STATE OF VERMONT

2023 Flood Recovery in Vermont
Leveraging FEMA Federal Funds
December 2023
1. BACKGROUND: VERMONT’S FLOOD EXPERIENCE
BRIEFING AGENDA

1. Background: Vermont’s Flood Experience
2. Flood Recovery
3. Building Long-term Flood Resilience
JULY 2023 SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING

Catastrophic flash and river flooding that caused washout of roads and bridges, landslides and mudslides, and loss of property

- Damage was widespread across the State:
  - Communities near the Winooski and Lamoille rivers (and their tributaries) suffered widespread damage to homes and businesses.
  - Towns near the Green Mountains, including Londonderry, Weston, Ludlow, Johnson, and Hardwick, were hard-hit.
  - The Missisquoi basin in northern Vermont and the Upper Passumpsic basin in the Northeast Kingdom also experienced large-scale inundation flooding.

- State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) went into full activation on July 10, 2023.
- Federal Disaster # DR4720 declared for July 7 – 21, 2023

Sources: Neal P. Goswami via Reuters, CNN
JULY 2023 SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING

DR-4720 already rivals Tropical Storm Irene’s physical and financial damages— and costs continue to grow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Tropical Storm Irene (2011)</th>
<th>DR4720 (2023)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of applicants seeking FEMA PA assistance</td>
<td>&gt;300</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of counties declared for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA)</td>
<td>14 (PA) 12 (IA)</td>
<td>12 (PA) 9 (IA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA Damages</td>
<td>$216M</td>
<td>$500M+*</td>
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<tr>
<td>IA Claimed</td>
<td>$23M</td>
<td>$24M+*</td>
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* Sources: Figures for DR4720 are only an estimate because many applicants are still finalizing their damages. Final claimed amounts will also be adjusted for insurance at a later stage.
2. FLOOD RECOVERY
DEFINING RECOVERY

“Sequence of interdependent, and often concurrent, activities that progressively advance a community toward its planned outcomes.”

- The State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) forms the basis of the State of Vermont emergency management system
- The State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) presents the State’s mitigation strategy to reduce or eliminate significant risks
- The Integrated Strategic Plan (ISP) outlines the joint state and federal strategies agreed upon by VEM and FEMA
- Includes the collaboration of all state agencies and departments that have operational responsibilities and capabilities across five mission areas—Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery
“The statewide response and recovery to the July and August 2023 flooding is community-centered and focused on the revitalization of impacted jurisdictions with close support and guidance from the State through every phase of the journey towards renewal and resilience.”

**RECOVERY GOALS AND PRIORITIES**

- **Individual Recovery**
  Assistance projected directly to impacted individuals: including businesses and non-profits

- **Infrastructure Recovery**
  Assistance focused on recovery of impacted infrastructure

- **Resilient Recovery**
  Assistance focused on recovery of impacted communities
RECOVERY TIMELINE

Example Focus Areas Include:

PREPAREDNESS
- Develop lessons learned
- Implement process improvements

SHORT-TERM
- Ensure life safety
- Clear debris
- Provide survivor assistance

INTERMEDIATE
- Complete core infrastructure repairs
- Fund cost recovery through federal sources
- Establish state recovery structure

LONG-TERM
- Conceptualize housing and economic recovery
- Complete long-term hazard mitigation projects
RECOVERY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Governor Scott

Core Recovery Team

Chief Recovery Officer

State Coordinating Officers

VT Emergency Management

Recovery Policy & Communications

State Regional Coordinators

Federal Agencies
FEMA
SBA
USDA
HUD

State Agencies & Legislature

The Core Recovery Team has established a centralized flood inbox for all inquiries: ADM.2023FLOODS@Vermont.gov
DEFINING RECOVERY: SHORT-TERM

Alongside flood response activities that protected life and public health, the State took early steps to maximize federal dollars in the long-run.

- **Leveraging floodplain regulations early**: Sharing state and local floodplain rules with FEMA staff has ensured that we can support the hardest hit communities with significant costs that outweigh their current funding sources.

- **Coordinating insurance proceeds early on**: Coordinating proceeds through Risk Management for state agencies and having working with the municipal insurer and FEMA together had led to streamlined project development.

- **Centrally coordinating state-wide FEMA PA claims**: Organizing statewide Project Worksheets (PWs) and communicating directly with all state agencies on overarching policies will maximize federal funding while streamlining efforts.

- **Maximizing overall sources of FEMA funding for IA**: Deploying “Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC) Strike Teams” to support of Long-Term Recovery Centers (LTRCs) by offering PPE, medical/health services, food supplies, and more.
DEFINING RECOVERY: INTERMEDIATE

Apart from working with applicants to finalize damages and submit costs for FEMA reimbursement, a core area of focus has been to establish the Recovery Support Task Forces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Recovery Support Functions (RSFs)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and Social Services (HHS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing (HUD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infrastructure (USACE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic (SBA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Cultural Resources (DOI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing and Economic (USDA-RD)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture Restoration</td>
<td>Agency of Agriculture, Food &amp; Markets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic and Community Development</td>
<td>Department of Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Medical Services</td>
<td>Agency of Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic and Cultural Restoration</td>
<td>Agency of Commerce &amp; Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Department of Housing &amp; Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual and Family Needs</td>
<td>Agency of Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure and Environmental Restoration</td>
<td>Agency of Natural Resources &amp; Vermont Emergency Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer and Donation Management</td>
<td>Agency of Human Services</td>
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The State of Vermont has four key focus areas for long-term recovery.

- **Resilient Housing Growth**: Develop additional flood-resilient housing in the state and update current housing to be more flood-resilient.

- **Capital Complex Recovery**: Rebuild the State Capital complex in Montpelier to return State agencies to their standard functions and mitigate future damage.

- **Wastewater Treatment Facility Mitigation**: Invest in strategies to protect hard-hit wastewater treatment facilities against repeated flood damage.

- **Regional Watershed Discussions to Reduce Flood Risk**: Convene State and Agency parties to develop mitigation opportunities in flood hazard areas and river corridors to prevent downstream flooding.