

Vermont's Economic Recovery & Response

Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development

Joan Goldstein, Commissioner, Dept of Economic Development.

Josh Hanford, Commissioner, Dept of Housing & Community Development

CRFT RECOVERY & RELIEF OVERVIEW

- \$238M for Businesses and Not for Profits
- \$30M for Farmers
- \$100M for Schools
- \$300M for Health Care Stabilization
- \$85M for Housing



Economic Recovery Grants (First Round)

ACT 115 & ACT 137

- Grants for businesses with 50% revenue loss compared to year previous (2019)
 - \$50k grant award cap
- Separate funding sources for: Women Owned Businesses, Minority Owned Businesses, Arts & Cultural Non-Profits & Outdoor Recreation.
 - **First ACCD grants awarded July 22nd**
- **August 17th** ACCD & Tax Department announced supplemental grants that increased the grant award cap to \$150k for businesses the restaurant, lodging and accommodation service industries.
 - **Funds exhausted as of 9/28**

WHAT WE LEARNED

- “Very new” businesses were unable to access funding
- Sole proprietors (who weren’t woman-owned) were unable to access funding needed
 - Businesses with W-2 owners were unable to access funding
- Non-profit organizations received less funding (as proportion of loss) because of revenue calculation requirements
 - Several businesses who applied were under 50% revenue loss threshold

Economic Recovery Grants (First Round)

	Applications	\$ Paid
Tax Department	2,427	\$107.5M
ACCD	1,992	\$54.1M

Economic Recovery Grants "2.0"	H.969 (As Passed)	Description
Economic Recovery Grants	\$76,700,000	Expanded eligibility, grants based on unmet need, \$300k cap
Ski Area Infrastructure Grants	\$2,500,000	Infrastructure updates and upgrades to ensure a safe and vibrant ski season.
Workforce Training Grants	\$2,300,000	Workforce training grants to State Colleges to provide certificate courses and upskilling
U.I. Benefits	\$17,000,000	\$100/week in additional benefits to unemployed
TOTAL	\$102,500,000	

- *ACCD and Tax Department are working on a timeline for new economic recovery grants program.*
 - *Working on application, "unmet need" formula, guidelines...etc.*

Vermont State Housing Authority	Funding	Recipients
Total Funding	\$25,000,000	N/A
Total Funding Paid to Recipients & In-process for payment	\$6,937,202	2,291 households paid back rent, 700 households in process for payment
Remaining Funds	\$17,884,266	Includes program administration expenses
Planned Spend	\$22,000,000	*Estimated at this time without a program extension/expansion
Anticipated Unspent Funding	\$3,00,000*	*Estimated at this time without a program extension/expansion

#The average application volume has increased to 60 a day totaling approximately \$150,000 in requests. VSHA has hired additional staff, established a 3-line call center and expanded to 12 hours a day six days a week. Landlords are receiving an average payment of \$2,364 per unit.

#Assistance in every county in the state, 3 different ways for tenants/landlords to participate

Rental Housing Stabilization Program

Purpose: Provide rental assistance to Vermonters with rental arrearages related to COVID-19 and economic relief for landlords experiencing non-payment of rent.

Program Set-Up: ACCD granted the funding to the Vermont State Housing Authority. Program began accepting applications July 13th, within 10 days of becoming law.



Vermont Housing Finance Agency	Funding	Recipients
Total Funding	\$5,000,000	
Total Funding Awarded to Recipients	\$3,000,000*	432 households (*approximate based on complete pay-out to loan servicers)
Remaining Funds	\$2,000,000	Second Round
Planned Spend	\$2,000,000	Second Round
Anticipated Unspent Funding	\$0	

#The participating households to date have been on average; younger, larger and more racially diverse than VT's demographics

#See VHFA's dashboard on MAP updated weekly:
<https://www.vhfa.org/partners/initiatives/map>

Mortgage Assistance Program

Purpose: Provide financial assistance to Vermonters behind on mortgage payments & property taxes due to COVID-19

Program Set-Up: ACCD granted the funding to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency. Program launched on July 13th, within 10 days of becoming law.



NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Centers Orgs.	Funding	Expected units	Units applied to date
Total Funding	\$6,200,000	N/A	
Total Funding Awarded to Recipients	\$4,875,000	130 Units	243 units
Windham Windsor Housing Trust	\$937,500	25 units	52 units
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont	\$1,687,500	45 units	70 units
Downstreet	\$750,000	20 units	72 units
Champlain Housing Trust	\$750,000	20 units	29 units
Rural Edge	\$750,000	20 units	20 units
Remaining Funds	\$1,325,000	Will be dispersed to grantees with increased need/units	
Anticipated Total Need	\$2,912,500	Will provide additional funding available to grantees on a first come basis	
Anticipated Unspent Funding	\$0		

#Up to \$30,000 grant per unit, with a 10% match required. Target private landlords, with less than 15 units.

#Dec 20th, construction & tenant move-in date of great concern. Projects experiencing delays in materials & increased costs.

Re-Housing Recovery Program

Purpose: Provide grants to regional housing organizations to fund rental rehabilitation of vacant, abandoned & code-noncompliant properties to make housing available for families impacted by COVID-19, including preference for families experiencing homelessness

Program Set-Up: ACCD issued an RFP and received 7 proposals. Five have been selected and are administering programs in the coming months