



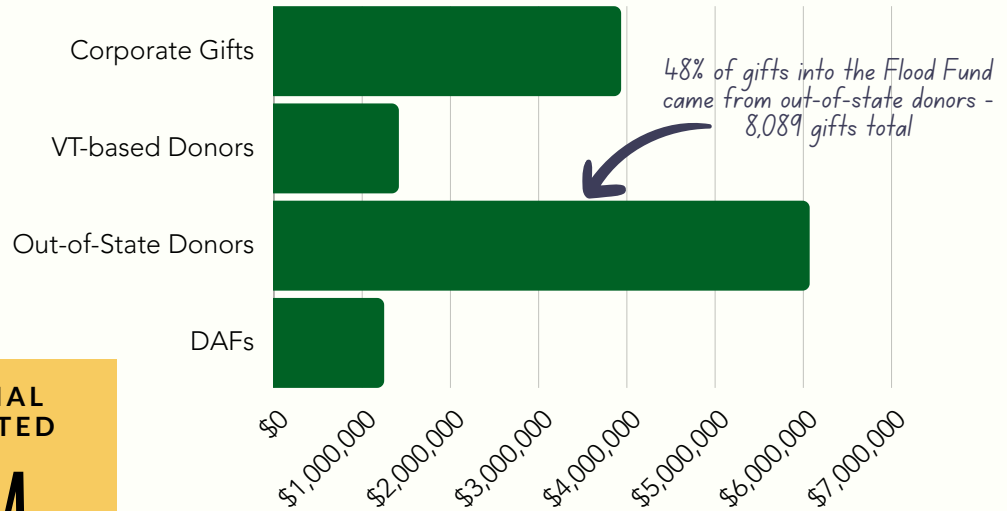
FLOOD RESPONSE & RECOVERY

Through the Flood Fund, the VCF has issued grants to support flood response and recovery efforts in 100+ Vermont towns.

\$12.7M

in gifts into the Flood Response and Recovery Fund as of 1/16/2024

8,709 Donors, companies, foundations, and nonprofits



GRANTS AS OF
1/16/2023

\$7.0M

ADDITIONAL
\$ COMMITTED

\$5.3M

Strategy Highlights

REPAIRING AND REBUILDING HOMES

VCF has granted or allocated nearly \$3M towards helping Vermonters whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the flooding, including funding for a statewide Allocations Director, capacity building for the regional long-term recovery groups, expansion of construction work groups, replacement of heat and electrical systems, and the direct repair and rebuilding of homes.

HELPING FARMS AND BUSINESSES RECOVER

VCF's Farm Disaster Relief program awarded \$1.5M in grants directly to farmers. Grant funding helped farmers replace damaged seed, feed, livestock, supplies or equipment as well as other expenses related to storm and flood impacts. In addition, discretionary, donor advised, and committee advised funds, as well as supporting organizations, awarded over \$1M towards flood-related farm and business supports.

HELPING NONPROFITS TO HELP VERMONTERS

Nonprofits are still in need of financial support to recover fully, and VCF is responding. In 2023, 59 grants were made from the Special & Urgent Needs program for storms and flood-affected organizations totaling \$265,597.

KEEPING ARTS & CULTURE VIBRANT

Nearly \$250,000 from the VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund has been sent to 26 arts and culture organizations that experienced flood damage to help them make repairs and re-open their doors. VCF's Donor Advised Funds have contributed \$32,000 towards this same effort.



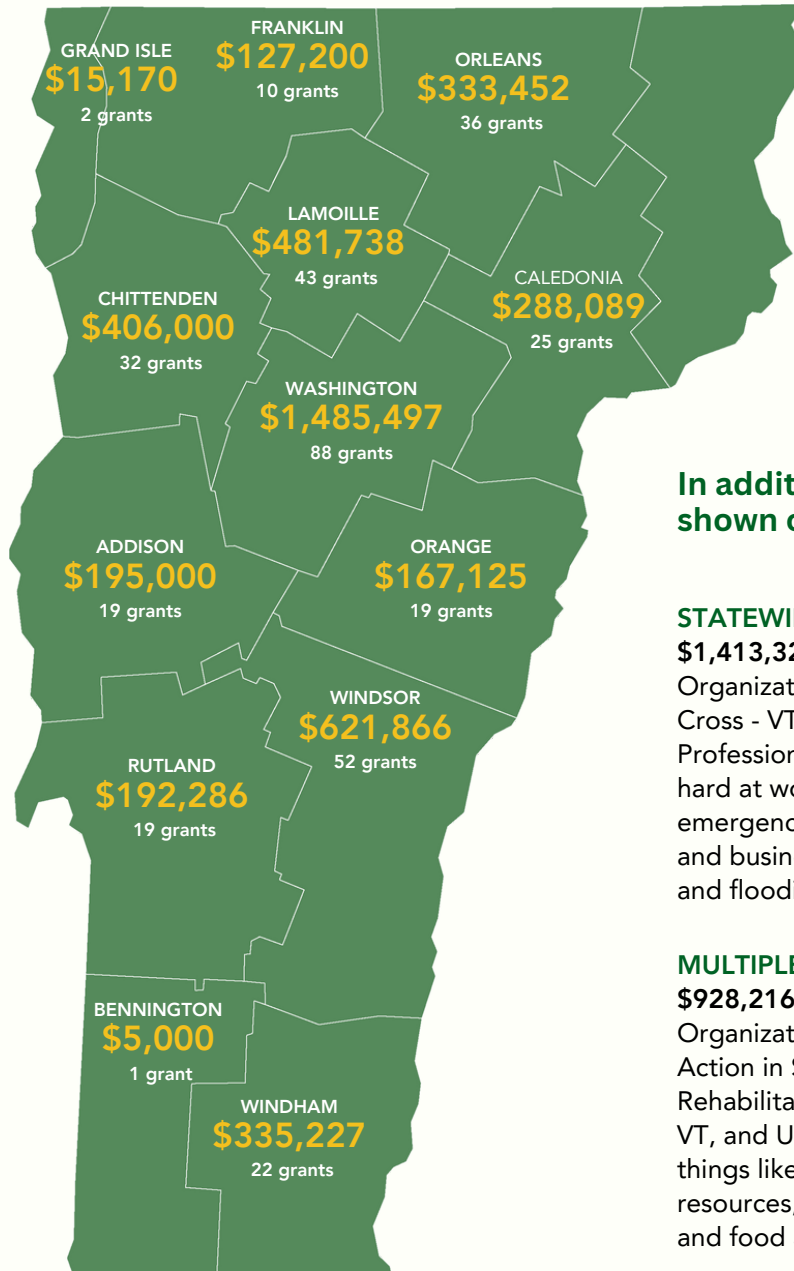
RISE AND THRIVE GRANTS FOR WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

The Vermont Women's Fund and VCF partnered with the Center for Women and Enterprise to develop a grant program to provide flood-related support to women-owned businesses. In 2023, nearly \$400,000 was contributed by generous donors to this program.

DISTRIBUTION OF FLOOD GRANTS

100+
VERMONT TOWNS
SERVED

Early grants included funding to 34+ hyper-local organizations supporting mutual aid efforts, clean-up, immediate relief, and volunteer organizing. Organizations included: Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Northeast Kingdom Organizing, Rainbow Bridge Community Center, the Woodstock HUB, Chester Helping Hands, Civic Standard, and Black River Good Neighbor Services.



469
TOTAL GRANTS
as of 1/16/2024

In addition to the grants shown on the map:

STATEWIDE - 46 GRANTS

\$1,413,321 in Grants Distributed

Organizations like the American Red Cross - VT, NOFA-VT, and the VT Professionals of Color Network have been hard at work--supporting things like emergency shelter and food, and farm and business recovery from major storm and flooding losses.

MULTIPLE COUNTIES - 55 GRANTS

\$928,216 in Grants Distributed

Organizations like BROC - Community Action in Southwestern VT, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern VT, and Upper Valley Haven--supporting things like anti-poverty programming and resources, clothing, temporary shelter, and food access.

OTHER COMMITMENTS

An additional \$5.3M of the flood fund has been allocated (or is in process), including approximately **\$2M for the repair and rebuilding of flood-damaged homes** and \$2.5M for long-term community and watershed resilience projects.

NEXT PHASES OF RECOVERY

Communities will need to continue to adapt to the changing climate and mitigate even more dramatic changes in the future.

In 2024, the Foundation is partnering closely with organizations to support local groups in identifying risks, reducing vulnerability to future storms, keeping community connection strong, and helping to facilitate relationships across sectors and town borders.

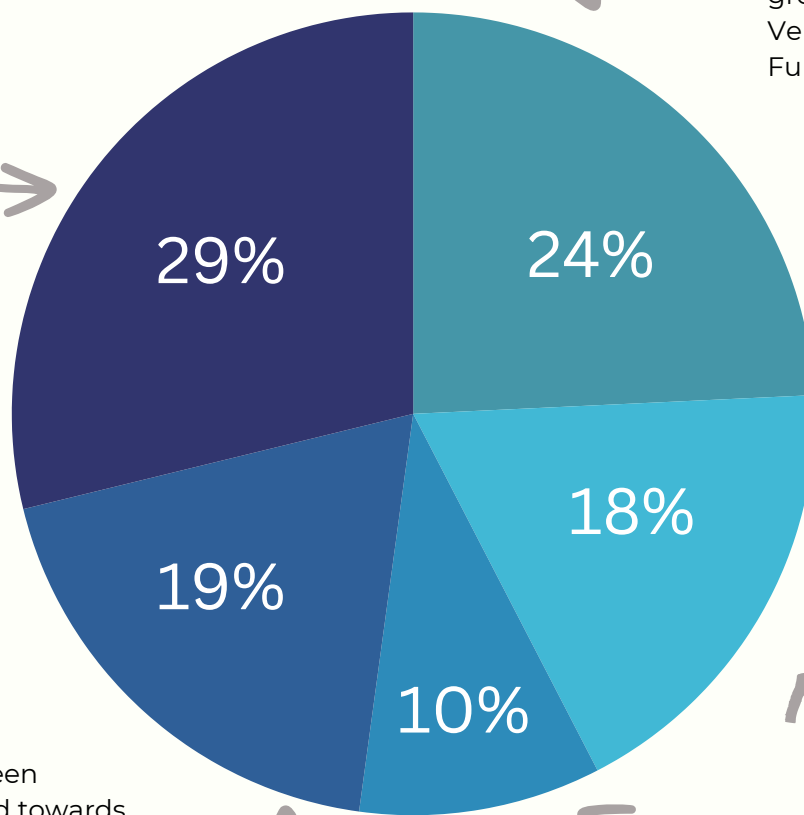
FUNDING BY FOCUS AREA

Business & Nonprofit Recovery

29% of funding has been granted and allocated towards supporting businesses and nonprofits recover, including grants to the Main Street Flood Recovery Fund, the Montpelier Strong Recovery Fund, Barre Community Relief Fund, and the VT Women's Fund Rise & Thrive grant program.

Housing & Home Repair

24% of the funding has been granted and allocated towards housing and home repairs. Included in this category is also support for the long-term recovery groups and the efforts of the Vermont Disaster Recovery Fund.



Farms & Agriculture

18% of the funding has been granted and allocated towards grants and supports for farms and farmers. Included in this category is also river and watershed clean-up efforts.

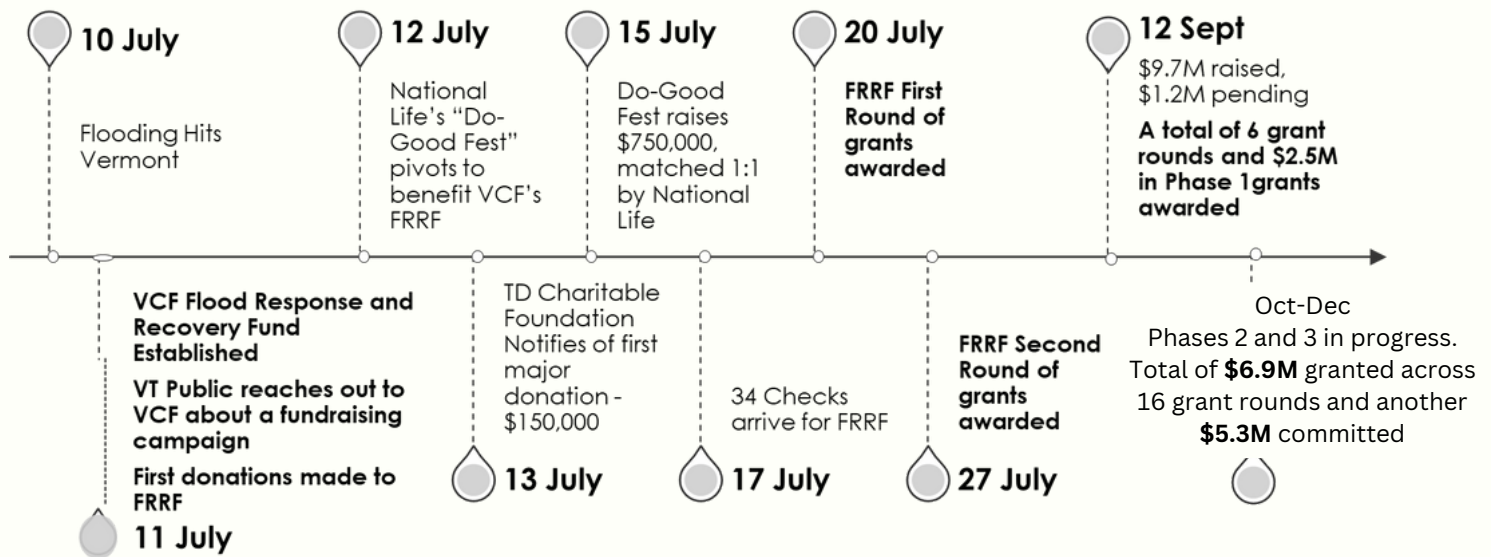
Critical Needs & Individual Assistance

19% of funding has been granted and allocated towards supporting critical needs and individual assistance affected by storms and flooding, including: health supports, emergency shelter, food access, and other immediate needs. Grants supported local response efforts, including mutual aid, cleanup, PPE, and volunteer coordination.

Community & Climate Resilience

10% of the funding has been granted and allocated towards community and climate resilience. Included in this category is climate adaptation projects, regional watershed groups, environmental justice efforts, and recovery and mitigation projects in highly impacted communities.

TIMELINE: MEETING THE MOMENT



GRANTMAKING STRATEGY

Phase 1 – Immediate Response and Relief (estimated \$2.7M in grants in July-Sept)

Phase 1 was about meeting people's basic needs as the waters recede—keeping people fed and sheltered in emergency situations; mucking out and gutting houses; and bringing equipment, volunteers, and hope to those most directly impacted. Phase 1 included a spectrum of fast-moving grants in multiple waves to help Vermonters affected by storms and flooding.

Phase 2 – Building Back Communities (estimated \$6-7M in grants in Oct-Dec)

Once the conditions on the ground signaled that emergency needs were relatively well covered, the grantmaking strategy shifted into Phase 2, which is about building back Vermont's communities. To support a recovery that positions people, places, and the economy for the future, the fund supported and invested in the following areas: individuals and families; housing and shelter; farm recovery; Main Street vitality; mental health and wellbeing; and coordination and capacity for long-term recovery efforts.

Phase 3 – Community and Watershed Resilience (estimated \$3M in grants in late 2023 and into 2024)

Communities will need to continue to adapt to the changing climate and mitigate even more dramatic changes in the future. In this phase of grantmaking, the Community Foundation is partnering closely with organizations to support local groups in identifying risks, reducing vulnerability to future storms, keeping community connection strong, and helping to facilitate relationships across sectors and town borders.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

What We Heard from Grantees

SAVING FARMS

"I wish you could have heard the applicant, a farmer who lost all his crops/fields and hence capacity to feed his cows. I connected him to your farmers application and he was rewarded in a way that brought him to tears. His wife called me to share their gratitude for the VCF who 'saved our lives.'"

PROVIDING HOMES

"Everything in two 3-bedroom apartments was ruined from the flood waters or dirt from the street afterward. Our participants were displaced and finding a safe place for them to live with no timeline of when we would be able to take them back was challenging. We had to place a hold on taking new participants into our program because we didn't have the apartments to place them in. Unfortunately, this left them waiting in prison when they were eligible for release. They waited without complaint, knowing we were doing our best to rebuild and just last week we were able to begin taking participants out again. They are now coming home to a nicely furnished space with everything they needed to start their new lives, thanks to the support from the VT Community Foundation."

SHARING NEWS

"We published over 300 flood-related stories that helped Vermonters -- and the world -- understand the magnitude of devastation. It took all available resources plus freelance staff to cover the floods with the depth and breadth that we did — and this grant allowed for that."

MOVING QUICKLY

"Getting money into organizations quickly has been an absolute godsend. Flexibility of funds to use in the way our communities need while not requiring heavy reporting. This is trust-based philanthropy at its best."

BEING THERE

"Many Vermonters responded to our need for physical help and financial help. Many vendors helped us for a low cost or no cost... You came through immediately and that meant the world. We were not alone."

FEEDING PEOPLE

"The Glover meal site building received extensive damage, and meal prep and congregate meals had to move to Barton to the municipal building to continue providing meals for older adults in the area. VCF's \$5,000 grant to Barton Area Senior Services allowed them to get back up and running in the new location and replace food and equipment. The loss was hard on the program leaders, but the grant got them back in business to keep their participants fed."

CONTINUING THE WORK

"Hardwick Area Neighbor to Neighbor was formed during the COVID-19 pandemic and retained its structure for rapid response to future crises--and they've done just that: responding quickly to the needs of their community following the flooding."

RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY

"I think the flood-relief program was more successful than some past efforts for several reasons: (1) VCF staff proactively reached out to key community individuals and programs to ascertain the contours of the need; (2) the application process couldn't have been easier; (3) there was in-process follow up and feedback to monitor the effort; and (4) from beginning to end VCF didn't let traditional paperwork stand-in the way of getting needed resources where they could be applied to best advantage."

