

Summary of the Vermont Agency of Administration’s “Municipal Technical Assistance Report”

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Municipal Technical Assistance Program: A \$3 million program established by the legislature in 2023 to help assist municipalities apply and receive State and Federal funds.

- The Agency of Administration coordinates with local Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) to grant funds to municipalities.
 - The Agency of Administration began by soliciting Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in March 2023. These RFPs were designed to help establish contracts between “commercial entities” or “other interested non-profit or statutorily created entities” and RPCs.
 - The window to submit proposals closed in May of 2023. The Agency of Administration is reviewing and establishing contracts on an “ongoing basis.”
- The Agency of Administration developed the Vermont Community Index (VCI) to evaluate and sort municipalities by need. Municipalities with greater need are eligible for prioritized funding.

Outreach:

- In the wake of the July 2023 floods, the Agency of Administration extended the timeline and spending for the MTAP to accommodate a prioritization of flood recovery by many municipalities.
- In October of 2023, the Agency of Administration expanded eligibility to MTAP in response to inadequate or incorrect utilization of the program by many of the originally identified municipalities.
 - This expansion increased the number of eligible municipalities from 61 to nearly 120. New municipalities were included based on their VCI percentile score as well as disproportionate summer flood impacts.
- Municipalities not prequalified for the program may apply through the Municipal Technical Assistance [webpage](#).

Current status: The Agency of Administration feels confident that all funds will be allocated by the end of the fiscal year in a manner that meets the legislature’s original goals for the MTAP.

- As of December 31, 2023, all of the 61 originally prequalified municipalities had participated in outreach discussions. Of the additionally eligible 69 municipalities, 35% have participated in outreach discussions.
 - Outreach discussions are expected to conclude by January 2024.

- By November 30, 2023, \$281,621 had been allocated to municipalities to support both short term Community Assessments¹ and long term identified projects.
- \$1.87 million of the \$3 million appropriation was obligated through grant agreements with Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission and Vermont Housing & Conservation Board. A further \$680,000 in grant agreements is in progress, with finalization expected to occur in January of 2024.

¹ The Agency's report defines a Community Assessment as "a strategic look at town resources, goals, and challenges related to growth and development"