be made more resilient. Proper sizing for increased precipitation, planning for and reducing erosion and making smarter decisions on how and where to place infrastructure must happen in a systematic way or the efforts to reduce the impacts of flooding, in other areas, such as housing will be ineffective. The existing approach, supported by the available federal and state funding, to only fix what is broken is counterproductive in some areas. A watershed approach, supported by technical and planning support will make infrastructure more resilient and will be more effective. By providing increased RPC support to municipalities for disaster recovery and repair of infrastructure the state will begin to address this larger issue. With RPC support, communities can implement better disaster recovery projects and ensure they are improving flood resiliency. Communities will experience more flooding, as evidenced by this summer's high water. This effort along with a number of new approaches must make improvements and reduce the cost of flood damage to our communities.

National Objective

The National Objective for this activity will be met by assisting Low and Moderate Income communities on an area wide basis or assisting communities under the Urgent Need National Objective. \$2,200,000 of the \$5,035,400 allocated for direct project costs has been targeted to serve LMI communities and meet the LMI National Objective serving those at or below 80% of area median income. The remaining \$2,485,400 will meet the Urgent Need National Objective. Projects demonstrating that they can meet the LMI National Objective will be given priority.

Meeting 80% targeting requirement

Under this activity, DHCD is targeting 85% or \$4,280,090 of the \$5,035,400 allocated for competitive applications to Washington, Windsor and Windham counties. The remaining 15% or \$755,310 will be available for statewide use.

Long-term recovery to impacted areas

Many flood impacted communities have not yet fully recovered. They have roads, bridges, culverts and municipal buildings with remaining unmet needs. These communities have been working with FEMA, Vermont Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, the Federal Highway Administration and the Vermont Agency of Transportation for nearly two years. They have largely secured all eligible funding from these sources and made many repairs with their assistance. However, long term recovery for a number of these communities is not yet at hand and additional support is needed. Many of the hardest hit communities are in mountainous and hilly terrain and will continue to be very susceptible to flooding, especially with the increased precipitation predicted with climate change. To ensure long term recovery to these regions, steps must be taken now to improve their infrastructure systems and make them more resilient. Long-term recovery must include making the necessary repairs now in a systematic way, which prepares communities for the infrastructure needs of the future. Proper sizing for increased precipitation, planning for and reducing erosion and making smarter decisions on how and where to place our infrastructure must happen now before for long term recovery goals are realized. This activity supports Vermont communities and helps them meet this challenge. In addition, projects that rehabilitate downtown districts and the associated public assets, help restore vibrancy and economic vitality. Having strong downtowns, ensures long term recovery and future resiliency for the most impacted areas.

The State will ensure compliance for use of CDBG-DR II funds with the requirement that elevating or flood proofing new construction and substantially improved structures will be to one foot above the latest FEMA issued base flood elevation, in accordance with Executive Order 11988 and 24CFR Part 55.

Administration

Application Review Process

Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) applications will be created and submitted through the IntelliGrants Management System.

The State Direct Grants with the identified entities will create applications in the IntelliGrants Management System for tracking, reporting and requisitioning of funds purposes, and will not be subject to the threshold and DHCD's scoring review. Grant Agreements will be executed with Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC); Central Vermont Community Action (CVCAC); Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC); and Brattleboro Housing Authority (BHA) within 90 days of the State receiving their Grant Agreement from HUD for this ***Partial Action Plan*** and notice that the first amount of grant funds are in the State's Line of Credit with a start date of the Grant as of the date of execution and end date appropriately within the timeframe stated in the HUD grant agreement to meet the two year deadline for that portion.

The Competitive Grants are on an open rolling cycle based on our submittal of the Partial Action Plan and the start and end dates of the grant agreements will be established on a period not to exceed the two year limit or the stated date in the HUD grant agreement with the State.

The Competitive Grants applications will be assigned to a Community Development Specialist, of the Vermont Community Development Program. The specialist will review the application for threshold criteria compliance. If threshold items are found to be missing, staff will work with the applicant to obtain them and clear the application of its threshold review. If the threshold items render the application ineligible, the application will be rejected. If no threshold items are found, the application will be cleared to be reviewed by the CDBG-DR team. The CDBG-DR team will review the application for competitiveness (need, impact, and feasibility) and compliance factors and score the application according to the Scoring Matrix. Other state agencies (Agency of Agriculture, Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Vermont Agency of Transportation, Vermont Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security or Agency of Human Services) will be consulted on an as needed basis for input as to the need and priority of the proposed project. The application will first be scored individually by each VCDP-DR team member, and then a Team meeting will be held to discuss the application, review the scoring to develop an average score across all participating team members. At the next scheduled Vermont Community Development Board meeting, the assigned CD Specialist will present the CDBG-DR application and its scoring. The Community Development Board will then make a funding recommendation, along with appropriate award conditions, to the Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The Secretary will make the final decision on whether to fund or decline the CDBG-DR application.

CDBG-DR Project Thresholds

All Applications:

- Eligible entity and authorized individual to submit the application
- Adoption of the resolution for grant application authority
- Project addresses presidentially declared disaster impact(s)
- Project takes place in presidentially declared disaster county/counties
- Activities of the project are eligible per federal register
- Activities of the project meets a National Objective
- Activities of the project meets a State Objective
- Evidence of site control
- Flood damage affidavit
- Certification and information release form

In addition to the above all Competitive Applications:

- 10% Match (cash, cash-in-kind, grant or loan funds)
- **Implementation grant maximum \$1 million**

Municipal Applications Only:

- Public Hearing Notice & Hearing

Economic Development Applications Only:

- Economic Development Business Analysis Information (as required on the form)
- DUNS Number

Housing Applications Only:

- Market Study

Public Service Applications Only:

- New or increased service documentation

CDBG-DR Scoring Matrix – Competitive Grants

Need:	__ (50 Max Points)
• Percent of funding in targeted county	__ (25 Max Points)
• Project response to documented need/issue	__ (10 Max Points)
• Project leverage of disaster recovery funds	__ (10 Max Points)
• Project resolves a health or safety issue	__ (5 Max Points)
Impact:	__ (25 Max Points)
• Project LMI benefit	__ (8 Max Points)
• Readiness to proceed and obligate funds within 6 months	__ (4 Max Points)
• Coordination with local and regional planning efforts	__ (3 Max Points)
• Results with community better prepared for next disaster (through increased Flood Hazard Area regulations)	__ (3 Max Points)
• Use of green, energy efficient, and sustainable construction methods	__ (2 Max Points)
• Project assistance to those displaced by disaster	__ (2 Max Points)
• Results with community better positioned to meet post disaster population	__ (1 Max Points)
• Demonstrated longevity of benefit	__ (1 Max Points)
• Location in a downtown or village center	__ (1 Max Point)
Feasibility:	__ (25 Max Points)
• Demonstrated capacity and experience to carry out the project	__ (9 Max Points)
• Project long term viability (reserves, cash flow coverage)	__ (8 Max Points)
• Project cost effectiveness and reasonability	__ (8 Max Points)

Section 4: Performance Schedule

Performance Schedule Expenditures and Outcome Measures

The Action Plan must include a projection of expenditures and outcomes to demonstrate how the CDBG-DR II allocation will be fully expended within the two years of obligation per 78 FR 32264, III. Timely Expenditure of Funds and Prevention of Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and Duplication of Benefits. Further, the Grantee is required to amend its published Action Plan within 90 days of HUD's approval to include the projection of expenditures and outcomes as submitted on HUD's template. See *Appendix B* for more details specific to projected expenditures and outcomes per Quarter.

Performance Schedule for Total Allocation

<u>State Direct Grants</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
1) Buyouts	85 (Homeowners assisted)	\$4,000,000
2) Replacement Housing for Brattleboro Housing Authority	50 (Tenants assisted)	\$5,000,000
3) Economic Recovery	55 (Businesses assisted)	\$3,000,000
<u>Competitive Grants</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Community Infrastructure	607,200 (Linear feet)	\$5,035,400
Total for Grants		\$17,035,400
<u>State Administration</u>		
Total		\$896,600
Total Allocation		\$17,932,000

Performance Schedule for Partial Allocation

Pre-Agreement Costs

State Administration \$90,000

Total \$90,000

<u>State Direct Grants</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
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1) Buyouts	45 (Homeowners assisted)	\$2,000,000
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2) Replacement Housing for Brattleboro Housing Authority	50 (Tenants assisted)	\$5,000,000
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3) Economic Recovery	55 (Businesses assisted)	\$3,000,000
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<u>Competitive Grants</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
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Community Infrastructure	300,000(Linear Feet)	\$2,635,400
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Total for Grants \$12,635,400

State Administration

Total \$596,600

Total Allocation \$13,232,000

The Regional Planning Commissions (RPC's) have already begun outreach to the municipalities for infrastructure unmet needs in their respective regions to provide technical assistance to ensure project eligibility, working with the Agency of Natural Resources, Agency of Transportation and the Corp of Engineers on roads and culvert projects.

It is anticipated that staff will commence further outreach and technical assistance to potential applicants in developing projects to apply for the competitive funds by mid September 2013. *(This date has been delayed due to the Government shut down that pushed the date back for HUD's deadline of review from October 18, 2013 to November 4, 2013)*

Once we receive approval of our *Partial Action Plan* from HUD, we will be accepting applications through our web-based online system, Intelligrants Management system. The applications will be reviewed for eligibility, evaluated and scored on a monthly basis, and presented to the Board for Award referrals.

Awards will be made within 30 days of receipt of eligible applications. Grant Agreements should be executed within 90 days of award. The requisitioning of funds should commence prior to the end of February 2014.

Section 5: Other Criteria

Construction Standards

All activities involving construction or rehabilitation of buildings will be required to meet building codes and standards adopted and enforced by the State of Vermont as well as local ordinances that exceed state codes and standards. The State will work with localities to identify revisions to flood plain maps to accurately reflect current risks and avoid subsidizing construction in at risk locations, such as Fluvial Erosion Hazard Areas.

All new construction will be encouraged to be designed to achieve maximum energy efficiency to the extent that this can be accomplished on a cost effective basis. Current building codes are believed to accomplish this.

All rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction should be designed to incorporate principles of sustainability, including water and energy efficiency, resilience and mitigating the impact of future disasters. Where possible, the Professional Certifications and Standard Work Specifications as defined by the U. S. Department of Energy Home Energy Professionals should be followed. In addition, the [HUD CPD Green Building Retrofit Checklist](#) * will be followed when developing the scope of work for rehabilitation of non-substantially damaged residential buildings. The standards set forth in the CPD Green Building Retrofit Checklist have been adopted and practice of the Vermont housing developers.

In addition, health and safety hazards that exist in assisted units will be addressed when developing work scopes for the buildings to be assisted. These include lead paint hazards, building code violations, mold and moisture problems and environmental health concerns.

Achieving high housing quality and energy efficiency standards is a priority. All multi-family housing consisting of 2 or more units assisted with CDBG-DR II funds will be required to meet at a minimum the State of Vermont Department of Public Safety Public Building Codes which incorporate both the National and International Building Codes, any additional Municipal building codes and zoning permit requirements, in addition, HUD Section 8 Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and meet or exceed Vermont building code requirements and promote built environments which are green, energy efficient and healthy.

All single family, owner-occupied, or rented units shall comply with the State of Vermont Department Public Safety Fire and Safety codes, in addition to any municipal building codes and zoning permit requirements, and incorporate built environments which are green and energy efficient. It should be noted that CDBG Lead Paint regulations apply to all funded properties.

Single family homes assisted with CDBG-DR II funds should achieve an Energy Star HER rating of 80 or less if appropriate. Further, all gut rehabilitation which requires the replacement of the interior of a building that may or may not include structural elements or

new construction of residential buildings up to three stories must be designed to meet the standard for Energy Star Qualified New Homes.

Per the FR 14333 dated March 5, 2013, all gut rehabilitation or new construction will meet the **Green Building Standard** for mid-or high rise, 4 stories or greater, multi-family housing. The construction must be designed to meet American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90-1-2004, Appendix G, plus 20 percent, the Energy Star standard for multi-family buildings piloted by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy, or Enterprise Green Communities; LEED; ICC-700 National Green Building Standard; or EPA Indoor AirPlus. Other rehabilitation requirements that will be met in all cases include, the replacement of older obsolete products and appliances, such as windows, doors, lights, hot water heaters, furnaces, boilers, air conditioning units, refrigerators, cook stoves, clothes washers and dryers with Energy-Star labeled products, low flush toilets, showers and faucets; lead mitigation; asbestos removal; radon mitigation; steps will be implemented to mitigate the impact of disasters of flooding, fires, earthquakes and hurricanes.

*For buildings in EPA Radon Zone 1 or 2, test for radon using the current edition of American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST)'s Protocols for Radon Measurement in Homes Standard for Single Family Housing or Duplexes, or AARST's Protocol for Conducting Radon and Radon Decay Product Measurements in Multifamily Buildings. To install radon mitigation systems in buildings with radon level of 4 pCi/L or more, use ASTM E 2121 for single-family housing or duplexes, or AARST's Radon Mitigation Standards for Multifamily Buildings. For new construction, use AARST's Reducing Radon in New Construction of 1 & 2 Family Dwellings and Townhouses, or ASTM E 1465.

Displacement Plan of Persons or Entities

No person or entity is anticipated to be displaced as a result of the Action Plan. The Hazard Grant Mitigation Grant program, which purchases flooded homes for demolition, is voluntary and is open to households that have already been displaced by the flooding.

However, all recipients implementing activities identified in the Action Plan will be directed to provide the assistance and protections afforded to any persons or entities under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA), as amended and section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCD), as amended.

Not Suitable for Rehabilitation

Per the March 5, 2013 *Federal Register* Notice, HUD waived the one-for-one replacement requirement with respect to lower-income dwelling units that were damaged by the disaster and not suitable for rehabilitation as defined by the grantee. Vermont defines "not suitable for rehabilitation" if rehabilitation costs are greater than 50% of replacement costs at current market rate. This definition is consistent with the general calculation also used for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the property buyouts.

Demonstrable Hardship

The State will ensure that due consideration is given for demonstrable hardship under the conditions of the Disaster as defined in the following:

- 1) A demonstrable hardship is a substantial change in a tenant's financial situation that will prohibit or severely affect their ability to provide a minimal standard of living or the basic necessities of life including food, housing, clothing and transportation without causing economic distress well beyond mere inconvenience as shown by objective evidence. A demonstrable hardship must be occurring after the 2011 Disaster event.
- 2) The demonstrable hardship must be of a severe, involuntary and unexpected nature. It must not be one that is generally shared by other property owners or tenants affected by the 2011 flood event or within the disaster area. Examples of a demonstrable hardships may include job loss, failure of a business, divorce, severe medical illness, injury, death of a family member or spouse, unexpected and extraordinary medical bills, disability, substantial income reduction, unusual and excessive amount of debt due to a natural disaster, etc. None of the listed examples above, individually or taken together, automatically establish a demonstrable hardship nor is the listing above exhaustive as there may be other factors relevant to the issue of demonstrable hardship in a particular case.
- 3) The existence of a demonstrable hardship will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis after review of all of the circumstances. Whether there is a demonstrable hardship heavily depends upon the facts and circumstances.
- 4) Persons claiming a Demonstrable Hardship shall be required to provide evidence of the claimed hardship to the Director of Grants Management for a decision of confirmation. A written decision will be provided to the claimant within 30 days.

Program Income

It is unlikely that program income will be generated prior to close out of the CDBG-DR II Program. However, any Program Income that may be generated during the CDBG-DR II Program, and before closeout, will be transferred to be used for annual CDBG-funded activities. Likewise, any program income generated after closeout of the CDBG-DR II Program will be transferred to be used for annual CDBG-funded activities.

Non-duplication of benefits

Applications will require disclosure of other benefits received and will be scrutinized for duplication of benefits as defined by HUD for the CDBG-DR program. Only those flood related unmet needs not funded by other sources will be funded with CDBG-DR funds. In addition, subrogation agreements will be executed in all cases where CDBG-DR funding is expended in a project.

Accounting and Procurement

The DHCD staff provides extensive one-on-one technical assistance Post-Award for grant recipients covering all areas of compliance of the federal, state and local regulations as applicable to each project undertaking. We have an established process that has created an environment of ensuring success through providing the tools and the associated guidance to use the tools correctly. In addition, the Intelligrants Management system has been designed with guiding questions and underlying business rules that generate error messages to prevent most non-compliance. Further, the subrecipient oversight monitoring in particular for the CDBG-DR will be very prevalent.

All activities funded under this grant will be in full compliance with the applicable Federal and State regulations, including OMB Circulars A-87, A-122, A-133 and the Uniform Administrative Requirements at 24 CFR Part 85.

Accountability

The chief elected official or authorizing official must certify through the Intelligrants Management system at the time of application, and then again upon signing the grant agreement that the activities of the project will be undertaken in accordance with all the applicable laws and regulations.

Sanctions and Penalties for Fraud, Abuse, and Mismanagement

The emphasis of grants management by DHCD is on success and full compliance through guidance, prevention and correction before any issues develop into major concerns or findings. The Standard Provisions in the grant agreement document and outline the steps of the various levels of non-compliance and the associated penalties. Detailed in Agency Policy 2.10, Detecting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse of Funds in CDBG-DR Projects.

Monitoring Standards and Procedures

Monitoring standards will follow the mandates of the State of Vermont's Secretary of Administration's Bulletin 5 for federal grants. The goal is to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations and provide an independent review and accountability of the public funds.

Grants Management staff will carry out the activities described below over the life of each grant. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development's grant plan specifies the frequency of the use of monitoring activities and the criteria that develops a risk-based approach to determine which monitoring activities will occur for a particular grant or grantee. However, with the CDBG-DR grants/projects each will be monitored at a minimum of once over the life of the project, in addition, to the review and analysis of Quarterly Progress reports.

The Secretary of Administration’s Bulletins state that typically, an agency/department should conduct desk reviews for all grantees and perform site visits for a certain number or percentage of grantees.

The Agency’s grant monitoring standards will remain a risk-based approach. The risk-based approach will take into consideration the complexity of projects, staff changes, past performance and level of experience of the program managers and administrators, the level of expenditures and the number of requisitions, a review of progress reports, and in some cases, the dollar threshold.

The monitoring procedures and protocols that are implemented will cover the following general monitoring activities:

Checklists

The Monitoring checklist is an integral part of our monitoring process. Checklists allow for consistency, completeness, and documentation of monitoring activities.

Desk Review

A desk review is a review of documents submitted by the grantee to the state granting agency. Proper monitoring of all grants will always include some type of desk review.

Onsite Monitoring

The key goals of a site visit are for the grantor to become more familiar with the operations of the grantee; to conduct a more thorough review of supporting documentation than can be conducted in a desk review; to learn about the grantee’s programmatic results or problems; and to provide technical assistance for compliance with state and federal regulations specific to the various grants. A site visit may also be conducted for the purpose of investigating a specific problem or issue that was uncovered during a desk review.

Audit Reviews

Audited financial statements (and associated audit reports, including single audits, if applicable) may be reviewed as part of a department’s monitoring activities. Any negative findings that may impact funded grants shall be followed up by the staff with the grantee.

Topics of review during a site visit may include:
General Operational Review
Project site review
Staff Interviews
Review of Supporting Documentation
Review of Programmatic Results (completed projects, client records, etc.)

Grant agreements will contain time line and benchmark provisions, developed by the applicant in its application. Grants will be periodically monitored by program staff to ensure that the time lines and benchmarks are being achieved as projected. If and when it is apparent that an applicant’s program will not be implemented consistent with the agreement,

the grant may be uncommitted and the funds made available to another applicant whose program was not funded and whose program may still be able to be fully implemented in the time remaining.

For those projects that result in homeownership or rental properties, there will be ongoing monitoring to ensure the terms of affordability are being met and maintained through annual rent and income certifications.

Reporting Requirements

All reporting requirements will be specified in Grant Agreements and any subsequent subgrantee agreements. These will include, but not be limited to Quarterly Progress reports that include Performance Measures and Outcomes; annual audit reports; contractual obligations and minority business enterprise reports; Section 3 reporting requirements; and Labor Standards. Detailed in Agency Policy 2.10, Detecting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse of Funds in CDBG-DR Projects.

Quality Assurance and Investigation

The Grants Management Staff (GMS) is held in high regard throughout State Government as to the oversight monitoring standards and procedures, and is periodically called upon to provide technical assistance to other Agencies and Entities, both within State Government and externally. The GMS policies and procedures for tracking, securing, reviewing and clearing of single audits have been emulated to become a standard practice throughout State agencies.

Members of the public may report fraud, waste, abuse or allegations of mismanagement involving CDBG-DR funding by contacting the Vermont State Auditor directly at 877-290-1400 or http://auditor.vermont.gov/reporting_fraud and <http://auditor.vermont.gov/reports/whistleblower>

Internal Audit Procedures

State Auditor's Office is in the Executive Branch of the State. The State Auditor is an independent elected official. It is the State Auditor's Office that conducts oversight review in consultation with a procured Independent Auditing firm that conducts the State Single Audit annually. Programs are selected on a risk-based approach: new program; major dollar expenditures within the fiscal year period; staff capacity; adherence to internal State Bulletins and requirements; and any external reports or comments that may be adverse.

Likewise, each grant that DHCD executes is input into the State financial management system, VISION and tracked for the level of expenditures that may trigger a single audit. The single audit review is a collaborative effort across all State Agencies and Departments whoever is listed in an audit report. The VISION system is managed by the Department of Finance and Management that is under the Agency of Administration.

Likewise, any external reports or reviews conducted by any Federal funding Agency is recorded and submitted to the Department of Finance and Management for oversight.

As per the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) Policy 2.10, Detecting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse of Funds in CDBG-DR Projects Section V. Internal and External Audit Procedures, the internal review by the Grants Management Division will be supplemented by the oversight of the Vermont State Auditor.

The CDBG-DR award is administered by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and is part of the Executive Branch, and reports to the Governor. The audit function is housed within the Auditor of Accounts, which is also part of the Executive Branch, but is elected independently of, and does not report to, the Governor. See Appendix D for the State Government Organization Chart.

Building Capacity for Implementation and Compliance

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will provide technical and management assistance to the grant recipients. The assistance will be provided in the form of workshops and training sessions specific to the CDBG-DR requirements and general requirements will also be covered for those individuals and entities that have no CDBG experience. In addition, there will be staff available to provide day-to-day ongoing technical assistance via e-mail, telephone and on-site visits when necessary. For the competitive grants, staff will work with applicants to encourage partnering with experienced grant administrators for a successful collaboration and project delivery. Specifically, for the competitive municipal infrastructure grants DHCD is enlisting the Regional Planning Commissions (RPC's) to work collectively to assist the communities in their respective service areas to provide more one-on-one direct technical assistance in developing and writing the applications for funding, and ongoing project delivery support. For the State Direct activities, the State has identified organizations that have a proven grant administration track record and/or work within the Agency.

The DHCD staff has extensive experience in successfully managing the State's CDBG program since 1983; oversight of the Home Investments Partnerships Program (HOME) since 1992; successfully managing the Neighborhood Stabilization Programs NSP1 since 2008 and NSP3 since 2011; the Community Development Block Grant Recovery Program (CDBG-R) since 2009 and the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR1) since 2012. ***The staffing level has been increased with the hiring of a dedicated Disaster Grants Management Specialist; a Grants Manager; and an Environmental Officer to ensure a high level of technical assistance is provided.*** At this point, given the depth of experience of the existing staff and the systems in place to track and measure CDBG-DR performance outcomes and compliance requirements, the DHCD staff can adequately ensure that the CDBG-DR will be managed appropriately to be fully compliant.

Action Plan Amendments

The CDBG-DR Action Plan will be amended as described by the Federal Register Notice. HUD views the Action Plan as a living document that may be subject to amendments from time to time in response to new information and data that is realized during the course of carrying out a project, or comes to light during the Grant Agreement period. Each Amendment to the Action Plan must be sequentially numbered and the section being amended must be identified with detail of what is being changed, added, or deleted. An amended budget chart must be included that shows how funds are reallocated. The entire Action Plan as amended must be viewable as a single document.

A substantial amendment is defined as a change in program benefit or eligibility; the allocation or re-allocation of more than \$1 million; or the deletion or the addition of an activity.

Under the State of Vermont's Citizen Participation Plan for Disaster Recovery, any substantial amendment must follow the procedure of being authorized by the Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and will be made public by postings and public notices in the newspapers. The DHCD will receive and consider public comments on the substantial amendments for 7 days before implementing the amendments.

Section 6: Citizen Participation and Consideration of Public Comments

DHCD outreach and citizen participation efforts started within days of receiving notice of Vermont's CDBG-DR II allocation. DHCD consulted with disaster recovery partners throughout the state and across industry sectors. The disaster recovery efforts already underway provided a great opportunity to assess the remaining and unmet recovery needs with internal and external partners.

DHCD held a widely publicized public hearing at the Bugbee Senior Center on June 27th in White River Junction Vermont. This location was selected due to its convenient and easily accessible location in the center of the most disaster impacted communities. Twenty-five members of the public attended, listened to a presentation and overview of the CDBG-DR Action Plan process, asked questions and offered comments for the use of the CDBG-DR II allocation. Please see *Appendix A* for DHCD's participation plan, public hearing notice and meeting minutes.

DHCD solicited direct input for the draft CDBG-DR II Action Plan by requesting Letters of Interest (LOI's) from all municipalities, regional planning commissions, regional development corporations, businesses, regional affordable housing managers and developers, community action councils, non-profit organizations and individuals. Sixty three LOI's were submitted requesting over \$43 million in project funding. Please see *Appendix C* for DHCD's LOI Summary. Citizen input and outreach efforts have significantly shaped the priorities and Method of Distribution contained in this CDBG-DR II Draft Action Plan.

DHCD posted the Draft Action Plan on its website for a seven day comment period and notified all interested parties through an extensive distribution list. The comments received are summarized below including written responses from DHCD.

Public Comments made on Draft CDBG-DR Action Plan and DHCD Responses

One comment was received from a regional economic development agency. The comment included a summary of unmet need for businesses in Windham and Southern Windsor counties and suggested both the need for capacity and funding assistance to help businesses still struggling to recovery. The comment also encouraged DHCD to include regional funding for business assistance in the CDBG-DR II Action Plan and suggested DHCD use existing partners to expedite and simplify the process when ever possible.

DHCD agrees entirely with this comment and has allocated an additional \$3,000,000 in State Direct funding for business recovery. In addition, DHCD has proposed utilizing the existing partner organizations to assist businesses with technical assistance needs and to distribute funding at the regional level.

One comment was received from an affordable housing provider in Windham County simply stating that they were enthusiastically supporting the Draft Action Plan.

DHCD has proposed that up-to \$5,000,000 in this Action Plan be used to assist the Brattleboro Housing Authority relocate and rebuild the affordable housing damaged by Tropical Storm Irene. CDBG-DR funding will has been allocated to help build this new, replacement affordable housing in a safe and smart growth location in Brattleboro.

DHCD also received several questions from the public regarding the eligible uses, timeline for submission of the Action Plan, targeting of funding to Washington, Windsor and Windham Counties, eligible disasters declarations and the strategy behind submitting a Partial Action Plan to HUD.

DHCD was able to answer each question directly in addition to referencing material on DHCD's CDBG-DR website and the CDBG-DR Draft Action Plan.

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 PTAC/Government Contracting Partners
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 Workforce Training

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 Block Grants Disaster Recovery
 Housing Resources
 Community Revitalization
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 2
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Commissioner of DHCD
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Department of Housing & Community Development

Pierce Hall received a \$12,500 grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation which has resulted in a resurgence in use by diverse audiences.



1 2 3 4

Pierce Hall, East Putney, VT

"Home to many of the strongest, most resilient communities in the country, Vermont integrates business and economic development with an unmatched quality of life and a sense of place. Here, residents and visitors alike come together to live, shop, meet neighbors, enjoy local food and make lasting memories."

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June 18, 2013 DHCD
Letters of Interest Requested and Public Hearing Set for CDBG-Disaster Recovery 2

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Department of Housing & Community Development



VERMONT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) assists communities on a competitive basis by providing financial and technical assistance to identify and address local needs in the areas of:

- housing
- economic development
- public facilities
- public services
- handicapped accessibility modifications

VCDP is governed by the federal [Housing and Community Development Act 42 U.S.C. § 5301 et seq.](#) (the "Federal Act") and related regulations, and the [Vermont Community Development Act, 10 V.S.A. chapter 29, sub-chapter 1](#) (the "State Act").

Eligibility

Any Vermont town, city (except Burlington), incorporated village chartered to function as a general purpose unit of local government, or a consortium of such entities, is eligible for funding. However the majority of projects are a coordinated effort between the municipalities, community groups and local or state non-profit organizations or small businesses.

Grant Types

VCDP provides federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for eligible activities through the following application types:

- [Accessibility Modification Grants \(AM\)](#)
- [Implementation Grants \(IG\)](#)
- [Planning Grants \(PG\)](#)
- [Scattered Site Grants \(SS\)](#)

VCDP funds must primarily benefit persons of low and moderate income. In addition, assistance is provided to communities for threats of health and safety issues as urgent needs and slums and blight projects.

Annual Report

An annual summary of projects selected for funding is available for the Vermont Community Development Program. See below for the most recent reports.

- [2012 \(July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012\)](#) (pdf)
- [2011 \(July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011\)](#) (pdf)
- [2010 \(July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010\)](#) (pdf)

Cindy Blondin, Grants Specialist
802-828-5219

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DRAFT CDBG-DR II Partial Action Plan Available for Comment to DHCD by August 30, 2013

[Important Environmental Review Changes for VCDP!](#)

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- ▼ [Vermont Community Development Program \(VCDP\)](#)
 - ▶ [Applicants](#)
 - [Boards and Meetings](#)
 - ▶ [Grantees](#)
 - ▶ [Case Studies](#)
 - [CDBGDR](#)
- ▶ [Municipal Planning Grant Overview](#)
- [Downtown Transportation Fund](#)
- ▶ [Downtown & Village Tax Credits](#)
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- ▶ [CDBG-Disaster Recovery](#)
- ▶ [IG Grant Instructions](#)
- ▶ [AM Grant Instructions](#)
- ▶ [PG Grant Instructions](#)
- ▶ [SS Grant Instructions](#)
- ▶ [Program Guide](#)
- ▶ [Forms & Sample Documents](#)
- ▶ [Resources](#)
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Department of Housing & Community Development

Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds

The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will receive an additional \$17,932,000 from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. This second allocation of HUD CDBG-Disaster Recovery funding was secured through the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Appropriation Act and is in addition to the \$21.6 Million received last year. The official notice of this funding, the [Federal Register Notice](#), was released on May 29, 2013. It contains the rules, regulations and process for DHCD to access the funding allocated to Vermont. DHCD has 90 days to develop an Action Plan which identifies the unmet and long term recovery needs of areas most impacted and distressed as the result of declared major disasters in Vermont in 2011 and 2012. These major disasters include FEMA Disaster Declaration 1995 (April 23-May 9, 2011 flood), FEMA Disaster Declaration 4001 (May 26-27, 2011 flood), FEMA Disaster Declaration 4022 (August 27-September 2, 2011 Tropical Storm Irene), FEMA Disaster Declaration 4043 (May 20, 2011 flooding) and FEMA Disaster Declaration 4066 (June 29, 2012 Tornado and flooding). These funds will be available to help communities with the necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas receiving major disaster declarations. The Federal Notice requires the state to target at least 80 percent of this funding (\$14,345,600) to Washington, Windsor and Windham Counties. The rules governing the use of the allocation are essentially the same as the first with the major exception that the funds must be spent within two years.

The state has committed to use some portion of this allocation to continue helping municipalities meet the 25% match for property "buy-outs" under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and assist other priority "buy-outs", which FEMA has determined to be ineligible for HMGP, move forward. DHCD is in the process of determining the other unmet needs and uses of the CDBG-DR funds. DHCD is currently soliciting input on unmet needs through consultation with stakeholders and partners. DHCD will also seek input from the public and all interested parties through a [Letter of Interest \(LOI\)](#). DHCD is seeking LOI's for all potential CDBG-Disaster Recovery projects by July 3, 2013. Federal funding conditions make it particular important, for DHCD to

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [DRAFT CDBG-DR II Partial Action Plan Comments Due by August 30, 2013 to Josh Hanford](#)
- [CDBG-DR II - Public Hearing Minutes, White River Junction, June 27, 2013](#)
- [CDBG-DR II - Public Hearing Presentation \(ppt\), White River Junction, June 27, 2013](#)
- HUD Federal Register Notices for CDBG-DR 2
- [May 29, 2013 \(pdf\)](#)
- [April 19, 2013 \(pdf\)](#)
- [Mar 5, 2013 \(pdf\)](#)
- [CDBG-DR 2 - Public Hearing \(doc\)](#)
- [CDBG-DR 2 - Letter of Intent \(doc\) Due July 3, 2013](#)
- [Citizen Participation Plan \(doc\)](#)

CDBG-DR APPLICATION

- [CDBG-DR Online Application](#)

CDBG-DR ACTION PLAN AND AMENDMENTS

- [Vermonts CDBG - Disaster Recovery Action Plan \(July 20, 2012\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Amendment #1 \(pdf\)](#)

CDBG-DR BOARD MEETING DATES AND AWARDS

Nov 7, 2012 (pdf)	Aug 8, 2013
Dec 12, 2012 (pdf)	Sep 12, 2013
Jan 31, 2013 (pdf)	Oct 10, 2013
Apr 4, 2013 (pdf)	Nov 21, 2013
May 9, 2013 (pdf)	
Jun 13, 2013	

APPLICATION RESOURCES

- [Public Hearing Notice Form \(doc\)](#)
- [Windham Regional Commission Information for their Region \(pdf\)](#)
- [Windham Region 2010 Census Tracts \(pdf\)](#)
- [Windham Regional Commission Flood Insurance Rate Maps \(pdf\)](#)

CDBG-DR INFORMATION

- [Application Workshop PowerPoint Presentation \(ppt\)](#)
- [CDBG-DR Common Questions \(doc\)](#)
- [HUD Federal Register Notice - April 16, 2012 for CDBG-Disaster Recovery \(pdf\)](#)
- [HUD Disaster Allocation Methodology \(pdf\)](#)

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 - [CDBGDR](#)
 - [Municipal Planning Grant Overview](#)
 - [Downtown Transportation Fund](#)
 - [Downtown & Village Tax Credits](#)
 - [Sales Tax Reallocation](#)
 - [Tax Increment Financing \(TIF\)](#)
 - [Land Use Planning](#)
 - [Partners](#)
 - [Housing](#)
 - [Historic Preservation](#)
 - [Case Studies](#)
 - [DHCD Press Releases](#)

Appendix A – Vermont Citizen Participation Plan for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Adopted June 17, 2013

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) on behalf of the State of Vermont on this 17th day of June 2013, hereby adopts the following Citizen Participation Plan in accordance with Federal Register Notice (78 FR 14329) as published on March 5, 2013, Section VI. Applicable Rules, Statutes, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements. 3. Citizen participation waiver and alternative requirement, which waives 24 CFR §91.115(b) and (c) and permits more streamlined requirements with no mandate of a public hearing at the state or local government level and requires only a 7-day comment period by the citizens about the use of the grant funds.

The DHCD will encourage participation by residents of public and assisted housing developments in the process of developing and implementing the Disaster Recovery Action Plan, along with other low income residents of targeted revitalization areas in which the developments are located.

Public Hearings

- 1) The DHCD will hold at least one public hearing to obtain the views of citizens on unmet needs of housing and community development needs (including priority nonhousing community development needs) and input on economic revitalization and infrastructure unmet needs before the Disaster Recovery Action Plan is published for comment.
- 2) The DHCD will ensure adequate public notice before the public hearing, with sufficient information published about the subject of the hearing to permit informed comment. The Public hearing will be announced in the major newspapers around the State. Citizens will be notified of the public hearing at least two weeks before it is held.
- 3) The DHCD will hold the public hearing a time and location convenient to potential beneficiaries, and accommodations will be made for people with disabilities. The hearing will be held in an accessible location, and sign language interpreters will be made available upon advance request.
- 4) The DHCD will provide interpretation services for non-English speaking residents at the public hearing upon advance request, provided such services are available in the community.

Development of the Disaster Recovery Action Plan

- 1) The State, through DHCD, will make a concerted effort to notify citizens, agencies and organizations of the development of the Disaster Recovery Action Plan and the availability of funds through mailings, postings and public notices in the newspaper.
- 2) DHCD will conduct workshops at various and convenient times to inform and educate citizens on the development of the Disaster Recovery Action Plan and the availability of funds. DHCD will provide technical assistance to all applicants, with special efforts to assist in the development of applications for funding.
- 3) Before the DHCD finalizes the Disaster Recovery Action Plan, the DHCD will make available to citizens, public agencies and other interested parties information that includes the amount of assistance the DHCD expects to receive and the range of activities that may be undertaken, including the estimated amount that will benefit persons of low and moderate income.
- 4) The DHCD will post to the proposed Disaster Recovery Action Plan for review and comment on its website for a period not to exceed 7 days. Further, hard copies will be available during normal working hours at the offices of the DHCD at the Dean C. Davis Building, Sixth Floor, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-0501.
- 5) The DHCD will receive and consider comments on the proposed Disaster Recovery Action Plan for 7 days before preparing the final Action Plan to be submitted to HUD.

Amendments to the Disaster Recovery Action Plan

- 1) The DHCD will amend its approved Disaster Recovery Action Plan whenever it makes one of the following decisions:
 - a. A change in program benefit or eligibility criteria;
 - b. The allocation or re-allocation of more than \$1 million; or
 - c. The addition or deletion of an activity.
- 2) The DHCD will receive and consider comments on substantial amendments to the Disaster Recovery Action Plan for 7 days before implementing those amendments.

Access to Information and Records

- 1) The state, through DHCD, will provide citizens, public agencies and other interested parties with reasonable and timely access to information and records relating to the Disaster Recovery Action Plan.
- 2) The state, through DHCD, will regularly communicate with citizens and applicants for funds regarding the progress of the Disaster Recovery Action Plan.

Comments and Complaints

- 1) The DHCD will consider any comments or views of citizens received in writing, or orally at public hearings, in preparing the final Disaster Recovery Action Plan or substantial amendments to the Plan. A summary of these comments or views will be attached to the final Disaster Recovery Action Plan, and/or the substantial amendment.

- 2) The DHCD will respond to any oral complaints received by DHCD relating to the Disaster Recovery Action Plan or any amendments to the Plan. Upon request, DHCD will transcribe oral complaints for signature by the complaining person or organization. Where practicable, DHCD will respond to complaints within 15 working days of receiving the written complaint.

Puig the newest star in L.A.

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — The newest hot, young thing in Los Angeles is a guy you can't take your eyes off of. He's well-built, with a winning smile and engaging personality. He doesn't say a lot, preferring to let his performance speak for him.

He's getting rave reviews, and is a hit on the Internet. Hollywood isn't after him yet, but if Yasai Puig keeps this up, opportunities will surely come calling. Fittingly, the Los Angeles Dodgers rookie plays for a team co-owned by Magic Johnson, a two-time NBA champion and star during his NBA days.

The 22-year-old right fielder (see Yasai Puig) has shown plenty of both while creating a buzz that had been missing at Chavez Ravine so far this season. Puig was batting .464 with a .964 slugging percentage going into Monday night's game against Arizona.

His first week in the majors was a memorable one, with 13 hits in 28 at-bats, four home runs and 10 RBIs in his first seven games since coming up from the minor leagues. He was named NL player of the week on Monday. Puig electrified the last-place Dodgers with a multi-home run game and a grand slam, and helped lead to four wins in seven games, big for a club with a \$215 million payroll that has greatly underperformed.

"As long as the team is pulling together, I'm happy to be a part of it," he said in Spanish through a translator.

Manager Don Mattingly loves Puig's personality and enthusiasm for the game, whether it's the way he runs hard, evident if you take up his position in right field or



Cuban slugger Yasai Puig had a memorable first week in the majors, with four homers and 10 RBIs in the first seven games.

charge around the bases. "It's just infectious the way he plays," Mattingly said. "Seems like there's a joy in his game. It's the way you're supposed to play. He just looks so fresh." Puig's splashy debut and the ensuing excitement it's created have drawn comparisons to Manny Ramirez's arrival in Los Angeles in July 2008.

The following month, Ramirez hit .415 with 25 RBIs, nine home runs and 21 runs scored as a section of left field became "Mannywood." He finished fourth in voting for the NL MVP award that season. Eventually, the good times ended when he was suspended for using performance-enhancing drugs.

"I'd seen Manny play and knew what he could do," said Mattingly, then a Dodgers coach. "But this

cat is a different animal. The more you see it the more you believe it."

Puig's talent and the hit he's given to the injury-riddled Dodgers remind some of Angels star Mike Trout and Washington left fielder Bryce Harper, whose breakout seasons boosted their teams.

With center fielder Matt Kemp and left fielder Carl Crawford on the disabled list, the Dodgers called up Puig from Double-A Chattanooga on June 3. Mattingly put him in right field and had him batting leadoff.

Puig turned heads with an amazing throw in the ninth inning of his first game. He caught the ball near the wall and fired a line drive to first base that doubled off the startled runner to end the game with a double play in a 2-1 victory.



Bruins coach Claude Julien diagrams a play during practice before Game 1 of the Stanley Cup finals on Monday.

Power play could be crucial for B's

JAY COHEN
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — When it comes to power plays in the Stanley Cup finals, the Chicago Blackhawks and Boston Bruins might just prefer to keep going with everyone on the ice.

The last two teams in the NHL playoffs have been loopy with the man advantage and terrific at killing penalties during the postseason.

When the Blackhawks are forced to play a man down, Michael Frolik and Marcus Kruger are so persistent it almost resembles an even-strength situation. And the Bruins have hulking defenseman Zeno Chara and goalie Tuukka Rask, who is swallowing everything at the net these days.

Heading into Game 1 on Wednesday night, goals on special teams have been so scarce for

these teams that a couple for either side could tip the series in one direction.

"The special teams are kind of key, if you want to (have) success," Frolik said after Chicago held an optional practice on Monday. "We try to talk about it all the time about that and make sure we're on the same page. It's especially going to be key right now. We've got to make we are ready for the challenge."

So far, so good on that front for the Bruins and Blackhawks. With Frolik and Kruger tying up the action on top of the zone, Chicago has allowed just three goals in 58 power-play opportunities for an astounding 94.8 percent kill rate. Los Angeles got two of them in the Western Conference finals, but one was a meaningless goal by Tyler Toffoli at the very end of the Blackhawks' 4-2 victory in Game 2.

The 92.5 percent finish for the 2009 New Jersey Devils is the best playoff rate for a Stanley Cup champion in the last 25 years, according to STATS.

"I think they do a good job of fronting shots," Boston coach Claude Julien said of Chicago's penalty killers. "You really have to work hard to get the shots through. That's what they are, they're very patient; they're very aggressive when you do lose. I guess, control of the puck and if they feel they can get on you, they'll get on you quick. They've done a good job that way."

Philadelphia converted an NHL-best 28.3 percent of its power-play chances heading into the Eastern Conference finals against Boston, but the high-powered Penguins went 0 for 15 with the man advantage during the Bruins' impressive four-game sweep.

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Public Notices NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The State of Vermont Agency of Community Development (ACD), Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is seeking public input on the development of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The CDBG program is a federal program that provides financial assistance to local governments for the recovery of blighted areas and other similar distressed areas. Public Hearing - June 27, 2013 at 3:00pm - 5:00pm Bogden Senior Center, 206 N. Main Street, White River Junction, Vermont 05091. If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing, please submit your written comments by 5:00 p.m. on June 27, 2013, to: John.Harford@state.vt.us John Harford, CD Director, One National Life Drive, Orange C. Davis Municipal, VT 05090. The hearing room is handicapped accessible. Accredited persons may be present in the areas with the most severe unmet needs.	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Public Hearing Minutes

June 27, 2013

Vermont Community Development Program
Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery
Bugbee Senior Center, White River Jct., VT

Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) Director Josh Hanford opened the public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Action plan at 3:30 p.m.

Ann Kroll (AKK) kicked off the meeting at 3:35p.m. with the introductions of the VCDP staff. Mr. Josh Hanford (JH) provided an overview of the Federal Register Notice, and the \$17,932,000 funding for which the State of Vermont is eligible through HUD.

Public Comments received:

Public Question: Can CDBG-DR money be used to pay down loans that businesses took out to cover damage to businesses?

JH (VCDP): Business assistance is available through funding that has been awarded to the GMEDC and BDCC. CDBG-DR funds cannot be used to pay off or pay down loans. If a business was able to receive a loan, federal disaster recovery Duplication of Benefit requirements considers the businesses needs met with the loan. However, other assistance to address other unmet needs for that business may be available.

Public Comment: The funding is too slow to reach businesses that were affected by the disaster; money has not been received by some businesses even close to 2 years after the disaster that impacted the state (Tropical Storm Irene)

Public Comment: Make PowerPoint slides available to attendees and others.

Public Question: Can CDBG-DR funds be available to assist individuals with both the 25% match for the HMGP buyouts, and then help assist individuals with down payment on replacement home assistance?

JH (VCDP): Yes, with some income restrictions. A \$3.5M state-direct award was granted to the statewide network of Home Ownership centers. Individuals who need assistance with relocating or homeownership counseling should be directed to the staff at Gilman Housing Trust (now DBA as Rural Edge) as the statewide administrator of the grant or to the nearest regional Homeownership Center.

Public Question: Concerning the HMGP in-eligible buyouts, can CDBG-DR money be used to purchase the property at the same value as the HMGP approved buy-outs?

JH (VCDP): The property values used for the HMGP approved buyouts are based on pre-flood appraisal process that allows appeals. The HMGP in-eligible or CDBG-DR only buyouts will be based on the pre-flood tax assessed value only, and CDBG-DR funds will not augment the difference should individuals choose to appeal the value that is approved by the state. This valuation method has been applied for consistency, efficiency, speed and to ensure there are adequate CDBG-DR funds available to assist all “buy-outs move forward.

Public Question: Homes that were demolished immediately after the storm (TS Irene) are not eligible for the HMGP buyouts as work was completed prior to the properties being approved. Will CDBG-DR II funds be used to cover the expense of these projects that were ineligible?

JH (VCDP): Yes, using the pre-flood tax assessed valuation method. Funding is also being considered for additional work on the HMGP approved properties (e.g., additional stream bank stabilization, landscaping, parking, planting of riparian buffer zones, etc.)

Public Question: Can money be used for a private (non-profit) entity to complete a bank stabilization/retaining wall project that was not approved by FEMA?

JH (VCDP): The state of Vermont is seeking information on these types of projects; please submit a Letter of Interest (LOI). These LOIs will be helpful as the State develops the Action Plan. This work is eligible but the funding will likely be competitive if your organization chooses to apply.

Public Question: What will be allocated to municipalities for infrastructure projects, and what will be allocated to assist businesses with unmet need?

JH (VCDP): The State will use the information that we receive from the LOIs and other sources to help determine how the funds will be allocated.

Public Question: Can businesses be served/awarded grants and or loans if they received funding through the first CDBG-DR round of funding?

AKK (VCDP): Yes

Public Comment: As a business owner, it is a daunting task to complete all of the paperwork required to get financial assistance that is needed. There is a need for additional funding to assist businesses with the application process.

Public Question: How will the State prioritize the money? Can infrastructure projects in communities that meet the Area Wide Benefit go towards the HUD requirement to benefit LMI?

JH (VCDP): Yes, the State has to award a minimum of 50% of the funds to projects that benefit persons defined as being LMI. The State is obligated to fund projects consistent with HUD’s requirements as defined in the Federal Register.

Public Comment: I highly recommend that the State structures the allocation following the same process used in the first round, and encourage businesses to apply for financial assistance through the Regional Development Corporations (RDC).

AKK (VCDP) to one of RDC Representative (BDDC): Do the RDCs have the capacity to address new applications from businesses?

RDC Representative (BDCC): Any new application to fund a program to assist businesses affected by disasters would include a higher budget for administrative staff expenses. Businesses are reluctant to take on additional debt through disaster recovery loans.

RDC Representative (GMEDC): RDCs have the flexibility to propose alternative loan structures to businesses.

AKK (VCDP): The target is to begin accepting new applications around mid-October 2013.

Public Question: Does the State have an accurate number of what the unmet housing needs are? What are the outstanding municipal infrastructure needs?

JH (VCDP): The Regional Planning Commissions have been assisting the State in collecting this information. Many municipalities have been submitting LOIs, and the State is using this information to determine the unmet needs.

Public Question: If flooding becomes repetitive, where will towns get money to assist in studying where the future growth centers should be located?

JH (VCDP): Community Planning & Revitalization has funding available through municipal planning grants and other resilience planning efforts to assist with long term studies such as these.

Public Question: The NFIP offers a community rating system that may help reduce the cost of flood insurance. This requires the town to conduct studies of the floodplain and implement more stringent regulations. Where does the money to accomplish this come from? ANR does not have money for this, nor money to update "choke point" and other floodplain data and maps.

JH (VCDP): RPC's have access to funding to assist with the updating of floodplain regulations.

Public Question: The State has no system and lacks the capacity to respond quickly to large number of people who are displaced from their homes as a result of a disaster. How can CDBG-DR funds be utilized to increase the housing capacity? Can efficient homes be developed to relocate individuals who were displaced by Irene?

Public Response: Perhaps Vermont needs to address our disaster response through a legislative process.

JH (VCDP): As Vermont does not have a strong county government system, the State has relied upon established organization such as RPC's, CAP's and Non-profit Housing

organization to gain capacity and to most efficiently provide crucial services to towns and individuals.

Public Comment: Counseling of victims affected by Irene is difficult as many of those affected by the storm had housing issues that were not ideal prior to the storm and after addressing the issues caused by Irene they still have unmet needs that are not related to Irene and are not eligible for more assistance.

AKK (VCDP): CDBG-DR funds can potentially cover the expense of replacement housing.

Public Comment: Beyond the HMGP 25% match, there is still a great need to assist individuals after the completion of the buyouts.

Public Question: Where do people who are eligible for the buyout get assistance with homeownership or who can't afford their new rent?

AKK (VCDP): Direct them to the homeownership centers.

Public Question: Has the State captured the existing need for housing assistance?

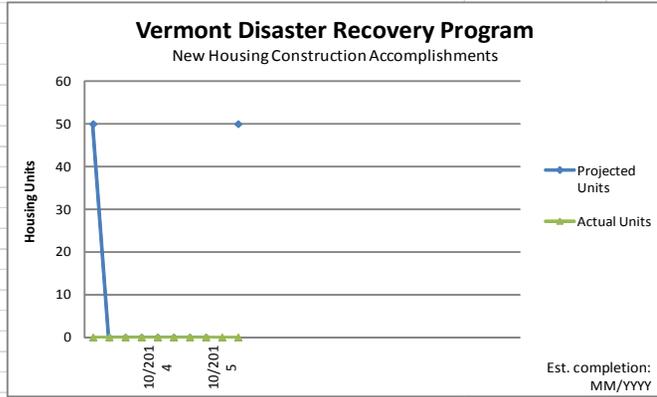
JH (VCDP): This is challenging to capture. The State needs the long term recovery organizations and the homeownership centers working locally to get those numbers and demonstrate what the remaining needs still are for us to allocate new funding for individual housing repair, as we still substantial have funding from CDBG-DR 1 dedicated to this need.

Public Comment: Debris removal still needs to be addressed. There are a large number of farmers who are still trying to recover due to the loss of feed, and the loss of their useful fields due to large amounts of silt and sediment being deposited on their property. Additional work is also needed to protect the stream banks. The State of Vermont generates a lot of revenue through tourism due to tourists seeking out the open landscape that is supported by our agricultural sector. Please commit money to the agricultural sector.

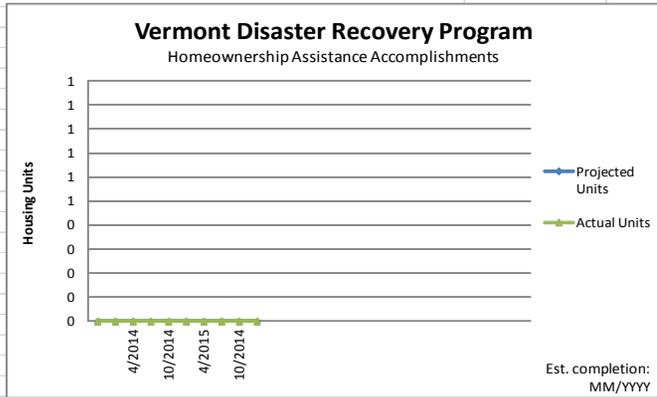
Hearing no additional comments the public hearing was closed at 5:23 p.m.

Appendix B – Performance Projections

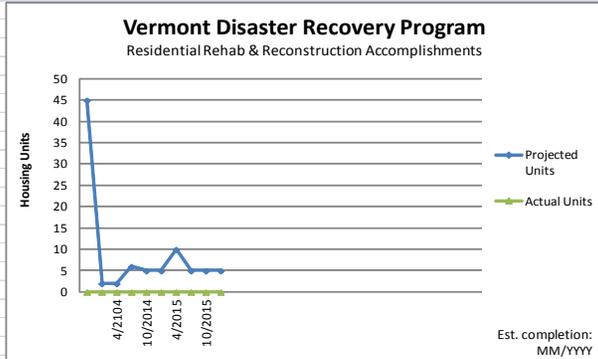
Construction of New Housing		1/2014	4/2014	7/2014	10/2014	1/2015	4/2015	7/2015	10/2015	1/2016
Projected Units	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
# of Housing Units (Quarterly Projection)	0									
Actual Units	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Housing Units (Populated from QPR Reporting)	0									



Homeownership Assistance		1/2014	4/2014	7/2014	10/2014	1/2015	4/2015	7/2014	10/2014	1/2016
Projected Units	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Housing Units (Quarterly Projection)	0									
Actual Units	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Housing Units (Populated from QPR Reporting)	0									



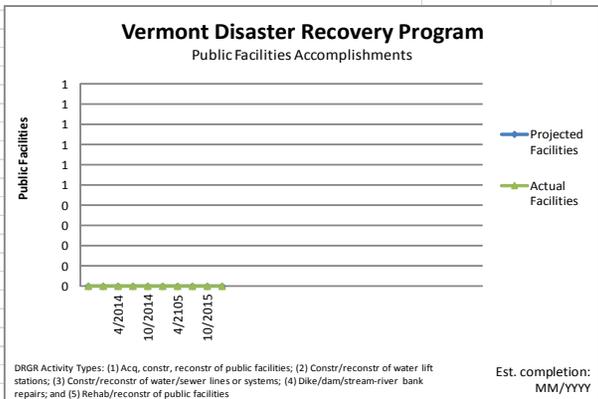
Residential Rehab and Reconstruction		1/2014	4/2104	7/2014	10/2014	1/2015	4/2015	7/2015	10/2015	1/2016
Projected Units	45	2	2	6	5	5	10	5	5	5
# of Housing Units (Quarterly Projection)	0									
Actual Units	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Housing Units (Populated from QPR Reporting)	0									



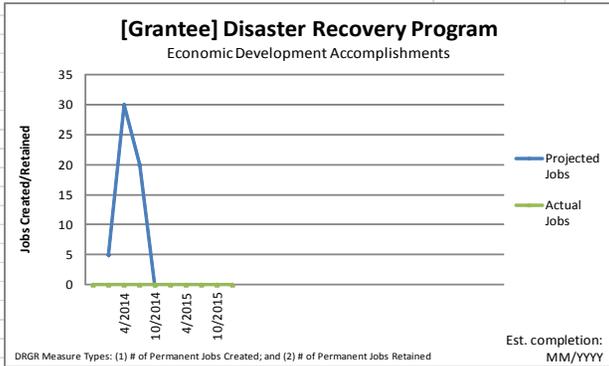
Public Facilities		1/2014	4/2014	7/2014	10/2014	1/2105	4/2105	7/2015	10/2015	1/2016
Projected Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Public Facilities (Quarterly Projection)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Actual Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Public Facilities (Populated from QPR Reporting)	0									

Quarterly Projections by Activity Type:

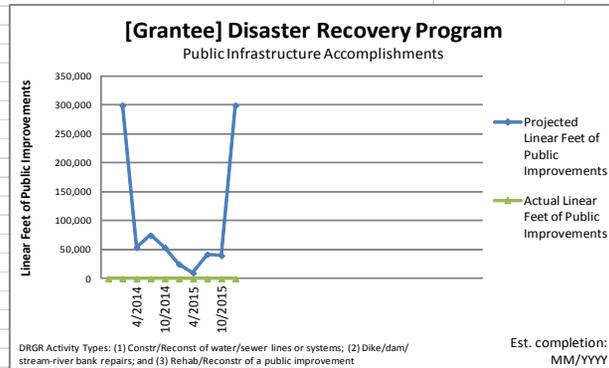
Acquisition, construction, reconstruction of public facilities	# of Public Facilities	0								
Construction/reconstruction of water lift stations	# of Public Facilities	0								
Construction/reconstruction of water/sewer lines or systems	# of Public Facilities	0								
Dike/dam/stream-river bank repairs	# of Public Facilities	0								
Rehabilitation/reconstruction of public facilities	# of Public Facilities	0								



Economic Development		1/2014	4/2014	7/2014	10/2014	1/2015	4/2015	7/2015	10/2015	1/2016
Projected Jobs		5	30	20	0					
# of Jobs Created/Retained (Quarterly Projection)	0	0	0	0	0		0			
Actual Jobs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Jobs Created/Retained (Populated from QPR Reporting)	0									
# of Permanent Jobs Created	0									
# of Permanent Jobs Retained	0									



Public Infrastructure		1/2014	4/2014	7/2014	10/2014	1/2015	4/2015	7/2015	10/2015	1/2016
Projected Linear Feet of Public Improvements		300,000	54,000	75,000	54,000	25,000	10,000	42,000	40,000	300,000
# of Linear Feet of Public Improvements (Quarterly Projection)	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Actual Linear Feet of Public Improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Linear Feet of Public Improvements (Populated from QPR Reporting)	0									
Quarterly Projections by Activity Type:										
Construction/reconstruction of water/sewer lines or systems										
# of Linear Feet of Public Improvements	0									
Dike/dam/stream-river bank repairs										
# of Linear Feet of Public Improvements	0									
Rehabilitation/reconstruction of a public improvement										
# of Linear Feet of Public Improvements	0									

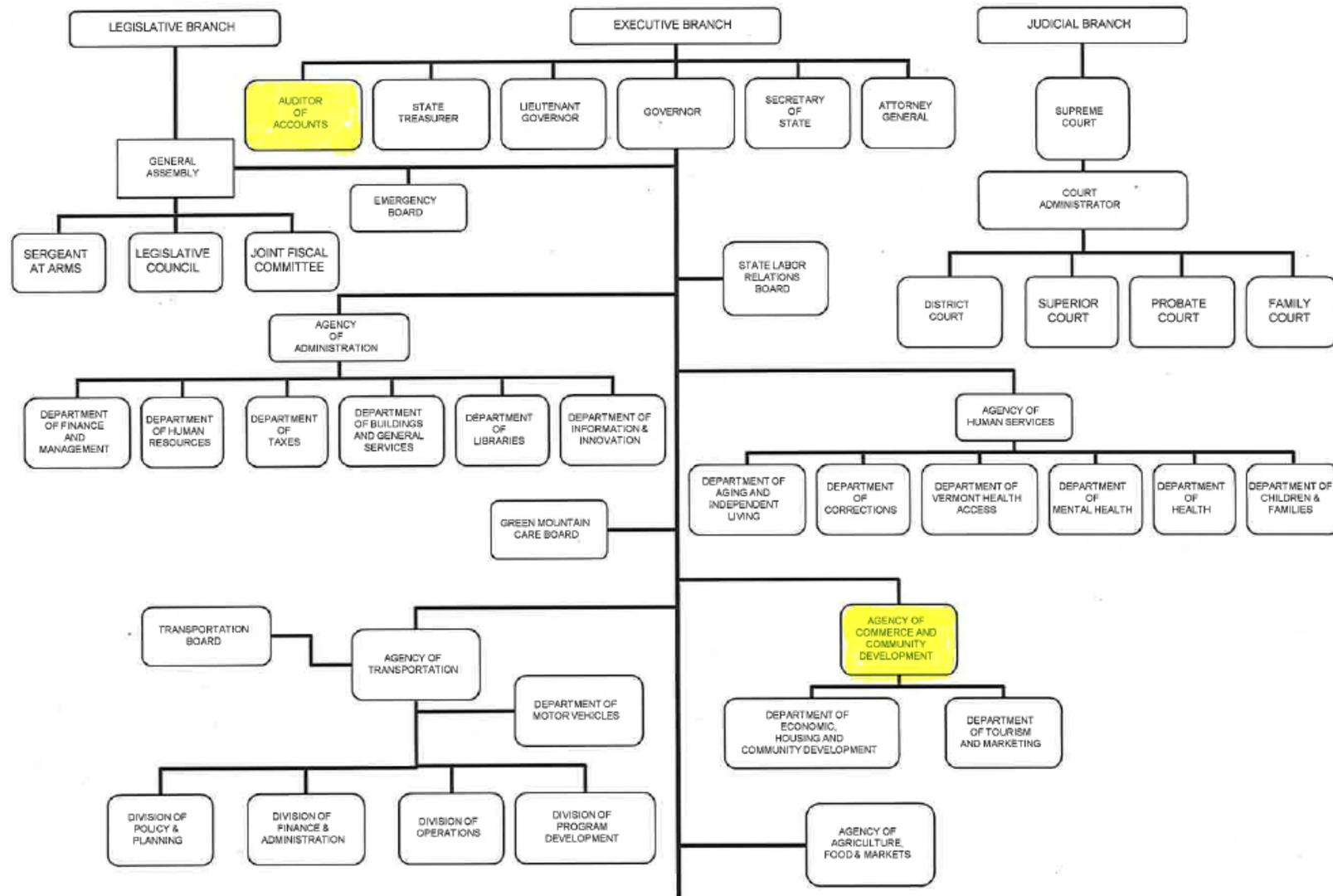


Appendix C – DHCD Letters of Interest Summary

Community Infrastructure Letters of Interest			
Potential Applicant	County	CDBG-DR Funds Requested	Brief Project Description
Town of Granville	Addison		Fix Rd Slide #3 on Buffalo Farm Rd, which is still closed. FEMA is assisting with Slide #1 & #2.
Town of Hancock	Addison	\$285,000	Culvert replacment, needs bridge structure old culvert sized for 25 year flood put back in place
Town of Belvidere	Lamoille	\$150,000	Replace 36" undersized culvert repeatedly damaged by flooding with 6' box culvert.
Town of Thetford	Orange	\$5,500,000	Reconstruct RT 132 (5.5miles)
Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission	Orange	\$96,000	Randolp - Central Suply (Bethel Mills) bank stabilization
City of Barre	Washington	\$1,713,000	Remediation of brownfield and blight conditions and increase flood carring capacity in Enterprise Aly.
Town of East Montpelier	Washington	\$60,000	Up-size culvert that caused damage to adjacent Quaker RD.
Town of Northfield	Washington		Emergancy Services building relocation
Town of Plainfield	Washington	\$1,000,000	Analysis of debris mobilization and Bridge replacement(s) on Great Brook
Town of Waitsfield	Washington	\$35,000	Mad River Choke point study
Town of Waterbury	Washington	\$1,000,000	Slums & blight remedation-buy-out filos damaged properties & use for parking/openspace, Library repair, planning, staff capacity.
Town of Brattleboro	Windham	\$893,541	Engineering solution for Whestone Brook Interceptor Resiliency Project (#1) and Cooke RD bridge replacement.
Town of Grafton	Windham	\$3,439,660	Buy-out parks, relocation of Town Garage, culverts & bridge repair, drainage work and planning
Town of Halifax	Windham	\$240,000	Disaster Recovery Planning, buy-out of remote flood prone home & debris assesment & removal
Town of Jamaica	Windham	\$750,000	Bridge replacement
Town of Londonderry	Windham	\$1,500,000	Bridge replacement, land restoration, flood plain mitigation and disaster assistance to flood impacted residents
Town of Wardsboro	Windham	\$475,000	Culvert replacment, road bank & stream bank stabilization, debris stabilization.
Town of Westminster	Windham	\$281,451	Bridge repair
Town of Wilmington	Windham	\$461,000	Culvert Replacement
Town of Windham	Windham	\$262,648	Replace 2 culverts damaged in Irene
Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission	Windsor	\$180,000	Reading, Springfield & Windsor- culvert, bank satbilization & Mill Pond dam repair projects
Town of Barnard	Windsor		Debris removal from streams/rivers
Town of Chester	Windsor	\$553,723	Repair damaged bridge which remands closed. FEMA not able to cover significant costs (\$98,000) associated with the approach slabs/foundation. Box culvert on Cavendish Rd. Farmstead housing development drainage system
Town of Hartford	Windsor	\$405,000	Repair public parking lot next to Ottauquechee River, including bank stabilzation, sidewalk & landscaping (#1). Repair & enhance public property next to Quechee Bridge after HMGP buy-out is complete (#2). Public site improvements next to Town Library af
Town of Pomfret	Windsor	\$825,000	Replace damaged culvert with bridge (#1). Replace 3 undersized & damaged culverts with properly sized box culverts (#2). Replace undersized bridge downstream of a recent bridge replacement by Vtrans (#3).
Town of Rochester	Windsor	\$94,915	Bean's Bridge Rd flood proofing & buy-out park restoration on RT 100
Town of Royalton	Windsor	\$720,521	Replace bridge, fix bank-slide, replace culverts, relocate Rd away from river and stabilize bank.
Town of West Windsor	Windsor	\$858,000	Sewer system repairs and up-grade, Roadbank stabilization and emergancy access bridge up-grades
CVRPC	Washington	\$700,000	Winooski River Flood Mitigation (HMGP matching funds)
VT Downtown Program	Windham, Windsor, Washington & Rutland	\$2,800,000	Façade Improvements and Rehabilitation, Building Resiliency and Physical Investments, Restoring Public Facility Improvements, Restoring Public Parks and Recreational Facilities andDowntown Forgivable Loan Program for 9 communities
Vermont River Conservancy	Addison	\$100,000	Environmental assesment, purchase and remove of hazardous debris of the Bettis Salvage Yard on the banks of the White River
Total Community Infrastructure Interest		\$25,379,459	

Economic Recovery Letters of Interest			
Potential Applicant	County	CDBG-DR Funds Requested	Brief Project Description
JD's Quick Stop	Addison	\$20,000	Enhance business damaged by flood. Would like to add new Pizza making equipment to increase sales
VT Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets	statewide	\$2,046,000	Farm business impacted by flooding need stream crossings, bridges, culverts, feed, debris removal, equipment and stream bank stabilization.
Central Vermont Community Action Council	Washington & Windsor	\$2,500,000	business grants, technical assistance & project delivery
Emerson's Fine Furniture	Windham	\$151,700	Repairs to flood damaged buildings
Vermont RV Sales	Windham	\$100,000	Flood repairs
American Precision Museum, Inc.	Windsor	\$179,696	repair damage sustained to outdoor interpretive area and retaining wall
Bridgewater Sustainable Earth Foundation	Windsor	\$58,956	Repair flood damages sustained
Great Falls Food Hub-Rockingham	Windsor		Improve food storage infrastructure
Turning Point of Windham Co.	Windham	\$200,000	Rehabilitate flood damaged building to serve as new home for their addiction recovery services.
Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation	Windham & Windsor Bennington	\$1,370,000	Redevelopment & marketing program, business grants & project delivery
Total Economic Recovery Interest		\$6,626,352	
Housing Letters of Interest			
Potential Applicant	County	CDBG-DR Funds Requested	Brief Project Description
Central Vermont Community Land Trust	Washington	\$2,500,000	Purchase 5 MH parks in Washington County, close 1 severely damaged by flooding, relocate remain residents to other 4 parks and make improvements to 4 parks.
Grenier Land Company- Waterbury	Washington	\$94,850	Repair foundation of 4 unit apartment house renting to LMI persons.
Cooperative Development Institute- Brattleboro Tri-Park	Windham	\$1,000,000	Infrastructure improvement to Tri-park and relocation of homes in floodway
Brattleboro Housing Authority	Windham	\$2,500,000	Replacement housing for Melrose Terrace
ReSOURCE- Barre	Washington	\$200,000	Flood damaged housing rehabilitation, replacement and deconstruction services for LMI home owners
Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)	Windham & Windsor	\$1,140,414	Grants to flood impacted homeowners for repairs, buy-outs, relocation, replacement housing, counseling and staff resources.
Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission	statewide	\$4,000,000	HMPG match, HMGP ineligible buy-outs, brownfield sites, land only & mobilehome buyouts
Total Housing Interest		\$11,435,264	
Grand Total		\$43,441,075	

Appendix D – State of Vermont Government Organization Chart



Appendix E – Third Irene Recovery Report

(Next Page)



Sustaining our Progress

3rd Irene Recovery Status Report

Presented to Governor Peter Shumlin
April 2013



State of Vermont
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Dave Rapaport, Irene Recovery Officer

MEMORANDUM

To: Governor Peter Shumlin
From: Dave Rapaport, Irene Recovery Officer
Date: April 2013
Re: Sustaining our Progress

Although Tropical Storm Irene has faded into a distant memory for many Vermonters, hundreds of Vermont families and hard-hit communities are still struggling with the consequences of its damage. Fortunately, many dedicated local, state, federal, and private partners continue to make great strides toward completing the recovery. This report provides an update on accomplishments since the June 2012 Recovering Stronger Report, sets forth goals for the 2nd anniversary, and outlines the work that will continue into the recovery's third year and beyond.

Our ongoing progress has been significantly enabled by the continuing and deepening collaboration between the many partners that began in the first hours after Irene struck. All state agencies have worked closely together on various efforts during the recovery, but no example stands out more so than the close working relationship between ANR and VTrans on repair of river and stream crossings, drafting new town road and bridge standards and revisions to the state Stream Alteration General Permit, and on training programs.

Another important example of collaboration is our close partnership with FEMA, often with the invaluable assistance of Vermont's congressional delegation, which has remained vigilant on our behalf. As current FEMA FCO Mark Landry has often noted, despite occasional disagreements, we've always kept talking and working together. Since June 2012, Vermont has been awarded more than \$50 million in additional Public Assistance grants, for a current total of \$143 million, and our team has developed a working relationship with the JFO that has enabled important movement on our largest and most complex state infrastructure projects.

Recovery from a disaster of Irene's magnitude is truly a long-term process, typically lasting many years, and throughout we must guard against the perception that the recovery is complete. The 2nd anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene will however, mark a new phase in our recovery, as we will have accomplished the most urgent objectives in delivering on your promise to build back stronger than Irene found us, and have advanced Vermont toward a more resilient future.

Though work will continue on many fronts, by the end of August, the FEMA-funded Disaster Case Management Program will be winding down, and the FEMA Joint Field Office will likely have been demobilized. It is anticipated that the Irene Recovery Office will be phased-out, with the coordination of the continuing recovery resting firmly within existing agencies, and interagency collaboration more fully institutionalized. Over the next several months we will also pivot toward a greater focus on building resilience to future disasters. A roadmap of policy options for increasing Vermont's resilience resulting from a multi-stakeholder process coordinated by the Institute for Sustainable Communities will be completed in the fall, along with recommendations from the interagency Irene Recovery Coordination Team for next steps.

Some of the highlights of our recovery progress over the last 9 months include:

Closing individual recovery cases. Vermont is on target to close the vast majority of cases with unmet needs by late summer, just two years after a disaster that caused more than 7000 homeowners to register damages with FEMA. Thanks to the tenacity of 9 regional volunteer Long Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs), a dedicated team carrying out the FEMA-funded Disaster Case Management Program, the success of the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund, and the expertise of the state's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), almost all Irene survivors will be back in safe, sanitary and functional housing. Although some unmet needs will remain, this Individual Assistance network will continue to provide support to these Vermonters for years to come.

Providing full compensation for HMGP buyouts. The Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) and ACCD, with assistance from the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission, have led a massive collaborative effort to coordinate the complicated buyout process for flood-prone properties under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). CDBG-DR, VHCB and other funding sources are being used to cover the 25% local match through the first 3 rounds of applications, as well as to provide 75% of project costs for those determined to be ineligible by FEMA. As of the end of March, 90 buyout properties had received FEMA approval for a total of \$17.1 million of federal funding with three of the purchases completed. Although the buyout process has been painfully slow for the owners of homes that were rendered uninhabitable by Irene, the state has done everything in our power to make these complex transactions occur as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Moving forward with the new Vermont State Hospital system. BGS broke ground in January on a 25-bed psychiatric hospital in Berlin after FEMA agreed to funding eligibility for \$30.7 million of the estimated \$43.2 million total costs for the new regionally based mental health system. A combination of FEMA and insurance reimbursements (less 10% for the FEMA funded portion) will cover the eligible costs. Other components of the system include a temporary 8-bed facility in Morrisville opened in January, to be followed by a 7-bed temporary facility in Middlesex along with a 14-bed unit at the Brattleboro Retreat and a 6-bed unit at the Rutland Regional Medical Center this spring.

Mitigating the impact of future storms on the environment and infrastructure. ANR has worked in close coordination with VTrans to issue a draft new Stream Alteration General Permit in March, with new Stream Alteration Rules expected to be adopted in the coming months. The two agencies have also collaborated to update Town Road and Bridge Codes and Standards, as well as other initiatives that will promote infrastructure improvements better able to withstand extreme weather events in the future. Such efforts will enable VTrans and municipalities to carryout maintenance work and both emergency and non-emergency projects in a manner that will minimize water quality impacts, avoid exacerbating erosion hazards, and support long-term flood resilience.

Boosting our economic recovery. In March 2013 Vermont was allocated another \$17.9 million in CDBG-DR funds as a result of Hurricane Sandy legislation and the work of our congressional delegation, in addition to the \$21.6 million already allocated to the state. Since June, \$14 million in CDGB-DR funds has been committed by the state for grants for business and economic recovery, housing replacement and infrastructure. In addition, \$500,000 in flood recovery tax credits were allocated in late 2012 to assist in the restoration of properties in impacted downtowns, while simultaneously nearly \$2.6 in EDA grants were awarded for projects related to economic recovery from Irene.

Developing FEMA Program expertise. The state Public Assistance program has helped Vermont municipalities and state agencies to work with FEMA on Public Assistance grants so far totaling \$143 million, a \$50 million increase since June. The office has gained valuable expertise through work on this disaster and has now transitioned from VTrans to the new Section of Recovery and Mitigation within DEMHS.

Strengthening emergency management. Following the development of an After Action Report and Improvement Plan specific to recovery measures last spring, DEMHS collaborated with partners to develop working groups to address areas identified for improvement and sustainment of strengths for emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Participation includes a wide range of public, private, and voluntary partners to improve multi-agency coordination, increase the involvement of RPCs and other entities in emergency management, and the sharing of public information. Groups will be sustained long term, and report bi-annually to the Governor's Emergency Preparedness Council.

The 3rd Recovery Status Report contains more details on these significant components of Vermont's recovery, as well as many others, that together testify to the tremendous fortitude of survivors and the determination of so many Vermonters working together to ensure we are indeed building back stronger.

1. SUPPORTING VERMONTERS AFFECTED BY IRENE

In the past eighteen months since Tropical Storm Irene, magnificent strides have been made to help individuals and families still recovering from all that they lost in the storm. Although this progress has been tremendous, as the second anniversary approaches, many families find themselves with remaining unmet needs – while state and local partners work collectively to help address them. To solve the most complex issues, the Irene Recovery Office, in conjunction with various partners including the Long Term Recovery Committees, Vermont Disaster Relief Fund, Agency of Human Services, and Vermont Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VT VOAD), has provided ongoing support to those that continue to play an essential role in the recovery of Vermont families impacted by Tropical Storm Irene.

Transition & Continued Support of Local Long Term Recovery Committees

The Long Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs)¹ were formed based on best practice for disaster recovery and to enable impacted communities to access a network of resources available to help survivors.

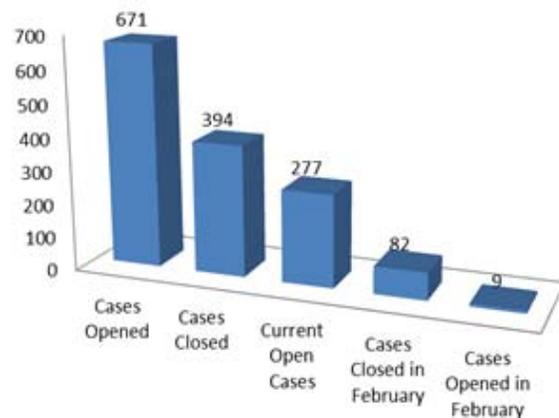
- Currently eight of the original nine LTRCs remain active, working with disaster case managers, staff, and regional resource providers to address unmet needs of individuals and families still recovering from Irene. All nine LTRCs have either ended their intake for new survivors, or set a final deadline in April for accepting new registrations of survivors who would like recovery assistance in April. The Disaster Case Management Program continues to serve survivors and conduct necessary intakes.
- ReBuild Waterbury, whose service area included the 05676 area code (Waterbury, and parts of Duxbury and Moretown),

¹ For more information on the LTRCs visit: www.vermontdisasterrecovery.com/resources/ltrcs

closed all remaining cases the committee opened in January 2013. Overall, ReBuild Waterbury served 104 households, logged over 9,500 volunteer hours, and raised over \$950,000 in partnership with entities including the VDRF and the Stiller Family Foundation.

Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP)

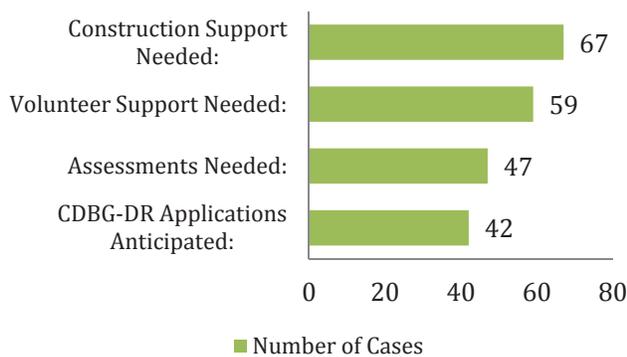
The Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) was awarded a \$2.4 million grant from FEMA's Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) in 2011 to support individuals and families impacted by Tropical Storm Irene. AHS in turn provided a grant to the Central Vermont Community Action Council (CVCAC) to hire eleven case managers through CVCAC, Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) and Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council (BROC) in Southwestern Vermont, to work closely with the nine Long Term Recovery Committees in serving the 5-10% of the over 7,000 FEMA applicants that were not anticipated to recover on their own.



- With six months remaining on the grant, 394 cases have been closed and 277 cases continue to receive disaster case management services by the DCMP. New cases continue to be referred to the program and nine were opened in the past month.

- The DCMP Construction Needs Survey, completed by disaster case managers in February 2013, was conducted to ascertain anticipated supports for each of the 277 open cases, including the number of remaining assessments for damaged properties. Assessment is one of the most critical stages of disaster case management services, as it determines the validity of the case, collects project estimates and leads to repair and rebuild plans. Data from the survey indicates the following:
 - 47 cases have not yet been assessed by either an independent contractor or construction coordinator;
 - 67 cases need construction coordination for repair or rebuild projects;
 - 59 cases need volunteer support;
 - 42 cases may seek funding through the CDBG-DR funds, administered by the Home Ownership Centers (HOC), offering grants and loans up to \$35,000 per applicant.

**DCMP Open Case Survey Results
as of February 2013**



Facilitating Home Rebuild Projects

The need for more Construction and Volunteer Coordinators to support the home repair and rebuilding effort became evident during the fall of 2012, as capacity to support the LTRCs was no longer available due to diminishing Department of Labor funds. During the fall and winter months, LTRCs and case managers continued to identify needs for home assessment, as well as coordination with key

support staff to prepare for the spring and summer construction season. To effectively meet the remaining unmet needs within individual recovery plans, the DCMP collaborated with federal and state partners to develop creative measures that would build local capacity for rebuilds, including:

- The DCMP was awarded a supplemental grant from FEMA in February 2013, allowing for the addition of three statewide construction analyst positions.
- Ten additional coordinators (five Construction Coordinators and 5 Volunteer Coordinators) were hired by Central Vermont Community Action Council (CVCAC) with state funds approved through the Budget Adjustment Act in February 2013.

Vermont Disaster Relief Fund Providing Assistance

The Vermont Disaster Relief Fund remains a critical source of funding for the recovery of Irene Survivors. The VDRF Allocations Committee continues to meet twice each week to hear requests from Disaster Case Managers working directly with the local LTRCs, making awards of up to \$20,000. There is no backlog of cases awaiting consideration.

- As of March 1st, the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund (VDRF) had allocated nearly \$3 million to provide direct assistance to more than 270 Vermont families with unmet needs in their recovery from the Spring 2011 Floods and Tropical Storm Irene while ensuring access to an additional \$1 million for mobile home owners to fund the removal and disposal of more than 70 flood-ravaged mobile homes.
- The VDRF remains engaged in a campaign that has ensured more than \$7.6 million in funds that are available for direct recovery assistance for the unmet needs of Vermonters impacted by natural disasters.
- By the end of February 2013, the VDRF had netted over \$650,000 from sales of more than 36,000 “I am Vermont Strong” license plates.

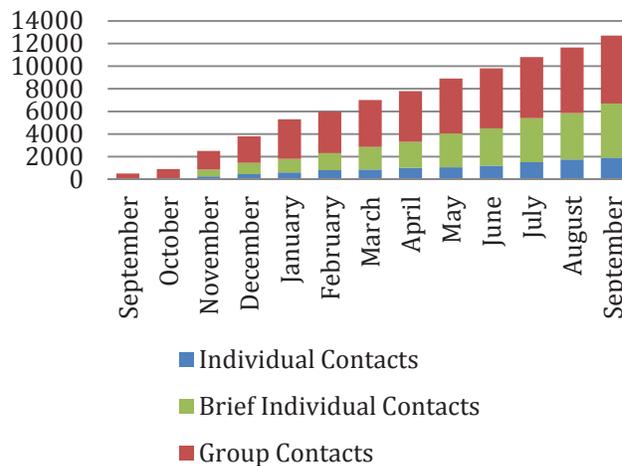
End of Starting Over Strong (SOS) Mental Health Grant Program

Via a Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) grant from FEMA, administered by Washington County Mental Health Services in conjunction with other designated mental health agencies and community services, SOS provided free short-term support for individuals, groups, and communities impacted by Irene through October 29, 2012.

- Fifteen Crisis Counselors conducted community and home-based counseling, door-to-door outreach, and educational services at group meetings, free of charge, throughout the hardest hit areas of the state.
- In total, over 12,000 contacts were made (see Table 1) with flood survivors throughout all counties of Vermont, with nearly 1,400 survivors receiving one-one-one counseling support following the event (see Graph A).

County	Individual Counseling (#)	Percentage (%)
Windsor	430	31.1%
Windham	260	18.8%
Washington	243	17.6%
Rutland	250	18.1%
Orleans	23	1.7%
Orange	39	2.8%
Lamoille	3	0.2%
Franklin	4	0.3%
Essex	1	0.1%
Chittenden	9	0.7%
Caledonia	7	0.5%
Bennington	72	5.2%
Addison	40	2.9%
TOTAL	1,381	100%

Graph A: Contacts made by SOS
Sept 2011 - Sept 2012



Increased Assistance to Mobile Home Survivors

In coordination with the Governor's Office, the Department of Public Safety, the VDRF and FEMA, the Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD) developed and implemented a program to condemn destroyed mobile homes, due to the limited state and local authority for such measures.

- The mobile home condemnation effort was completed in December of 2012 and resulted in \$1,029,998 in additional benefits to survivors whose mobile homes were destroyed.
- Flexible funding made available through VDRF for the removal and disposal of condemned mobile homes ensured the eligibility of these homeowners for the additional FEMA funding.
- Funding provided by the General Assembly in the form of general funds and affordable housing tax credits to help the Champlain Housing Trust create a new *Manufactured Housing Downpayment Loan Program*, which provides no-interest, deferred second mortgages for the purchase of energy star rated mobile homes.

Home Ownership Centers Providing Assistance through CDBG-DR Funds

\$3.9 million of CDBG-DR funding is being used for a housing recovery program to be distributed through the statewide network of homeownership centers (HOCs), administered by Rural Edge. Funding is available to income-qualified survivors for rehabilitation and flood damage repairs, services, grants and low interest loans. The HOCs are collaborating with the DCMP and LTRCs, to provide financial counseling services to assist with home purchase, foreclosure prevention and advocacy assistance with lenders, insurance, FEMA, and other flood programs.

Coordination Leads to Strong Support of Home Buyouts

Intended mainly to reduce the costs of future flooding by removing homes from harm’s way, the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides 75% of the costs to buyout eligible substantially damaged homes. Through four rounds of funding, the state mitigation committee has recommended 131 separate project applications to FEMA as of March 2013. In order to ensure maximum participation in this program, numerous state, regional, and private partners have worked together to provide additional funding support to those projects that have been approved, as well as those deemed ineligible by FEMA.

- With the assistance of Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission, ACCD coordinated with VDEMHS to provide the 25% local match for FEMA-approved HMGP property buyouts through the first four rounds at the time of closing.
- ACCD has committed CDBG-DR funds to cover 75% of costs for primary home buyouts from HMGP Rounds 1-3 that are ineligible for FEMA funding.
- Stratton Foundation has committed \$80,000 to support the four ineligible projects in the Town of Jamaica.

- ACCD is also working with homeowners on a case-by-case basis, in coordination the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund to make additional resources available to cover remaining unmet needs.
- In late March, the first three HMGP buyouts were closed, including 2 households in Berlin and 1 in Bolton (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: HMGP Property Status as of 3/29/2013	#
HMGP Purchased (75% HMGP, 25% CDBG)	3
HMGP Approved	87
HMGP Pending	21
Appealing/RFI HMGP Determination	6
HMGP Ineligible	4
Round 4	5
CDBG-DR Only	5
Grand Total	131

Relocation and Mitigation

As a result of Tropical Storm Irene, numerous mobile home parks and affordable housing units were severely damaged, resulting in a decreased number of already limited affordable housing options in the state. In order to replace this stock, as well as help local housing authorities prepare for future events, ACCD has called together numerous stakeholders to implement several new initiatives:

- Development has begun on a *Plan for the Viability and Disaster Resilience of Mobile Home Ownership and Parks*, which will address vulnerabilities of mobile home residents and parks to disasters.
- Brattleboro Housing Authority was awarded a \$100,000 CDBG Disaster-Recovery planning grant from ACCD to assess alternatives for redeveloping Melrose Terrace.

- Planning funds are being provided to Tri-Park Mobile Home Park in Brattleboro through VHCB for the development of a plan to remove mobile homes in flood hazard areas.
- The Central Vermont Community Land Trust purchased Ladd Hall, formally part of the Waterbury State Office Complex, for conversion to 27 affordable housing units.

Vermont's Disaster Recovery Partners Gather at the Irene & Beyond Summit

In January 2013, the Irene Recovery Office hosted the *Irene & Beyond: Continuing Vermont's Recovery, Shaping Our Future Resilience* Summit at Norwich University.

- This event offered a unique opportunity for more than 140 local, state, and federal partners working on the recovery of individuals and families to gather together, reflect on the accomplishments of recovery, as well as the work remaining to support those still recovering from Irene.
- In March 2013, a formal summary of the event, including key themes and proposed next steps was offered to participants to provide a record of thoughts shared, and additional concepts for future collaboration. This summary can be found at www.vtstrong.vt.gov.

Second Irene Anniversary Goals

- Close 90% of remaining open cases in the Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP), meaning that these survivors have safe, secure and sanitary housing.
- Ensure that any remaining open Individual Assistance cases continue to be served by disaster case managers retained with funds anticipated to remain after the official demobilization of the DCMP, and ensure the transition of closed cases with remaining unmet needs to LTRCs.
- Create a plan for the establishment and support of new LTRCs following future disasters, and the ongoing support and

- capacity building of existing LTRCs; including definition of the roles and relationships of the Agency of Human Services (which houses the State Individual Assistance Officer), DEMHS, the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund, the Vermont VOAD and other statewide Individual Assistance support organizations.
- Assist 10 households through Champlain Housing Trust's *Manufactured Housing Downpayment Loan Program*.
- Allocate CDBG-DR Housing Recovery funds to at least 20 households by supporting Homeownership Centers (HOCs) and Disaster Case Managers.
- Provide CDBG-DR funds for HMGP local match as the majority of FEMA-approved and FEMA-ineligible buyouts are completed by the second anniversary, as well as meet with homeowners within 30 days of their properties being determined ineligible to assess available resources.
- Finalize *Plan for the Viability and Disaster Resilience of Mobile Home Ownership and Parks*; present to legislators and stakeholders and begin to implement recommendations.
- Complete Action Plan for use of second CDBG Disaster Recovery allocation. If Federal Register notice with program requirements is published before the end of May, ACCD will submit the plan to HUD for its approval by the second anniversary.

Major Work to Continue after the Second Anniversary

- Disaster Case managers, working through Community Action Programs, in collaboration with LTRCs and under the direction of the State Individual Assistance Officer, will continue to move the handful of remaining open cases toward closure (until funds for those positions run out).
- Most LTRCs will continue to assist their communities and Irene survivors to identify resources to aid in their recovery.

- VDRF will continue making grants in response to funding requests from disaster case managers and LTRCs.
- Home Ownership Centers will continue to work with eligible survivors through the CDBG-DR funded housing program.
- ACCD and DEMHS will continue to provide support to homeowners taking part in the HMGP Buyout Program in existing and future rounds of program funding.
- ACCD and partners will pursue the recommendations of the *Plan for the Viability and Disaster Resilience of Mobile Home Ownership and Parks* recommendations indicated from stakeholder outreach.
- ACCD will continue administration of the CDBG Disaster Recovery funds.

2. ENSURING ECONOMIC RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

Although the full economic impact of Tropical Storm Irene on the state of Vermont may never be known, the state and its partners continue to assess and support recovery efforts aimed at rebuilding Vermont's economy. As the losses for businesses, farmers, and communities persist, the state continues to make great strides in its cooperation with federal partners to make funds available, as well as to develop long term resiliency plans to protect these critical investments.

Accomplishments Since June

CDBG-DR Funded Business Assistance

\$3.55 million of \$8 million in competitive grants available for business, economic recovery, housing replacement and infrastructure through Vermont's CDGB-DR funds have been awarded so far. This includes \$1 million each for two business assistance programs, one in Washington and Northern Windsor Counties and one in Southern Windsor and Windham County. Funding is available for businesses with remaining unmet needs, including rehabilitation and flood damage repairs, lost rental revenue, and working capital.

Project Identification for EDA Funding

Led by ACCD, the Small Business Champions Team came together to identify needs and develop a coordinated statewide approach to help businesses. The Team includes representatives from Economic Development Authority (VEDA), Vermont's Small Business Development Center (VT-SBDC), Vermont Business for Social Responsibility (VBSR), the Regional Development Corporations (RDC), the State Chamber of Commerce, and the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC). Needs identified by the team include: loans and grants for impacted businesses; one-on-one technical assistance and reducing future risk.

- Based on these meetings, in August, three state-wide grant applications were submitted

for funding to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) disaster funds to meet these needs:

- VEDA has applied for additional funds to be made available to disaster affected businesses in the form of low-interest loans;
- VT SBDC has applied for additional technical assistance to be made available to disaster-affected businesses that would directly tie to those businesses eligible for VEDA loans;
- ACCD and VAPDA has applied, in partnership with ANR and AOT, to determine where areas of risk intersect with economic activity and infrastructure and allow partners to develop implementation plans to reduce such identified risks.

State-Wide Long Term Economic Recovery Strategy Development

In September, EDA awarded \$300,000 to ACCD for the development of a state-wide long term economic recovery strategy for Vermont. This strategy will assist the state to develop and implement policies to support regional growth, guide communities in Vermont in their continuing economic recovery efforts, and create a more resilient economy to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

Southern Vermont Post-Irene Recovery Project

In order to help Vermont's southern communities build back stronger, the Southern Vermont Post-Irene Recovery Project was awarded a \$472,000 EDA grant December 2012. The Project is led by the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) and Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) with a sub-grant to the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) to focus on the most

glaring economic problems and help rebuild a stronger and more resilient economy. Among other efforts, the project will:

- Fund two Irene Recovery Officers who will work with businesses in Bennington and Windham Counties to assess current needs and bring resources to affected businesses, downtowns and village centers.
- Generate outreach to the public—the project’s first stakeholders meeting was held in March in Wilmington.
- Include the creation of a sustainable marketing mechanism to help develop multi-sector marketing strategies for the regions that will attract tourists, recruit specialized talent to the region, as well as new businesses to fill empty spaces.
- Fund RPC staff and the flood recovery officers to work with municipalities on long-term planning processes to identify projects and assist with finding funding that will best enable their community to become more economically resilient.

Vermont Digital Economy Project

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) received \$1.8 million in Economic Development Authority (EDA) funding to launch the Vermont Digital Economy Project (VDEP). Over the course of eighteen months, VDEP will work directly with at least 25 of the towns that were most affected by the floods of 2011 to help businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities expand their innovative use of online tools, and most recently:

- The Irene Recovery Office helped to facilitate the integration of Long Term Recovery Committees into the outreach process of VDEP, to integrate lessons learned from digital systems and tools that have been developed specific to the recovery effort.

Flood Recovery Tax Credits Allocated

Initiated by the Administration, and working in cooperation with the Legislature and other partners, flood recovery tax credits were provided to eligible village center businesses and rental property owners to assist in restoring flood-affected buildings.

- In September, \$500,000 in flood recovery tax credits were made available on a one-time basis, for flood-affected properties. Credits were awarded to nine projects in five communities including Barre, Brattleboro, Waterbury, White River Junction, and Wilmington and leveraged a total of \$2.8 million in downtown investment.

Assistance to Farmers

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets continued to partner with the USDA Farm Service Agency and the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts to further assess the effectiveness of farm recovery efforts, and to understand the remaining needs of Vermont farmers in order to stabilize Vermont’s farm economy in areas worst hit by Irene.

- The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets hired an Agricultural Recovery Specialist with funds from the Waterwheel Foundation in fall of 2012 to help farmers connect with available resources. A survey done through Castleton State College has identified 110 farms that requested follow up assistance and an attempt has been made to contact each of them.
- The Agency also entered into a contract with a consultant to develop an internal Incident Command System (ICS) to help them become better prepared for the next emergency event.

Second Irene Anniversary Goals

- Assist 25 businesses with remaining \$4.55 million in CDBG-DR competitive grants through the Business Recovery program.
- Develop and receive approval of an Action Plan for the \$17.9 million CDBG-DR supplemental funds awarded by HUD for recovery expenditures.
- All EDA-approved applications submitted as a result of the Small Business Champions Team identified needs implemented.
- 50% of farms that requested follow up for remaining unmet needs will have no further need for assistance.
- The Agency of Agriculture will have its internal ICS plan in place and will have completed a tabletop exercise of the plan.

Major Work to Continue after the Second Anniversary

- Assistance will continue to be available to businesses with unmet needs.
- Assistance will continue to be available to help farms find the needed resources to fully recover from Irene.
- The Agency of Agriculture will continue the training and exercising of emergency preparation policies such as the ICS and COOP plans with the goal of constant improvement.
- Implement Action Plan for \$17.6 million CDBG-DR supplemental funding within two years.

3. FOSTERING COMMUNITY RECOVERY

Numerous communities throughout Vermont continue to face significant challenges in responding to Irene's impact to local economies, public infrastructure as well as private businesses and homes. While communities are finding creative ways to address these challenges, the state continues to support them by partnering with municipalities to rebuild, and invest in strategies to improve long term community resilience.

Accomplishments Since June

Community Development Block Grant Funds

Vermont secured HUD approval for the State Action Plan for the use of \$21.6 million in CDBG Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to help communities, businesses, organizations and individuals with long term disaster recovery.

- 65% of total CDBG-DR funding has been awarded in the form of grants for planning, infrastructure, community, and housing projects.
- In March, ACCD learned that Vermont will receive an additional \$17.9 million CDBG-DR funds. HUD will require the funds to be targeted to Windsor County and restrictions will be many, including a requirement that the funds be expended in two years. HUD must first publish a federal register notice and then ACCD will develop an Action Plan for the use of the funds which must be approved by HUD.

Community Recovery Partnership Report

In October, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) issued a report following up on a series of 13 regional public meetings at which an interagency team heard from survivors and local officials from 45 of the hardest hit communities across the state. The Community Recovery Partnership report captures lessons learned from the initial response and recovery operations, and described the state's responses to ongoing needs for the

long term recovery raised at the sessions. The report can be found at: http://vtstrong.vermont.gov/Portals/0/Documents/CRP_Report10_2012_F.pdf

EPA Technical Assistance Grant for the Mad River Valley

A multi-agency team (ACCD leading, in partnership with ANR, AOT, the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and the Mad River Valley Planning District), received a Technical Assistance grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promote flood hazard mitigation strategies via various forms of outreach and research, including:

- During the fall of 2012, the Consultation Team travelled to the Mad River Valley to meet with municipal officials and participate in a community meeting to receive recommendations about improving local flood resilience and how state agencies can provide further support.
- A second team interviewed state agency staff and reviewed various state policies and regulations to identify potential improvements and opportunities for stronger interagency collaboration.

FEMA Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR) Process Update

The towns of Waterbury and Wilmington each received planning assistance from FEMA for the development of Long Term Community Recovery Plans. Through 5-month long participatory processes facilitated by FEMA, both towns identified more than 20 projects last May intended to achieve a community vision for moving forward from the significant impacts of Irene. Project Champions are working with a Steering Committee in each town to fund and pursue them.

In Waterbury, facilitated by the hiring of an LTCR director with EDA and Waterbury Village funds, many of the projects are currently being implemented, including:

- Supported by \$100,000 in CDBG-DR funds, planning is underway for a new municipal complex to house the town offices and police station flooded by Irene and an expanded town library. The feasibility of using two buildings no longer needed at the Waterbury State Office Complex is being explored, with the question expected to be put to local voters this spring.
- An Economic Development Director has been hired on an 18-month contract with \$156,000 of funding from the town and village to form the Waterbury Area Development Corporation to retain and strengthen existing businesses and attract new businesses to the area.
- A Retail Market Study and Community Branding project has been led by Revitalizing Waterbury and funded with grants from a variety of local sources.
- The Central Vermont Community Land Trust is planning 27-units of affordable housing at Ladd Hall at the State Office Complex. Several sources of funding have already been committed for both planning and implementation, \$950,000 of CDBG funds, \$625,000 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and \$455,000 from HOME (HUD). Additionally, approximately \$4.3million in combined federal and state tax credits have been awarded to the project.
- The main wastewater pump station is being flood-proofed with local and CDBG-DR funds.
- The feasibility of connecting the village's well-known mountain biking trails with Little River State Park to spur recreation-based economic development was awarded a CDBG-DR grant.

The Wilmington LTRC Plan identified 24 projects in the categories of Economic Development; Infrastructure; Housing, Health and Human Services; Historic Village; and Natural Resources and Recreation. Recent progress includes:

- In February the Wilmington LTCR Steering Committee elected a chairwoman and developed a mission statement.
- Wilmington has applied for CDBG-DR funding for a planning grant to relocate the police and fire departments and move them out of the flood zone at an approximate cost of \$75,000.
- As part of Wilmington's economic development efforts, the School District and the Town have applied for CDBG-DR funding for a planning grant to evaluate the future use of the high school building as a multi-purpose community center to include the Deerfield Valley Health Center (SWVMC), among other tenants.
- The Trails Committee is working on establishing trail systems between the Towns of Wilmington & Dover, a project which will include a new trailhead, signage, improved trails, increased trails, and mapping.
- The Historic Village group, along with the parking committee, is in the process of applying to the Army Corps and ANR for approval of several projects including the new footbridge that will connect the 1.5 mile hiking/biking trail on the former Hoot, Toot, & Whistle Rail line to the boat landing area.
- The Parking Committee established a working agreement with the Town and private property owners behind W Main St. shops to provide in-village parking. The Town has fixed up the lot, added gravel and other improvements, while volunteers have added a wooden walkway.

- As part of a \$472,000 EDA grant, a Flood Recovery Officer was hired in March by the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation to expand the capacity of public officials and economic development organizations to work with businesses and local governments to achieve downtown revitalization and business resiliency in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene.
- In order to expand opportunities for investment, the Town of Wilmington successfully applied for a downtown designation in late March. This will provide opportunities for funding for transportation infrastructure, historic preservation, and economic development.

Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) Capacity Building Project

ISC, working with the Shumlin Administration as well as other public and private organizations, has initiated a privately funded project that will create a road map of practical, implementable action to ensure insure a more resilient state. To follow this project go: www.resilientVT.org

- A kick off meeting that included 60 stakeholders was held in October 2012. A second meeting planned for May 2013 will focus on developing specific recommendations. In late summer, a third convening will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review and discuss the draft a resilience road map.
- Working groups are underway focusing on recommendations around resilient communities; response and recovery; and infrastructure.

Second Irene Anniversary Goals

- The ACCD multi-agency team will implement the EPA Technical Assistance Grant by developing final recommendations to improve flood resiliency at municipal level along with a review checklist for the Mad River Valley, and other communities to consult for the future; as well as by developing final recommendations to strengthen state agency integration and collaboration as well as policy and regulatory improvements.
- Launch Downtown Assistance & Marketing Program to help flood-impacted communities with available \$400,000 in CDBG-DR funds.
- The Vermont Digital Economy Project will provide services grants and technical assistance to at least 25 participating communities.
- The Resilient Vermont Project will host its second of three stakeholder meetings in May of 2013 to present the findings of each working group, and begin the development of the Resilience Road Map.

Major Work to Continue after the Second Anniversary

- The Resilient Vermont Project will host its third and final stakeholder meeting in fall of 2013 to address the Resilience Road Map, expected to be completed shortly after the second anniversary.
- ISC will work with stakeholders and partner organizations to support implementation of the road map recommendations.
- Implement recommendations from the EPA technical assistance program.

4. REBUILDING OUR ROADS, BRIDGES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

From the first hours after Tropical Storm Irene hit, the effort to restore Vermont's public infrastructure has been nothing short of phenomenal, and was marked by the partnership between state and federal agencies, municipalities and many other partners. This interagency collaboration remains an important foundation for the continued progress on the recovery outlined below.

Accomplishments Since June

FEMA Public Assistance

FEMA remains a critical partner and major source of funds for the continuing recovery of the state's infrastructure from Irene. Vermont's Public Assistance Office, which manages interactions with FEMA and sub-grants to municipalities, state agencies and eligible nonprofits for repairs to damaged infrastructure, has been successfully transitioned from VTrans to the Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security—though administration of the federal funds and distribution to sub-grantees remains with VTrans. In the course of responding to Irene, the state has built valuable in-house Public Assistance expertise that will reduce our dependence on consultants in future disasters. Current status highlights include:

- As of March 8, 2013, FEMA had written 3,300 Project Worksheets (PWs), of which 3,185 (97%) have been obligated for payment. This reflects an increase of roughly 600 PWs obligated since June 2012.
- To date, FEMA has obligated Public Assistance grants totaling \$142.7 million for repairs of infrastructure damaged by Tropical Storm Irene. This reflects an increase of approximately \$50 million since June 2012.
- More than \$1 million in funding has been added to specific Project Worksheets as a direct result of State PA Team involvement.

- 240 of the approximately 450 "large projects" (defined as PWs of \$63,900 or more) have been completed.
- Of the 1,834 PWs which addressed permanent repairs, 35% included improvements through 406 Hazard Mitigation, well above the national average. Combined with upgrades to meet local codes and standards in place at the time of the disaster, 67% of the infrastructure repairs from Irene resulted in structures more resilient to future flood events.

Flood Hazard Mitigation

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grant funds totaling up to 15% of the total disaster aid given by FEMA, administered by DEMHS, intended to reduce risks to life and property in future disasters through funding the flood-proofing of structures, buying-out flood-prone properties and planning grants. To support the goal of "building back stronger" the state and FEMA are tracking upgrades to infrastructure to increase their resilience for the next event. Status highlights include:

- In March the State Hazard Mitigation Office was awarded an extension of the HMGP application period to September 1, 2013, making available a fifth round of applications for funding.

Status of Irene Damaged State System Roads and Bridges

All state system roads and bridges damaged or closed as a result of Irene were open and carrying traffic by December 29, 2011. The status of permanent and temporary repairs as of December 31, 2012 is described in the table below.

Transportation System Component	Total Number Damaged/Closed During by Irene	Number Permanently Repaired as of 12/31/12	Number of Sites Needing Permanent Repairs by August 2013
State roadway sites	682	428	97 sites remaining; 85 will be addressed within 11 corridor projects; 12 sites are at individual locations. Work will continue through 2014.
State bridges	34	21	10 bridges remaining; 4 will be completed by end of 2013 construction season.
Rail bridges	14	6	8 bridges remaining; 5 will be completed by end of 2013 construction season.
Rail line Segments	120	118	2 segments remaining; both to be completed by end of 2013 construction season.

Implementation of VTrans Irene Innovation Task Force Recommendations

VTrans has begun to implement task force recommendations for improving processes and project delivery based on lessons learned from Irene. These include:

- Developed and initiated rivers and roads training program in collaboration with ANR. The first “beta” training session has been held and further curriculum is being developed to cover a broad range of potential audiences.
- Developing contracting for emergency response and improving IT capabilities to facilitate preparation of Detailed Damage Inspection Reports.
- All VTrans employees have completed the first (awareness) level of Incident Command System (ICS) training. The complete classroom ICS training series has started for designated employees that will have a role the next time it becomes necessary to initiate ICS.
- Operations Division emergency preparedness plan underway.

VTrans and ANR Coordination on Transportation Infrastructure Initiatives

In recent months, the two agencies have collaborated on several initiatives related to codes & standards, permitting and supporting

towns to build and maintain more resilient local transportation infrastructure. Among these are:

- Updated Town Road and Bridge Codes & Standards have been approved by the ANR Secretary and sent to municipal officials. Adherence to the standards increases the likelihood that town roads and bridges will hold up during flooding or heavy rain events. When a federally declared disaster occurs, FEMA will use a municipality’s adopted codes and standards when determining eligible repair work. VTrans facilitated the update process, which included collaboration with ANR on preparing drafts and seeking input from stakeholders such as VLCT, regional planning commissions, and town road foreman. Adoption of the codes and standards is optional, but is encouraged through reduced local match requirements for annual VTrans local road and bridge grants, and by reduced local match requirements for FEMA Public Assistance program.
- Revisions to Stream Alteration Permit (see Managing Environmental Impact).
- Enhanced the Better Back Roads program that provides technical assistance and grants to municipalities to support the proper construction and management of roads, culverts, and ditches, primarily for gravel roads. These best management practices are essential to avoid or minimize water-quality impacts to the State’s waterways including

but not limited to Lake Champlain, and also improve the resilience of a roadway to floods and heavy rain events.

- The development and launch of Tier 1 of a 3-tiered, progressive training program aimed at helping municipalities (local road foremen, emergency coordinators), consulting engineers, VTrans district and operations staff, and others carry out transportation projects (emergency and non-emergency) and maintenance work in a manner that avoids exacerbating existing erosion hazards and promotes long term flood resilience. Twenty-five VTrans employees have taken the Tier 1 course, which is a prerequisite for the more advanced Tier 2 and Tier 3 courses. Tier 2, a three day course that provides instruction on emergency river measures through hands-on learning, live demonstrations and opportunities for problem-solving, has been developed and piloted.

New Vermont State Hospital System Progress

The state and FEMA worked closely through the fall and early winter to maximize federal funding eligibility for a new regionally based mental health system to replace the old Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury that has been closed since Irene. A combination of FEMA and insurance reimbursements (less 10% for the FEMA funded portion) will cover approximately \$30.7 million of the expected \$43.2 million price tag for 5 facilities:

- \$17.9 million in FEMA funding eligibility of the estimated \$28.5 cost for a new 25-bed psychiatric hospital in Berlin. Construction began in early January.
- \$4.4 million in FEMA funding eligibility of the estimated \$5.5 million cost for a 14-bed unit at the Brattleboro Retreat, expected to open this spring.
- \$4.4 million in FEMA funding eligibility of the estimated \$5.4 million 6-bed unit at the Rutland Regional Medical Center, expected to open this spring.

- \$2.5 million in FEMA funding eligibility to cover construction and other costs associated with a temporary 8-bed facility in Morrisville that opened in January.
- \$1.5 million in FEMA funding eligibility of the estimated \$1.9 million cost for a temporary 7-bed secure recovery residence in Middlesex scheduled to open this spring.

Waterbury State Office Complex

The state has worked closely with FEMA to develop Improved and Alternate Project requests that will allow funding eligibility from buildings slated for demolition in the Waterbury State Office Complex rebuilding plan to be transferred to the restored historic core of the old State Hospital and the new addition that will house most of the 900 state employees from the Agency of Human Services who will return to the complex.

- We are now waiting for FEMA to develop guidance for provisions included in the recently enacted Super Storm Sandy legislation that will apply to this project and provide FEMA with additional funding flexibility, expected by late April.
- In March FEMA approved much of the asbestos remediation at WSOC. Remediation will begin in early April, with demolition expected to follow by summer.

Supporting Waterbury Through the Transfer of Several Buildings for Local Use

As authorized in the last biennium, the Department of Buildings and General Services is proceeding with plans to divest state ownership of several buildings at WSOC that will no longer be needed by the state so that they can be used as part of the community's recovery from Irene. Plans are proceeding to transfer several properties over the course of the coming months, including:

- The sale of Ladd Hall to the Central Vermont Community Land Trust, for conversion to 27 affordable housing units.
- Purchase of Wasson and Stanley Halls by the Town of Waterbury, to become the site

of a new municipal complex, replacing the town offices and police station, which were heavily damaged by Irene flooding, as well as the public library.

- Sale of two buildings at 121 and 123 South Main Street to the Hunger Mountain Children's Center to serve as a pre-school facility.

Second Irene Anniversary Goals

- 90% of all large FEMA PA projects (PWs over \$63,900) complete and moving to close-out by the end of the 2013 construction season.
- Make available a fifth round of HMGP funding to municipalities for additional public infrastructure restoration costs.
- FEMA funding eligibility resolved and work to rebuild the Waterbury State Office Complex well underway.
- Clarify FEMA PA related roles and responsibilities in future disasters and identify training needs of VTrans Districts and Regional Planning Commissions.
- Cut in half the current projected \$15M funding gap between costs and FEMA reimbursement for the repair of damaged municipal infrastructure.
- VTrans to launch the Transportation Resilience Project to identify and prioritize vulnerable infrastructure, pending HMGP funding approval.
- VTrans will enhance emergency preparedness via ICS training on Levels 100, 200, 300 and 400, the development and implementation of Tier 1 and 2 of a 3-Tier River Management Training for appropriate staff, and the completion and rollout of the OPS Emergency Preparedness Plan, currently in development.

Major Work to Continue after the Second Anniversary

- Roughly 200 large FEMA PA projects will be completed during the next 2-4 years. The state PA Office will work with all sub-grantees to help ensure that proper procedures are followed and documentation is compiled to ensure full funding of awards.
- The new Vermont State Hospital in Berlin will be completed in spring 2014.
- Construction is scheduled to be underway on rebuilding the Waterbury State Office Complex starting in summer 2013, to be completed in 2015.
- Based on budget forecasts, all permanent repairs to the state transportation system are expected to be complete by SFY 2016 (97% complete by the end of SFY 2015). All permanent repairs on the town system funded through the FHWA ER and FEMA PA programs are anticipated to be complete in SFY 2015.
- Sustaining the program's readiness for future events will require ongoing outreach including training and certification for PA staff; support to local jurisdictions and state agencies for future disasters; regular PA training for towns, VTrans district technicians and Regional Planning Commission staff.
- VTrans will continue to encourage adoption of the town road and bridge codes and standards. To be eligible for the financial incentives, municipalities must certify adoption by October 2014.
- Work underway by VTrans to update the hydraulics manual to integrate current river science into the design and construction of state transportation infrastructure is scheduled for completion by spring of 2014.
- VTrans will continue ongoing training for agency personnel in ICS and Rivers and Roads.
- Completion of the VTrans Transportation Resilience Project by the end of 2014.

5. MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

In the aftermath of Irene, Vermont balanced the need for a speedy recovery with its commitment to environmental conservation in an effort to approach river and flood plain management with long-term resiliency goals in mind. As the second anniversary draws closer, the state continues to make great strides in its endeavors to increase environmental resilience. Such efforts are establishing new regulations, statewide initiatives, as well as incentives to help build capacity for supporting our changing rivers over time.

Accomplishments Since June

Technical Assistance and Authorization for Stream Projects

The Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has supported Irene recovery efforts across the state by providing technical assistance and regulatory authorization for repair projects involving work in Vermont's river and streams. DEC's Rivers Program worked steadily through the 2012 construction season to assist municipalities and state agencies such as VTrans with these stream alteration projects. In recent months:

- Rivers Engineers have reviewed over 300 projects completed by VTrans and have provided technical support and project review for many municipal projects. DEC has also collaborated closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS's) Emergency Watershed Protection Program to complete stream stabilization projects needed on private lands. The Rivers Program and ANR Rivers Engineers worked with 45 towns in Windham, Windsor and Rutland counties funding 124 projects at a total cost of \$4.6 million.

New General Permit for Stream Alterations

The large volume of stream alteration performed in the aftermath of Irene and the lessons learned from the challenges involved in reviewing and

authorizing these projects prompted the legislature to require the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to develop new stream alteration rules for issuing emergency stream alteration permits. The new rules will not change the standards used by ANR prior to Irene but instead, clarify standards as well as the requirements for reporting and documenting authorized stream alteration projects.

- DEC has developed draft rules, which will apply to both emergency and non-emergency stream alteration actions. Consultation with stakeholders begins this spring.
- DEC is near completion of a new General Permit for stream alteration work.

Improved Emergency Preparedness through ICS Training for ANR Staff

ICS (Incident Command Structure) is a set of personnel, policies and procedures woven into a unified organizational structure designed to improve emergency response. Vermont State agencies have engaged in ICS Training to prepare staff to coordinate activation and response in disaster situations, including:

- ANR completed training in basic ICS (ICS100) for 75 executive staff, program managers and key response personnel. (See below for future ICS training.)

New Draft Rules to Reduce Risks from Above-Ground Storage Tanks

During Irene, contamination of floodwaters, sediments and soils and groundwater occurred when fuel tanks on residential and commercial properties were dislodged and damaged by floodwaters. Revisions to the regulations for Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs) are needed to ensure that contamination of surface waters from heating fuels is minimized in future flood events. Recent status highlights include:

- ANR drafted rule amendments that will modify the standards for AST's in flood-prone areas or where certain portions of the tanks are below the maximum flood stage.
- Public process on the draft Rules will take place this spring, and adoption is expected by August.

A New Municipal Incentive for Floodplain and River Corridor Protection

Incentives in the form of enhanced eligibility for federal and state funding can play a significant role in encouraging municipalities to reduce their risk of future flood damage by protecting key river corridors and floodplains from development. One important new incentive will be delivered through the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF), which provides Public Assistance grants through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Vermont cities and towns to repair damaged infrastructure after a presidentially declared disaster.

DEC worked with other state agencies to secure passage of a new rule that varies the level of the state's contribution to the required local match for these grants based on the steps a municipality has taken to reduce its flooding risks. The new ERAF incentive will be a centerpiece of the Flood Resilient Communities Program (see more below).

Land Conservation and Flood Resilience Initiative

Vermont's land conservation programs have long helped to protect lands that are valuable for flood resilience, including headwater forests and floodplains. Tropical Storm Irene highlighted the opportunity to mobilize a coordinated conservation effort aimed at protecting lands in key areas facing a high degree of vulnerability to future flooding. Efforts to pursue this opportunity include:

- ANR partnered with the Vermont Land Trust to convene a group of state agencies, conservation and river protection non-profits, the Vermont Housing and

Conservation Board, the University of Vermont, and other organizations to launch a new initiative.

- The new initiative and began work to:
 - Identify and prioritize specific places across the state where conserving land could create a significant benefit for flood resilience;
 - Address obstacles to integrating flood resilience values and priorities into existing federal and state conservation programs; and
 - Increase outreach to organizations involved in land conservation, on the importance of conservation actions to improve flood resilience.

An Assessment of Options for Better Shoreland Protection

Act 138, passed by the Legislature during its 2012 session, required ANR to provide a written evaluation of options to strengthen lakeshore protection in Vermont. Vegetated shores are critical to flood resilience, as they protect environmental resources and property during major storms that cause high water and wave action. They also protect habitat quality, biodiversity, and water quality. Recent scientific assessments have shown that the condition of Vermont lakeshores is deteriorating due to development patterns that remove vegetation along the shore. Since June:

- DEC drafted a report presenting scientific information about lakeshore conditions in Vermont and reviewing a range of options – regulatory and non-regulatory – for strengthening lakeshore protection.
- DEC presented the report's findings to Legislative committees.

Second Irene Anniversary Goals

- DEC will complete draft state regulations for stream alterations based on feedback from state agencies and stakeholders. and proceed with formal public review and rulemaking.

- To improve the stream alteration permitting process, DEC will enhance the ability of rivers engineers to process permits in the field. Creation of a new, publically accessible, centralized database and map will give the public easy access to information about the regulatory status of stream projects.
- DEC will collaborate with other state agencies to develop a new Flood Resilient Communities Program that will aggregate and publicize an array of financial and other incentives designed to encourage Vermont municipalities to increase protection for river corridors and floodplains.
- DEC will conduct higher-level ICS training (ICS 200) by August for a select group of managers with responsibilities related to response.
- In order to build municipal capacity to assess and mitigate future flood risks to water infrastructure, DEC will offer technical assistance for completing local water system vulnerability assessments. Projects to reduce or mitigate the risks identified in these assessments may be given greater priority for loans from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Major Work to Continue after the Second Anniversary

In addition to the ongoing work of DEC's Rivers Program to: 1) support municipalities to adopt robust river corridor and floodplain protections; 2) ensure a clear, consistent and transparent regulatory review of in-stream and floodplain projects; and 3) improve training for disaster preparedness and emergency response, the agency will have several important projects underway in the fall and spring of 2014. These include:

- Completing delineation of "approximate" river corridors for every river segment in Vermont using remote sensing data
- Launching a *Focus on Floods* web site which will give municipalities and RPCs easy access to river corridor maps for their areas, concise information, and planning tools that can assist them in improving assessing local hazards and improving their flood resilience
- Developing and implementing state floodplain rules by July 2014 for land uses including agriculture, silviculture, transportation, state-owned facilities, utilities and schools.

6. PREPARING FOR FUTURE DISASTERS

While efforts to support individuals and communities still recovering remain underway, the task of building upon the existing emergency preparedness, response and recovery infrastructure also remains a high priority for the state of Vermont. It is no understatement to assert that Tropical Storm Irene demonstrated the importance of focusing our attention on better preparing our great state for future hazards. While we strive to better our defenses, state and community leaders also aim to improve our levels of collaboration to address these most pressing lessons learned from Irene. Ultimately, as we reestablish our infrastructure, and assist the final Vermonters and business as they rebuild, we will also concentrate our efforts to further developing the plans, systems, and tools that will build our lasting resiliency.

Accomplishments Since June

Training, Plan Development & Capacity Building

DEMHS continues to expand its outreach and training efforts at all levels of government to increase statewide capacity for incident response. As trainings are provided for State Executive leadership, regional and local emergency responders, and in train-the-trainer format, community leaders are expanding their ability to respond to, and recover from, future extreme all-hazards incidents. With identified responsible partners, DEMHS is simultaneously working to facilitate updating of the State Emergency Operations Plan and the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Recent progress includes:

- DEMHS has increased the number of Incident Command System (ICS) training courses offered, seeing many more local government and state agencies taking part in the classes to improve their emergency operations plans.
- Additionally, DEMHS has seen an increase in the requests for Level 1 Emergency

Management Director (EMD) training from community leaders interested in expanding their local preparedness resources.

- DEMHS is partnering with regional planning commissions (RPCs) and the Basic Emergency Operations Plan (BEOP) Working Group to make adjustments to existing local plans based on lessons learned during Tropical Storm Irene.
- At the state level, revisions are also being made to the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), which focuses on improved interagency understanding of roles and responsibilities in both response and recovery, as well as the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, which focuses on revised mitigation strategies and goals.
- In early 2013, the Governor reaffirmed the use of the National Incident Management System and ICS as the foundation for all incident response in Vermont, by executive order.
- The establishment of the Recovery & Mitigation Section in DEMHS will enhance technical assistance available to state and local authorities for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation preparation on a continuous basis.

Vermont Emergency Management Reorganization

As the state of Vermont builds upon an existing emergency preparedness, planning, response, and recovery infrastructure, the Vermont Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) is making strides to build upon its own capacity for supporting state and local efforts. In recent months, DEMHS has undergone a variety of changes to ensure ongoing recovery efforts remain well supported, and future efforts are aligned with national preparedness standards. Such efforts include:

- In early 2013, VEM announced its changeover to the Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) to enable a combined strategy for delivering nationally standardized emergency services for all hazards. This evolution will ultimately enable DEMHS to be recertified by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program in 2015, through which it is one of 26 states currently accredited.
- The establishment of the Recovery & Mitigation Section will enable DEMHS to have a more concentrated focus on state and community recovery efforts, as well as foster increased inter-agency collaboration on these issues. In March, a Branch Chief was appointed, and will oversee a Public Assistance Officer, the Hazard Mitigation Officer, as well as two hazard mitigation planners and two public assistance coordinators. This Branch will also be responsible for helping to maintain local knowledge and awareness of FEMA programs, predominately via increased training opportunities.

Interagency Collaboration

The State continues to maintain its endeavors to ensure that all state agencies that have identified roles and responsibilities in the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) and State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) fully participate in preparedness activities and plan development. Since June, DEMHS has collaborated with federal and state agency partners, as well as local partners to engage in multi-level networks and exercises necessary to support more effective response, mitigation and recovery. Recent progress includes:

- In February, FEMA and the state conducted an after action review (AAR) to discuss and evaluate the actions of Response, Recovery, Mitigation and Preparedness branches for State and FEMA since the impact of spring flooding and Tropical Storm Irene. This review also offered the unique opportunity to identify longer term recovery challenges and successes that will influence program

implementation at both the state and federal levels. Areas of focus included identifying strengths, areas of improvement and corrective action to take place on behalf of the Public and Individual Assistance programs, WSOC, and Hazard Mitigation, among others. Currently, the AAR summary is being compiled with other state AAR and “hot washes” by DEMHS to be made available in May to state agencies for affirmation and confirmation of identified next steps.

- Working groups have been strengthened, as well as newly established to address areas for improvement and sustainment of strengths, identified from the aforementioned AAR. The progress of the working groups will be reported to the Governor’s Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council on a semi-annual basis. The next update is planned for July 2013. Working groups include:

- State Training and Exercise Planning Committee (*existing*)
- Public Information and Education
- Basic Emergency Operations Plan (BEOP) Working Group (*existing*)
- Statewide Mutual Aid (*existing*)
- Multi-agency Coordination System (MACS) Working Group
- Statewide COOP Working Group (*existing*)
- RPC Group
- Transportation Group
- Information Collection and Situational Awareness

- In March, DEMHS established the Multi-agency Coordination System (MACS) Working Group, as a result of recommendations provided following the aforementioned AAR and the New England Radiological Health Exercise. The Group plans to meet through September in order to refine the coordination system that allows all levels of government and disciplines to work

together more efficiently and effectively during incidents. Current partners include State Support Function (SSF) and Recovery Support Function (RSF) representatives as well as public partners such as the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund. The ultimate goal is to develop a system that incorporates the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), department operations centers, a Joint Information Center (JIC), regional coordination centers (RCCs), the state warning points, local emergency operations centers (LEOPs) and incident command post (ICP) system integration, establishes redundant communications means through the SEOC, reinforces information flow processes during preparedness, response and recovery, and maximizes awareness of all types of media to share information.

- Federal agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and FEMA are partnering to implement the Silver Jackets Program in Vermont, which provides a formal and consistent strategy for an interagency approach to planning and implementing measures to reduce the risks associated with flooding and other natural hazards. Approximately \$100,000 in grants has been made available by USACE for the flood study of the Ottauquechee river corridor, as well as Incident Action Plans (IAPs) for towns with high hazard dams. Specific programmatic goals include leveraging information and resources, including providing access to such national programs as FEMA's RiskMAP program and USACE's Levee Inventory and Assessment Initiative, as well as identifying gaps among the various agency programs and/or barriers to implementation, such as conflicting agency policies or authorities, and provide recommendations for addressing these issues.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Development

Following Tropical Storm Irene, the state and its municipalities recognized the need to emphasize strategic planning for addressing our risk to hazardous weather events. The development of

the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), as well as of more detailed individual town mitigation plans is well underway, and with the help of federal HMGP and PDM-C grant dollars, matched by state planning funds, is inspiring creative new approaches to mitigating our future risk. Additionally, priority has been placed on the need to identify goals that will better protect our landscape, as well as strategies to help meet the corresponding needs of our communities. Numerous efforts have been made in recent months to strengthen our resilience, including:

- A working group was created in order to evaluate and redesign existing SMHP goals and prioritize those strategies that would enable state and local leaders to address them most effectively. The goals as redesigned are:
 - Ensure that current and proposed legislation and regulatory policies require effective hazard mitigation practices throughout the state.
 - Ensure that grant related funding processes allow for expedient and effective mitigation actions to take place at the municipal and state level.
 - Provide timely and accurate technical assistance that supports hazard mitigation activities to regional and local jurisdictions as well as private sector partners.
 - Identify state-level risks and vulnerabilities and take actions to protect or harden state infrastructure against hazards.
 - Conduct hazard assessments, mapping, and data collection projects to increase knowledge about both the hazards facing Vermont, and the most effective mitigation actions for minimizing public exposure to hazards.
- In order to gain a more diverse collection of feedback about the implications and challenges of the SHMP, the State Planning Committee has widened its group of

stakeholders to be involved in the review process.

- As a result of the increasing number of both natural and manmade hazards, as well as based on input from the stakeholders involved in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan development process, the SHMP has expanded to address more hazards.
- The State Hazard Mitigation Office and local RPCs have recently collaborated with DEC as well as the Vermont Realtor's Association to collect risk, vulnerability, and strategic information pertinent to the state and local hazard mitigation plans. This sharing of information has resulted in the expanded integration of such groups, in order to address the multi-level networks and plans that exist within the complex realm of property mitigation and conservation.
- Two-Rivers Ottaqueechee Regional Commission (TRORC) has applied via HMPG funds, for an intensive full-day training program for local additional flood managers and provide long-term mitigation training to the region.
- Revisions to local mitigation plans are incorporating the latest fluvial erosion hazard and landslide information that has become available.
- Flood information and other data has been added to the ANR Environmental Atlas to make this information more accessible than the traditional FEMA map products.

Second Irene Anniversary Goals

- Submit State Emergency Operations Plan to Governor Shumlin in June.
- Have the Recovery and Mitigation Branch Chief additionally fulfill the Irene Recovery Officer Role.
- Submit Working Group Recommendations to the Governor's Emergency Preparedness Council in July.

- Submit early draft of State Hazard Mitigation Plan to FEMA Region 1 for review in May.
- Approval and implementation of TRORC training program to certify additional flood managers in the Upper Valley.
- Successfully complete the FEMA evaluated Vermont Yankee exercise in June.

Major Work to Continue after the Second Anniversary

- Approval of SHMP by November 2013 in order to implement redesigned goals and strategies.
- Finalize a coordination system that more clearly defines the process that allows all levels of government and disciplines to work together more efficiently and effectively during incidents via the MACS Working Group for fall 2013.
- Fully develop the capability of the DEMHS Recovery and Mitigation Section to raise the level of understanding of the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation programs at the state, local and regional levels through training and technical assistance.
- Conduct preparedness training and exercise activities in anticipation of Catastrophic Exercise 2 which will occur in March 2014.

Appendix F – SF424

OMB Number: 4040-0004
Expiration Date: 04/31/2012

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424		Version 02
*1. Type of Submission <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	*2. Type of Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	*If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): * Other (Specify)
*3. Date Received:		4. Application Identifier:
5a. Federal Entity Identifier:		*5b. Federal Award Identifier: B-13-DS-50-0001
State Use Only:		
6. Date Received by State:		7. State Application Identifier:
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
* a. Legal Name: State of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development		
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 03-6000274		*c. Organizational DUNS: 809800683
d. Address:		
*Street1: One National Life Drive, Sixth Floor Street 2: *City: County: Washington *State: vermont Province: Country: United States		
		*Zip/ Postal Code: 05620-0501
e. Organizational Unit:		
Department Name: Department of Housing and Community Development		Division Name:
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:		
Prefix: Middle Name: Ann Karlene *Last Name: Kroll Suffix:		First Name: Ann
Title: Director of Grants Management		
Organizational Affiliation: State of Vermont		
*Telephone Number: (802) 828-5225		Fax Number: (802) 828-3258
*Email: annkarlene.kroll@state.vt.✉		

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type: A. State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

- Select One -

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

- Select One -

*Other (specify):

*10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.269

CFDA Title:

Community Development Block Disaster Recovery - Hurricane Sandy and Other Disasters (Disaster Relief Appropriations Act)

*12. Funding Opportunity Number:

*Title:

Allocations, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Grantees Receiving Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds in Response to Disasters Occurring in 2011 or 2012, Federal Register 78 FR 32262, including 78 FR 14329 and 78 FR 23578

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Entire State of Vermont, all 14 counties received a Presidentially-declared Disaster (DR-1995; DR-4001; DR-4022; DR-4043; and DR-4066)

*15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

***Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation**

The following field should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent on any Federal Debt. Maximum number of characters that can be entered is 4,000. Try and avoid extra spaces and carriage returns to maximize the availability of space.

Certifications

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. The grantee certifies that it will affirmatively further fair housing, which means that it will conduct an analysis to identify impediments to fair housing choice within its disaster-affected communities, take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified through that analysis, and maintain records reflecting the analysis and actions in this regard. [See 24 CFR 570.487(b)(2) and 570.601(a)(2)]. In addition, the grantee certifies that agreements with subrecipients will meet all civil rights related requirements pursuant to 24 CFR 570.503(b)(5).

Anti-displacement and relocation plan. The grantee certifies that it has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the CDBG program.

Compliance with Lead-based paint procedures. The grantee certifies that its activities concerning lead-based paint will comply with the requirements of part 35, subparts A, B, J, K, and R of this title.

Anti-lobbying. The grantee certifies its compliance with restrictions on lobbying required by 24 CFR part 87, together with disclosure forms, if required by part 87.

Authority to carry out the Action Plan. The grantee certifies that the Action Plan for Disaster Recovery is authorized under State and local law and that the grantee, and any entity or entities designated by the State, possess(es) the legal authority to carry out the program for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations and this Notice.

Acquisition and relocation. The grantee certifies that it will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Act, as amended, and implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 24, except where waivers or alternative requirements are provided for this grant.

Section 3. The grantee certifies that it will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u), and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 135.

Consistent with Action Plan. The grantee certifies that activities to be administered with funds under this Notice are consistent with its Action Plan.

Citizen Participation. The grantee certifies that it is following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105 or 91.115, as applicable (except as provided for in notices providing waivers and alternative requirements for this grant). Also, each unit of local government receiving assistance from a State grantee must follow a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 570.486 (except as provided for in notices providing waivers and alternative requirements for this grant).

Consultation with Units of General Local Governments. The grantee certifies that it has consulted with affected units of general local government in counties designated in covered major disaster declarations in the non-entitlement, entitlement, and tribal areas of the State in determining the method of distribution of funding.

"The grantee certifies that it is complying with each of the following criteria:

- 1) Funds will be used solely for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas for which the President declared a major disaster in 2011, pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).
- 2) With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG disaster recovery funds, the Action Plan has been developed so as to give the maximum feasible priority to activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income families.

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- 3) The aggregate use of CDBG disaster recovery funds shall principally benefit low- and moderate-income families in a manner that ensures that at least 50 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period.
- 4) The grantee will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG disaster recovery grant funds, by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low- and moderate-income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements, unless: (A) disaster recovery grant funds are used to pay the proportion of such fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of such public improvements that are financed from revenue sources other than under this title; or (B) for purposes of assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of moderate income, the grantee certifies to the Secretary that it lacks sufficient CDBG funds (in any form) to comply with the requirements of clause (A).

Compliance with anti-discrimination laws. The grantee certifies that the grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601–3619) and implementing regulations.

Nonviolent Civil Rights Demonstrations. The grantee certifies that it has adopted and is enforcing the following policies. In addition, the grantee certifies that it will require units of general local government that receive grant funds to certify that they have adopted and are enforcing:

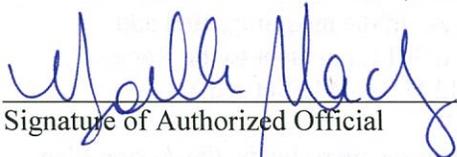
- 1) A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations; and
- 2) A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location that is the subject of such nonviolent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

Capacity to carry out the activities. Each State or unit of local government receiving a direct award under this Notice certifies that it (and any subrecipient or administering entity) has the capacity to carry out disaster recovery activities in a timely manner; or the State or unit of local government will develop a plan to increase capacity where such capacity is lacking.

Compliance with Executive Order 11988. The grantee certifies that it will not use CDBG disaster recovery funds for any activity in an area delineated as a special flood hazard area in FEMA's most current flood advisory maps, unless it also ensures that the action is designed or modified to minimize harm to or within the floodplain, in accordance with Executive Order 11988 and 24 CFR part 55.

Compliance with applicable laws. The grantee certifies that it will comply with applicable laws.

Reviewed and Certifies to the requirements of this Notice and Public Law 113-2. The grantee certifies that it has reviewed the requirements of this Notice and requirements of Public Law 113-2 applicable to funds allocated by this Notice, and that it has in place proficient financial controls and procurement processes and has established adequate procedures to prevent any duplication of benefits as defined by section 312 of the Stafford Act, to ensure timely expenditure of funds, to maintain comprehensive Websites regarding all disaster recovery activities assisted with these funds, and to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds.


Signature of Authorized Official

10.24.2013
Date

Noelle Mackay, Commissioner
Department of Housing and Community Development