



**Agency of Commerce and Community Development**

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**TO:** Adam Greshin, Commissioner, Department of Finance and Management  
**FROM:** Lindsay H. Kurrle, Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development;  
Anson Tebbetts, Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets  
**DATE:** December 14, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** CRF Request for \$400,000 additional appropriation to the Vermont Everyone Eats program

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In accordance with Act 137 (Section 6), the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets requests the following CRF reallocation.

**Total Amount Requested:** \$400,000. ACCD and AAFM seek funding to extend the Restaurants and Farmers Feeding the Hungry Program, now known as the Vermont Everyone Eats program through December 30, 2020.

**Response to the Pandemic:** In response to COVID-19, restaurants, farmers, food producers, and community organizations across Vermont have stepped forward to help feed neighbors experiencing food insecurity. The Vermont Everyone Eats program has helped stabilize communities by nourishing Vermonters, alleviating the surging demand on food shelves, and providing economic support to local restaurants, farmers and food producers. ACCD was appropriated \$6 million in previous CRF funding for the program and has granted the funds to a program administrator -- Southeastern Vermont Community Action. Due to a higher-than expected utilization rate, the funding will run out by December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Community Hubs in vulnerable regions such as Rutland County, the Northeast Kingdom, and the Springfield area have far exceeded their original program goals. The program has engaged over 150 restaurants and more than 166 Vermont farms, and had served over 360,000 meals by the end of November. It is managed by 15 distinct "Hub" entities providing meals that are accessible in all 14 Vermont counties. Given the ongoing nature of the pandemic, and its impact upon local economies, maintaining this program is critical. The additional funding is needed to run the program through December 30<sup>th</sup>. This program is actively seeking post-Dec 30 funding, specifically from FEMA.

**Proposed Use of Reallocation:** A recent survey with the Hubs determined there is significant need for and capacity to complete programming through December 30. If the program were extended through December 30<sup>th</sup>, approximately \$360,000 would be needed for additional meals, and \$40,000 allocated to administrative costs at SEVCA, the current grantee and program administrator.

**Confirmation Proposal Complies with CARES Act CRF Guidelines:** As an established program, the Vermont Everyone Eats program has been vetted by both legislative counsel and the Administration's CRF contractor and has been deemed to comply with CRF guidance.