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News Release

FEDERAL AID FOR IRENE, SPRING 2011 FLOODING TOPS \$100 MILLION

ESSEX JUNCTION, Vt. – As the one-year anniversary of the spring 2011 floods approaches, federal authorities have provided more than \$100 million in financial assistance to Vermonters coping with those storms and Tropical Storm Irene.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that figure includes \$25 million in FEMA aid to individuals and families, \$39.5 million in U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans, and another \$37.4 million in FEMA Public Assistance aid to the state, towns, and other entities for infrastructure repair.

“We are still working with our state, federal, and local partners to complete the recovery from last spring’s floods,” said FEMA’s Federal Coordinating Officer James N. Russo. “And obviously there is much more work to do with recovery from Tropical Storm Irene.”

“But as this year’s flood season approaches, the finish line is in sight for completing the repairs from last spring’s floods,” Russo said. “And hopefully, many communities are now better prepared to withstand any flooding that may occur.”

The spring flooding assistance includes \$3.1 million in FEMA aid to individuals and families, \$6.5 million in U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans, and another \$14.1 million in FEMA Public Assistance.

In addition, FEMA has provided \$21.9 million in Individual Assistance and \$23.3 million in Public Assistance to the state for damage caused by Irene, while the SBA has made roughly \$33 million in low-interest disaster loans to both homeowners and businesses for Irene-related expenses.

The combined totals for Tropical Storm Irene and the spring floods, which occurred between April and May of 2011, are:

- **9,188 registrations** have been received from individuals and families.
- Approximately **\$25 million** in grants approved for individuals and families

- **\$23.2 million** for home repairs or replacement and rental assistance
- **\$1.8 million** for other needs
- **170** individuals received the maximum possible housing grant of **\$30,200**
- Roughly **\$37.4 million** has been obligated in Public Assistance funding for Tropical Storm Irene and the three declared disasters which encompass the spring flooding.
- Approximately **\$39.5 million** has been approved by U.S. Small Business Administration in low-interest disaster loans
 - **\$20.4 million** in home loans
 - **\$19.1 million** in loans to businesses

The Individual Assistance Program provides grants to families and individuals for expenses such as rental and home repair assistance and replacement of personal property. The SBA's Disaster Loan Program provides low-interest loans to residents and businesses to cover uninsured property losses.

FEMA's Public Assistance Program provides local governments and eligible private non-profit organizations in designated counties federal funds to pay 75 percent of the approved cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster, and for repairing or replacing damaged public facilities such as roads, buildings and utilities.

Currently, FEMA estimates that there will be roughly 1,151 projects with a total cost of nearly \$25.3 million eligible to receive Public Assistance funding from the spring 2011 floods, and 944 of these projects have been funded so far.

Another 3,091 Public Assistance projects valued at \$170 million are projected for Tropical Storm Irene damage, and 1,034 have been funded to date.

Both FEMA and the state, which distributes the funds for FEMA to municipalities and non-profits, must review Public Assistance projects to ensure compliance with regulations.

“We are working diligently with all of our partners to not only recover from last spring's floods and Irene but to make sure Vermont is ready for any future disaster,” said Vermont Emergency Management Director Joe Flynn. “While we are hopeful that this year's minimal snowfall will lessen the danger of spring flooding, we must always be vigilant.”

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders and to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.