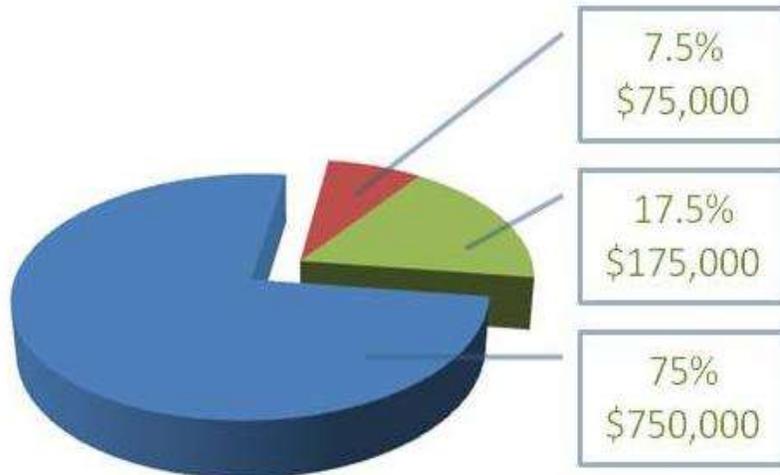


Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund

The Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) provides state funding to match Federal Public Assistance after federally-declared disasters. Eligible public costs are reimbursed by federal taxpayers at 75 percent. For disasters after October 23, 2014, the State of Vermont will contribute an additional 7.5 percent toward the costs. For communities that take specific steps to reduce flood damage, Vermont will contribute either 12.5 percent or 17.5 percent of the total cost.



What is needed?

12.5% eligible communities have adopted four mitigation measures:

1. National Flood Insurance Program (participate or have applied);
2. Town Road and Bridge Standards (annually certify adopted standards that meet or exceed the standards in the 2014-2016 VTrans Orange Book Handbook for Local Officials);
3. Local Emergency Operations Plan (adopt annually after town meeting and submit before May 1);
4. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan requirement can be satisfied if the draft plan has been submitted to FEMA Region 1 for review).

17.5% eligible communities also:

5. Protect river corridors from new encroachment, or protect their flood hazard areas from new encroachments and participate in the FEMA Community Rating System.

After a declared disaster, the damage to public infrastructure including roads and culverts may approach \$1 million. The following table shows how the cost of damage will be carried by federal, state, and municipal taxpayers:

	7.5% ERAF Rate	12.5% ERAF Rate	17.5% ERAF Rate
Federal Share	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
State Share	\$75,000	\$125,000	\$175,000
Municipal Share	\$175,000	\$125,000	\$75,000
100% of \$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund

What does my community need to do?

Visit tinyurl.com/eraf2014 to find out what your community has already done.

How do we update our bylaws to protect river corridors and participate in the National Flood Insurance Program?

Contact the [VT DEC Floodplain Manager for your region](#) and your planner at the [Regional Commission](#).

How do we update and certify our Town Road and Bridge standards?

The 2014-2016 VTrans Orange Book is online at http://vtransoperations.vermont.gov/sites/aot_operations/files/documents/AOT-OPS_OrangeBook.pdf. The selectboard adopts and certifies the standards. Contact [VTrans district staff](#) or your planner at the [Regional Commission](#) for more information.

How do we adopt an approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Support is available through the [Regional Commission](#) and other consulting planners.

How do we update our Local Emergency Operations Plan?

Update it after Town Meeting and then submit it before May 1. Contact your [Regional Commission](#) for help.

Who administers ERAF?

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security manages Public Assistance funds and tracks the eligibility of individual municipalities for state matching funds.

For more information, contact Milly Archer, VLCT's Water Resources Coordinator, at marcher@vlct.org or 802-229-9111, read **Flood Damage Mitigation Incentives for Municipalities under the New ERAF Rule**, a summary of ERAF, at www.vlct.org/assets/MAC/ERAF_11-12.pdf, or visit tinyurl.com/eraf2014.

Milly Archer
Water Resources Coordinator
VLCT Municipal Assistance Center