

April 10, 2024

Catherin Dimitruk, NRPC  
**President**

RE: Request for increase in Emergency Management Planning Grant Funding

David Snedecker, NVDA  
**Vice-President**

Charlie Baker, CCRPC  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

Dear Eric,

On behalf of Vermont's eleven regional planning commissions I respectfully request that Vermont Emergency Management support an increase in Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG) funding of at least 10 percent. While this may seem like a significant increase, we have been level funded since 2017 or 2018. As you know inflation alone has increased operational costs significantly, and significant disasters over the last 6-7 years have increased state and municipal need and demand for the services we provide that are supported by the EMPG.

We play a critical role in Vermont's emergency planning, hazard mitigation, and disaster response and recovery preparedness, especially in support of Vermont's municipalities. The EMPG program is the source of funding for this work. I acknowledge that in a previous communication about a funding increase you noted that RPCs now are required to have 2 staff trained to support the State Emergency Operations Center rather than 3. While that was a rational change to the EMPG agreement, it has little impact on growing EMPG demands and what has been an effective decrease in EMPG funding during this time of increasing costs. I also understand that there may be a decrease in federal funding. While unfortunate, the demand for emergency planning has not decreased. The significant increase in demand for mitigation grant application assistance, training of local officials, flood hazard bylaw support, and local disaster response and recovery preparedness has grown and will likely continue to grow as disaster risk awareness and disaster frequency increase.

I'd be happy to convene the VAPDA Emergency Management Committee to discuss this request with you, and we'd also welcome your participation in an upcoming VAPDA meeting. VEM's role in disaster preparedness and response has never been greater or more important, and we appreciate the dedication and effort of you and your colleagues during an extraordinary series of events. We rely upon the state to maintain our capacity to perform our role in emergency planning, and hope that you can support this request.

Thank you for your consideration. I'd welcome an opportunity to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Chris Company,  
Executive Director, Windham Regional Commission  
VAPDA Emergency Management Committee Chair