



State of Vermont  
Agency of Administration  
Office of the Secretary  
Pavilion Office Building  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-0201  
[www.adm.state.vt.us](http://www.adm.state.vt.us)

[phone] 802-828-3322  
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*Jeb Spaulding, Secretary*

September 2, 2011

Joint Fiscal Office  
1 Baldwin Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5701

Dear Joint Fiscal Committee:

Flood and wind from Hurricane Irene has caused an unprecedented level of damage across Vermont. As Vermonters begin the long and difficult process of recovery, we are witnessing an equally unprecedented level of generosity from Vermonters, Vermont businesses, and our friends and neighbors across the United States.

Some examples of gifts that have been suggested or offered include:

- 200 tons of horse feed - value \$58,000
- Free meals for workers and state clients – up to \$10,000
- 40 generators – est. value 30,000
- Fitted up space for temporary occupancy – value undetermined
- Computers

The current grant approval is not designed to rapidly respond to the variety and frequency of assistance being offered, and may create a delay that would seriously hinder the State's recovery effort, including the ability to provide direct assistance to victims. After discussions with the Joint Fiscal Office, we propose a category of grants to be reviewed under a special expedited process. In order to qualify for such treatment, a grant/donation must meet the following criteria:

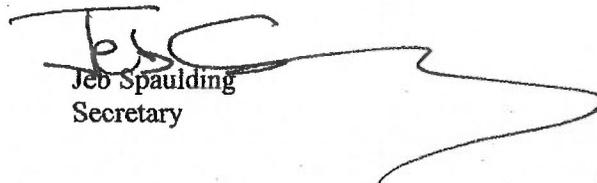
- Be directly related to Hurricane Irene cleanup and repair
- Individual grant/donations may not exceed \$100,000
- Acceptance of the grant/donation does not bind the State to future action or force the State to incur a future cost
- The total value of grants/donations accepted in this manner does not exceed \$1,000,000

The Joint Fiscal Committee has adopted an expedited grant review policy pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5(a) (2). We ask that this policy be amended in order to effectively waive Joint Fiscal Committee review of items submitted in accordance with the criteria outlined above for a period of 60 days. Draft language follows this letter.

In order to accelerate the acceptance process within the Executive branch, the administration will develop a 24 hour approval process to ensure that these grants/donations are submitted to the Joint Fiscal Office without delay.

We deeply appreciate your willingness to consider such a temporary policy modification. Our ability to respond rapidly to the needs that Vermonters face is very important at this time.

Sincerely,

  
Jeb Spaulding  
Secretary

 VERMONT

**DRAFT**

**Proposed JFC Expedited Review Policy Amendment**

“Tropical Storm Irene Temporary Expedited Grant Review” policy

Expedited approval under 32 V.S.A. § 5 can be granted for all grants or donations directly related to Hurricane Irene cleanup and repair.

The 30 day committee review period will be waived, and the Governor’s approval shall be considered final, if the following conditions are met:

1. The grant/donation is submitted to the Joint Fiscal Office on or before November 7, 2011.
2. The grant/donation submitted to the Joint Fiscal Office includes all of the information required under 32 V.S.A. § 5(a)(1).
3. The grant/donation is directly related to Hurricane Irene cleanup and repair.
4. The amount of the grant/donation does not exceed \$100,000.
5. Acceptance of the grant/donation does not bind the State to future action or force the State to incur a future cost
6. The total value of grants/donations accepted under this policy does not exceed \$1,000,000

The Joint Fiscal Office shall provide notification of acceptance to the Agency of Administration of eligible grants/donations approved under this policy within 24 hours of submission by the Administration.

The Joint Fiscal Office shall present a list of grants/donations submitted under this policy to the Joint Fiscal Committee at the first Joint Fiscal Committee meeting subsequent to the expiration of the acceptance period.

**DRAFT**

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STATE OF VERMONT  
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members  
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst  
Date: September 9, 2011  
Subject: Grant Request

Enclosed please find one (1) grant request that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration.

**JFO #2522** — \$8,250,000 (estimated) grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Vermont Agency of Transportation. These funds will be used to provide disaster assistance for damages caused by tropical storm Irene in the following counties: Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor. The actual amount of this award may vary subject to damage assessments.

*[JFO received 9/8/11]*

**This grant has been placed on the Joint Fiscal Committee's September 13<sup>th</sup> agenda. JFC members will have the opportunity to vote on acceptance of this grant at that time.**

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at (802) 828-1488; [nlavery@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:nlavery@leg.state.vt.us)) if you have questions.

ONE BALDWIN STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT 05633-5701

✓ SEN. ANN CUMMINGS, CHAIR  
✓ REP. MARTHA HEATH, VICE-CHAIR  
✓ SEN. DIANE SNELLING, CLERK  
✓ REP. JANET ANCEL  
*ab* REP. CAROLYN BRANAGAN

PHONE: (802) 828-2295  
FAX: (802) 828-2483

SEN. JOHN CAMPBELL ✓  
REP. MITZI JOHNSON ✓  
SEN. JANE KITCHEL ✓  
VACANT ✓  
SEN. RICHARD SEARS, JR. ✓



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Agenda

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Room 10, State House

10:30 a.m. Call to Order

1. Overview of Fiscal Issues from Impacts of Tropical Storm Irene  
Jeb Spaulding, Secretary, Agency of Administration  
James Reardon, Commissioner, Department of Finance & Management  
Brian Searles, Secretary, Leonard LeBlanc, Director of Finance and Administration, Alec Portalupi, State Public Assistance Officer, FEMA, Agency of Transportation

11:15 a.m. 2. Consideration of FEMA Grants and other storm related grants **[Accepted]**

11:45 a.m. 3. Proposed Temporary Expedited Review Process Relating to Tropical Storm Irene Grants and Gifts. **[Accepted]**  
Michael J. Obuchowski, Commissioner, Department of Buildings & General Services  
James Reardon, Commissioner, Department of Finance & Management

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

\*Emergency Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the 5<sup>th</sup> floor Pavilion Conference Room.



STATE OF VERMONT  
JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

To: James Reardon, Commissioner of Finance & Management  
From: Senator Cummings, Chair, Joint Fiscal Committee  
Date: September 14, 2011  
Subject: Tropical Storm Irene Grant/Donation Policy Update

Dear Commissioner Reardon,

Yesterday, the Joint Fiscal Committee adopted a special grant/donation acceptance policy for gifts related to the process of recovery from damages inflicted by tropical storm Irene. As you know, state law (32 V.S.A. § 5) prohibits state acceptance of grants/donations without approval from the Governor and Legislature (via the Joint Fiscal Committee). This new policy is intended to accelerate acceptance of donations to the State, and was developed jointly by Legislative branch and Executive branch staff.

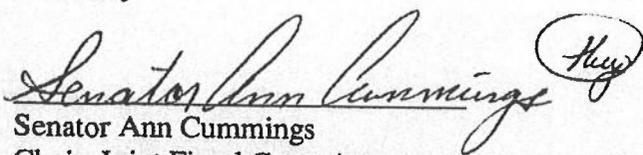
The Joint Fiscal Committee adopted this policy secure in the knowledge that the Executive branch will develop a 24 hour approval process that ensures grants/donations are submitted to the Joint Fiscal Office promptly. The Secretary of Administration made clear the intention to develop such a policy in his letter dated September 2, 2011.

We are concerned that agencies understand that gifts and grants must still be acknowledged and accepted, albeit through the new expedited policy. This process will ensure transparency and compliance with existing law.

We ask that you take such action as is necessary to develop the Executive branch policy, and disseminate it along with the Joint Fiscal Committee policy, to all relevant agencies and departments so that we can put this expedited policy to work for Vermonters.

Vermonters are eager to assist their neighbors in this recovery effort. This policy will allow the State to accept their generosity without delay.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Ann Cummings  
Chair, Joint Fiscal Committee

cc: Joint Fiscal Committee  
Jeb Spaulding, Secretary of Administration