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TO: Joint Fiscal Committee  
FROM: June E. Tierney, Commissioner  
DATE: September 25, 2023  
SUBJECT: Emergency Financial Assistance Program for Flood-Impacted Vermonters.

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Per the motion approved at the July 31, 2023 Emergency Board Meeting the Department of Public Service (PSD) was given authority to transfer up to \$10 million of the \$35 million that was appropriated in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. G.600(a)(2), as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 67 and 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.118, to make grants to Efficiency Vermont to fund flood relief measures that are consistent with 30 VSA § 2 (e).

The motion also stated that the Commissioner of Public Service shall report on the amounts and use of funds distributed for replacement of Vermonters' flood-damaged and -destroyed appliances at the September and November 2023 Joint Fiscal Committee meetings.

**Progress to Date:**

The Residential Recovery Program was officially launched by Efficiency Vermont on September 6, 2023.

Efficiency Vermont held two webinars to present information on flood recovery funding program on August 10<sup>th</sup> (which had 310 participants) and September 20<sup>th</sup> (which had 162 participants). They have also completed 20 Flood Recovery Virtual Home Energy Visits and have scheduled 8 more. They have also had a lot of traffic on their website with 2,500+ flood rebate page views, with 1,300 unique visitors (indicating people are researching programs before applying). Direct community-based outreach has included emails to over 60 town officials and community-based organizations and in-person events in Barre and Montpelier. Flyers were distributed in Johnson, Barre, and Montpelier.

As of September 21, 2023 Efficiency Vermont has received 10 residential applications for the flood recovery program and has provided 3 payments (all to non-FEMA-eligible customers) totaling \$17,475. Efficiency Vermont started receiving FEMA data on September 15, 2023 that they must use to ensure there is not duplicative funding provided to households. Calculation and processing of payments for FEMA-eligible residential customers is expected to be completed this week.





Additional in-person community events are scheduled for Ludlow, Greensboro, Marshfield, and Jeffersonville. There will also be information provided in utility bill inserts and direct mail to 20,000 residents slated for early October.

