

Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program- ('BEGAP')

Program Purpose and Eligibility: This \$20 million grant program is being established to provide rapid relief to businesses and nonprofits that sustained physical damages from flooding dating back to July 7, 2023. Applicants must intend on restoring, reopening, and bringing their employees back to work in their organizations in Vermont as soon as possible and will utilize the grant funds for that purpose.

Physical Damage: Includes physical loss of use of business assets such as real estate, leasehold improvements, inventory, furniture, and equipment.

Net Uncovered Damage: The damage amount remaining after subtracting any insurance proceeds and other grants or donations used to defray the costs of repairing or replacing those damaged assets.

Grant Amount:

For applicants who have less than \$1,000,000 in net uncovered damages:

- The lesser of 20% of net uncovered damages or \$20,000.

For applicants who have net uncovered damages more than \$1,000,000:

- The lesser of 20% of net uncovered damages or
 - \$100,000 if applicant employs between 1 and 10 FTEs*,
 - \$250,000 if applicant employs between 11 and 50 FTEs,
 - \$500,000 if applicant employs over 50 FTEs.

Applicants submitting applications for more than one property with damages exceeding \$1,000,000 are only eligible for an enhanced award (over \$20,000) for one application.

*The amount of Vermont-based full time equivalent employees prior to the flood event.

Proof of Damages: Photographs (limit 5), insurance adjuster damage assessments, estimates for repairs to, or replacement of, physical structures, equipment, inventory, or supply purchases, or actual paid expenses and other documents as requested.

Award Timing: Applications will be considered, and awards made, on a rolling basis. The program will run until the funding is expended.

Administrative Costs: The Department of Economic Development will use up to 2.5% of the award to fund the cost of administering the program.