

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





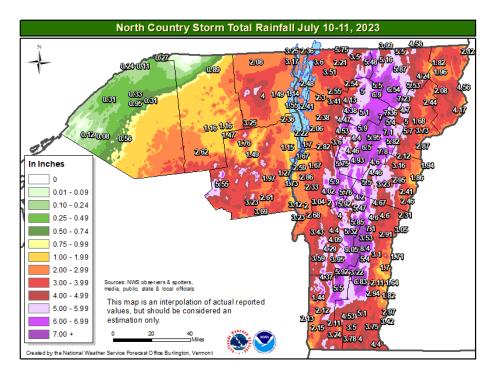


#### **JULY 2023 SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING**

## 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+*

<sup>\*</sup> 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.





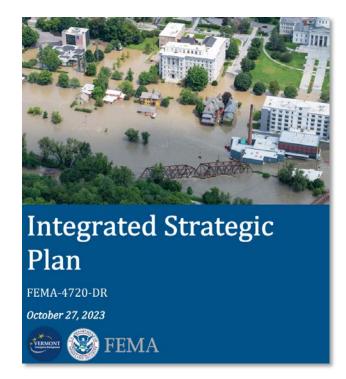
### 2. FLOOD RECOVERY



#### **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





#### 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

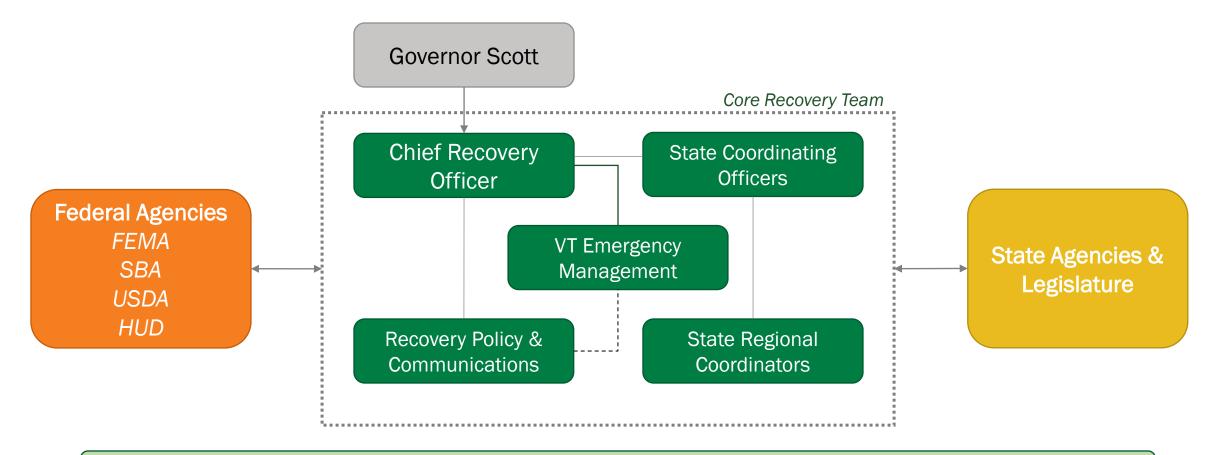
Assistance focused on recovery of impacted infrastructure

Resilient Recovery

Assistance focused on recovery of impacted communities



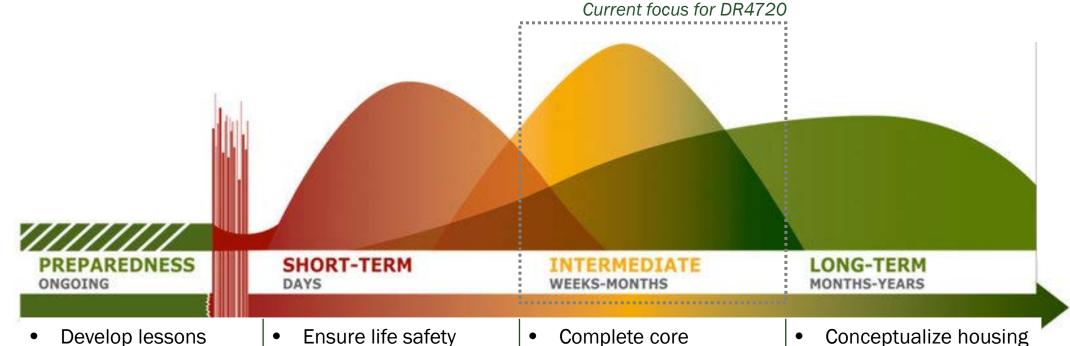
#### RECOVERY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



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



#### RECOVERY TIMELINE



Example Focus Areas Include:

- Develop lessons learned
- Implement process improvements
- Ensure life safety
- Clear debris
- Provide survivor assistance

- infrastructure repairs
- Fund cost recovery through federal sources
- Establish state recovery structure
- Conceptualize housing and economic recovery
- Complete long-term hazard mitigation projects



#### **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

Agriculture Restoration	Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
<b>Economic and Community Development</b>	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) Health and Social Housing Infrastructure Services (HUD) (USACE) (HHS) **Natural** Housing and **Economic** Cultural **Economic** (SBA) Resources (USDA-RD) (DOI)



#### **DEFINING RECOVERY: LONG-TERM**

#### 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.

