

Overview

Damage from the July 2025 storm cleared traditional public assistance thresholds for a disaster declaration but both the initial request and appeal were denied. Vermont has no further legal recourse to pursue federal assistance, as the President has significant discretion where disaster declarations are concerned. This does not represent any change in federal law but is a temporary shift in federal policy.

AOT currently estimates the repair cost of \$2.69m for all reported damage in Caledonia County. Municipalities did experience storm damage outside of Caledonia County but would not have received federal assistance as that damage was below county thresholds.

	Pre-repair Estimate	Proposed grant
Sutton	\$ 2,214,604	\$ 1,107,302
Sheffield	\$ 163,750	\$ 81,875
Newark	\$ 107,152	\$ 53,576
Burke	\$ 208,708	\$ 104,354
Total	\$ 2,694,214	\$ 1,347,107

Proposed Funding Mechanism - Funding would be transferred from AOA’s federal impact reserve to the Town Highway non-federal disaster program. This aligns with the intended purpose of the federal impact reserve.

Award Conditions – Award amounts would be fixed and based off 50% of the current estimated repair cost. Funds would be distributed as reimbursements for actual expenses for repairs to infrastructure which was included in AOT estimates.

Statutory implementation – The administration recommends that language is included in the FY27 budget to transfer the funds and establish the award conditions.