

Vermont Emergency Management **Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Grant Program**

In 2024, the Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Grant Program was established under Act 143 and an allocation of \$3.5 million was made to this fund through an appropriation under Act 113.

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Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

Program Overview

In 2024, the Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Grant Program was established under Act 143 to provide support for disaster mitigation. Act 143 requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) to provide a report annually by November 15 detailing program design and any grants awarded during the preceding year.

One appropriation was made to this program in 2024 under Act 143 under the unobligated General Fund contingent appropriations for \$3,500,000. The appropriation was for grants to municipalities for residential building owners to elevate residential structures at a cost of up to \$300,000 per structure. This appropriation required that municipalities have approved registrations for Individual Assistance related to flooding in calendar year 2023.

The Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Grant Program was developed based on the foundation of program design for the Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF), which was created through appropriations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in 2021 and 2022.

2024 Allocations

In February of 2024, VEM posted a notice of funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) round following the July 2023 flooding in Vermont (DR-4720). This notice of funding included a very basic pre-application form to collect interest in potential hazard mitigation projects, to include residential elevation projects. By the deadline of August 30, 2024, a total of 83 pre-application forms were submitted for residential elevation projects.

VEM reviewed the pre-applications submitted by municipalities and completed an analysis based on data around hardest hit communities from the July 2023 flood from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). Based on this assessment and consultation with the State Recovery Office, it was determined that Barre, Montpelier, Hardwick, Cambridge and Ludlow would be the recipients of this funding for residential elevations. September 2024, funding became available from this appropriation and awards were immediately finalized.

2024 Allocations:

Municipality	Award Amount
City of Barre	\$900,000
City of Montpelier	\$900,000
Town of Hardwick	\$700,000
Town of Cambridge	\$500,000
Town of Ludlow	\$500,000

All available funding was allocated in 2024. No additional allocations or changes to the 2024 allocations were made in 2025. Funding awarded in 2024 is currently being implemented in the above noted communities.

Award Conditions

Municipalities were asked to determine priorities and select residential structures which were impacted by flooding in July 2023 to elevate, with preference given to structures which received a Substantial Damage determination and are not pursuing a property buyout.

Funding was allocated based on the following conditions of award:

- Funding is exclusively for the elevation of residential buildings, to include elevation certificates and engineered designs as necessary to complete the elevation. Funding per structure is not to exceed \$300,000.
- Any elevation receiving funding through this program will be designed and constructed such that the lowest floor and all attendant utilities are elevated at least 2' above the base flood elevation. All projects shall be built in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards outlined in 44 CFR Part 60 and the latest published edition of ASCE 24, as well as any applicable local flood hazard area regulations that meet or exceed the NFIP minimum standards.
- Consultation with the appropriate regional Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Floodplain Manager will be required to ensure that

structures selected are viable for elevation based on their location and flood risk. No work can occur until VEM has received approval from DEC.

- The project, if located in the FEMA-mapped Special Flood Hazard (SFHA), will have obtained all local flood hazard area permit approvals prior to the start of construction. The project will have a completed as-built FEMA Elevation Certificate no later than 6 months after the completion of construction that will be submitted to the community and to VEM to demonstrate compliance with all applicable flood hazard area regulations.
- Once specific structures are selected, the City of Montpelier is required to submit a Historic Preservation Project Review Cover Form to VEM, which VEM will send to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on their behalf. No ground disturbance can occur until VEM has received approval from the SHPO.