



STATE OF VERMONT

2023 Flood Recovery in Vermont

Leveraging FEMA Federal Funds

December 2023





1. BACKGROUND: VERMONT'S FLOOD EXPERIENCE

CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT - FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY



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

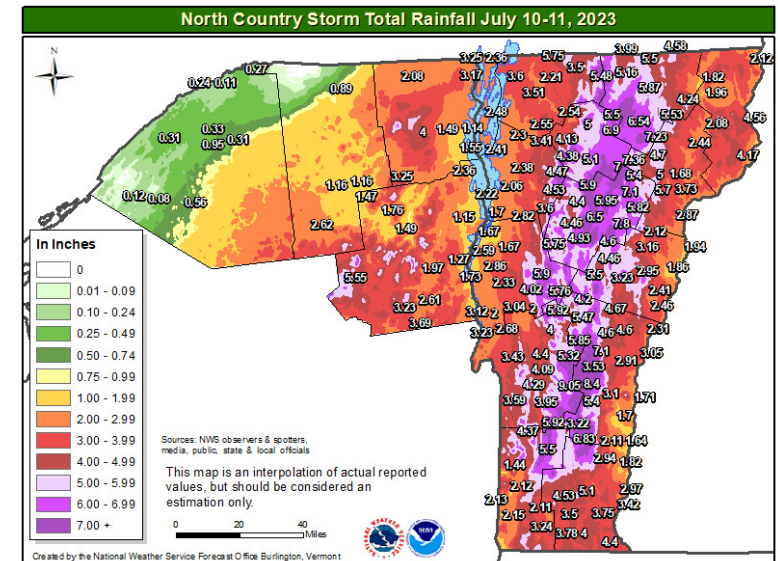


JULY 2023 SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING

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

Comparison	Tropical Storm Irene (2011)	DR4720 (2023)
Incident Period	Aug 27, 2011 - Sep 2, 2011	July 7, 2023 – July 21, 2023
Number of applicants seeking FEMA PA assistance	>300	210
# of counties declared for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA)	14 (PA) 12 (IA)	12 (PA) 9 (IA)
PA Damages	\$216M	\$500M+*
IA Claimed	\$23M	\$24M+*

* 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

CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT - FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY



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**



CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT - FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY



RECOVERY GOALS AND PRIORITIES

“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.”

Individual Recovery

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

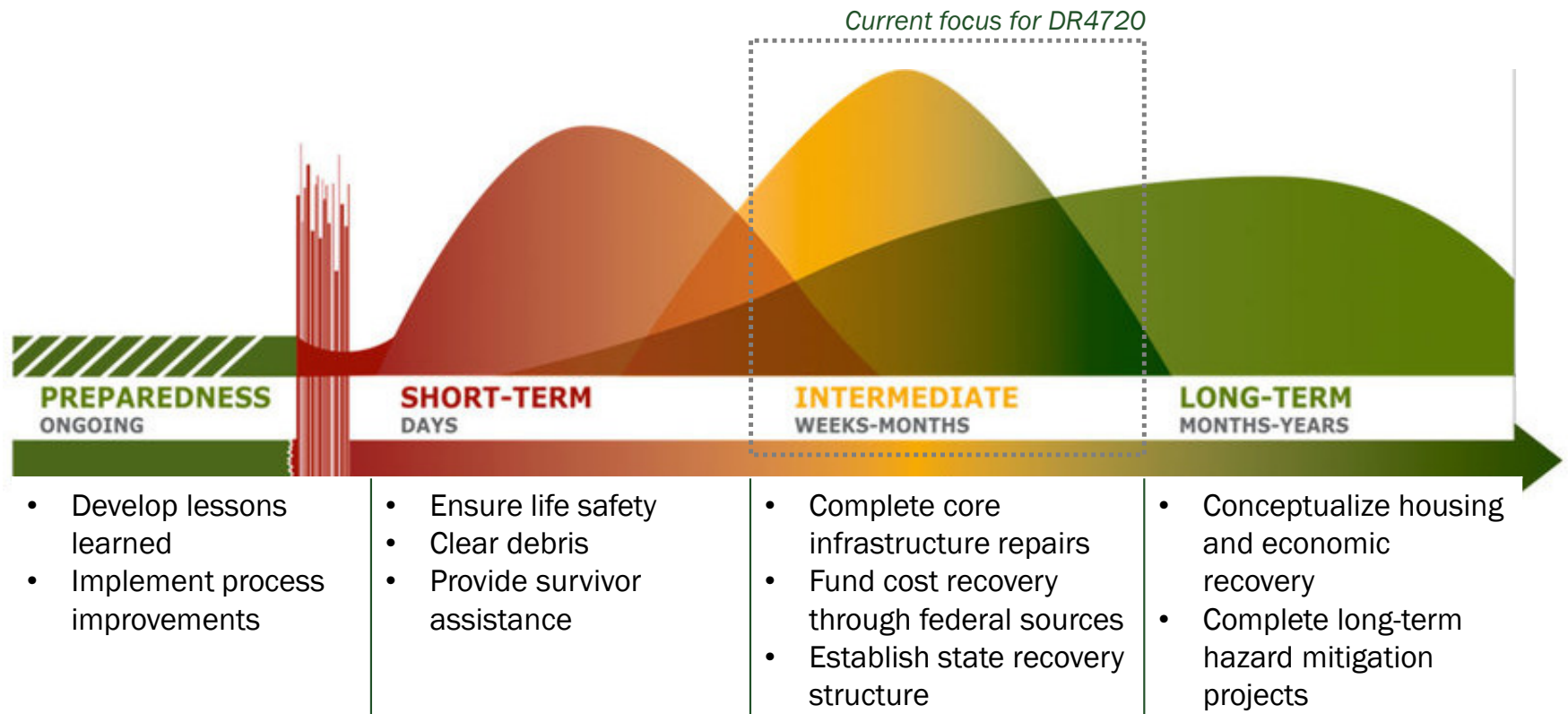
Infrastructure Recovery

Assistance focused on recovery of impacted infrastructure

Resilient Recovery

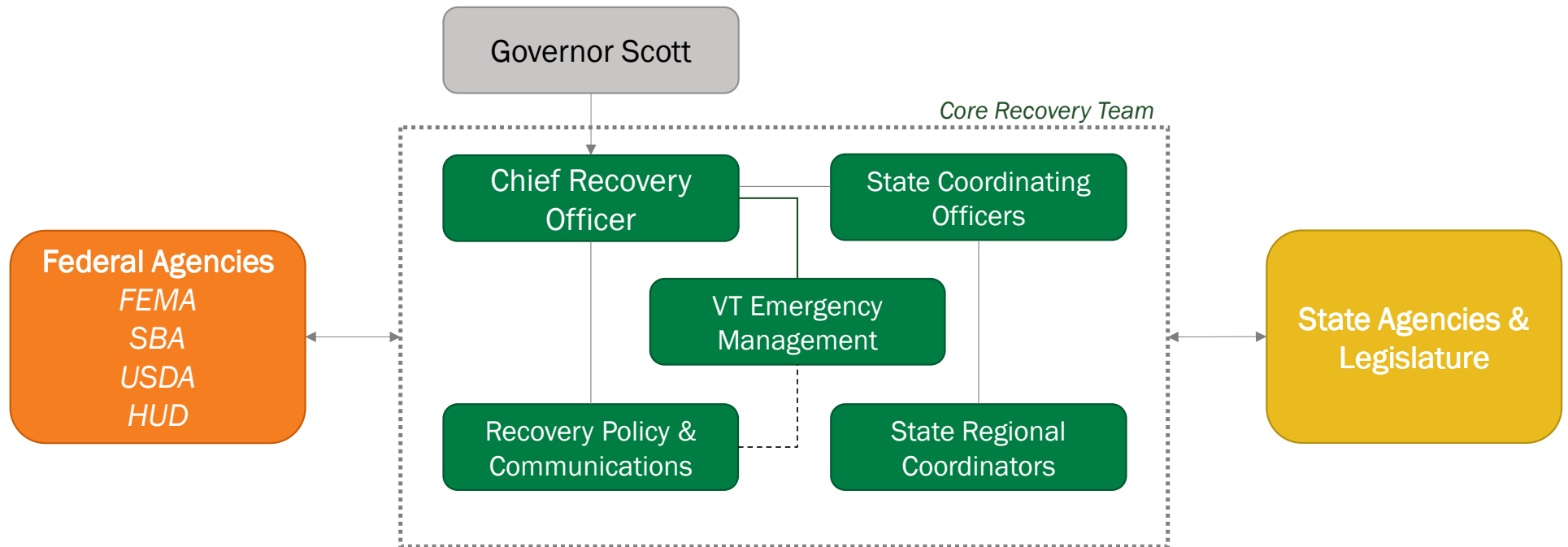
Assistance focused on recovery of impacted communities

RECOVERY TIMELINE



CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT - FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

RECOVERY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



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

CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT - FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY



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

CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT - FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

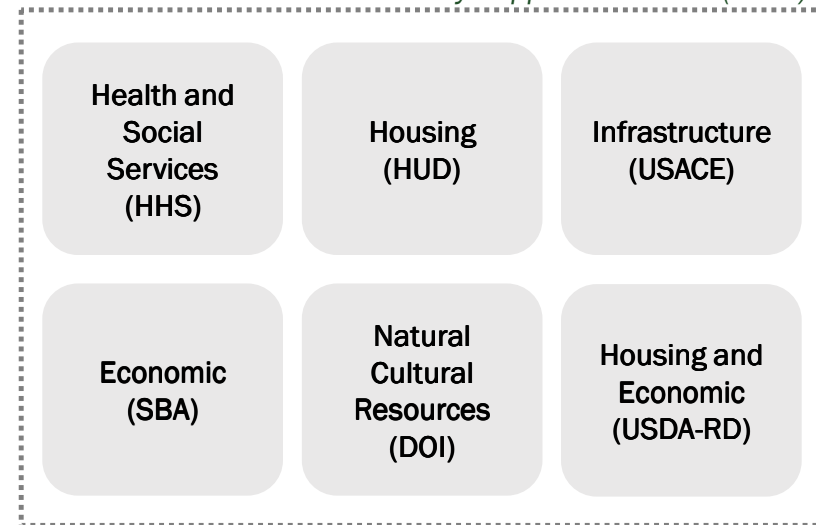


DEFINING RECOVERY: INTERMEDIATE

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

Agriculture Restoration	Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
Economic and Community Development	Department of Economic Development
Health and Medical Services	Agency of Human Services
Historic and Cultural Restoration	Agency of Commerce & Community Development
Housing	Department of Housing & Community Development
Individual and Family Needs	Agency of Human Services
Infrastructure and Environmental Restoration	Agency of Natural Resources & Vermont Emergency Management
Volunteer and Donation Management	Agency of Human Services

Federal Recovery Support Functions (RSFs)



CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT - FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY



DEFINING RECOVERY: LONG-TERM

The State of Vermont has four key focus areas for long-term recovery.

