



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members
From: Sorsha Anderson, Senior Staff Associate
Date: January 24, 2025
Subject: Grant Request – JFO #3237

Enclosed please find one (1) item, which the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the Administration. ***This item is being held for the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting scheduled for January 31, 2025.***

JFO #3237: \$3,079,448.00 to the Department of Public Safety from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Funds to provide disaster assistance for emergency work and the repair/replacement of disaster damaged facilities during the severe storm and flooding events July 29-31, 2024, in Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties. State match of 25% met through ERAF and local recipients. *[Received 1/2/2025]*

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Sorsha Anderson, sanderson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions before the meeting.



#3237

State of Vermont

Department of Finance & Management
109 State Street, Pavilion Building
Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

Agency of Administration

[phone] 802-828-2376

STATE OF VERMONT FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM

Grant Summary:		To provide Federal disaster assistance for emergency work and the repair/replacement of disaster damaged facilities during the severe storm and flooding event for the period July 29-31, 2024 in Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties. DR-4826			
Date:		12/20/2024			
Department:		DPS VEM			
Legal Title of Grant:		Disaster Grants- Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)			
Federal Catalog #:		97.036			
Grant/Donor Name and Address:		Federal Emergency Management Agency			
Grant Period:	From:	9/26/2024	To:	9/26/2028	
Grant/Donation		\$3,079,448			
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Total	Comments
Grant Amount:	\$1,231,777	\$1,539,724	\$307,947	\$3,079,448	
Position Information:		# Positions	Explanation/Comments		
		0			
Additional Comments:					
Department of Finance & Management		Adam Greshin <small>Digitally signed by Adam Greshin Date: 2024.12.23 19:10:12 -05'00'</small>		(Initial)	
Secretary of Administration		Sarah Clark <small>Digitally signed by Sarah Clark Date: 2024.12.23 19:10:12 -05'00'</small>		(Initial)	
Sent To Joint Fiscal Office		Anna Reinold <small>Digitally signed by Anna Reinold Date: 2025.01.02 12:47:56 -05'00'</small>		Date	

Jason Aronowitz
Digitally signed by Jason Aronowitz
Date: 2024.12.20 19:10:12 -05'00'





State of Vermont
Department of Public Safety
45 State Drive
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1300
(802) 241-5000
TTY/TDD (888) 545-7598
www.dps.vermont.gov

December 16, 2024

To: Jason Aronowitz, Senior Budget & Management Analyst

From: Sarah Prior, Financial Administrator

Re: Request for Grant Acceptance

Attached you will find our request for Grant Acceptance (Form AA-1) for the FEMA Public Assistance grant program for FEMA-DR-4826-VT.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Sarah.Prior@vermont.gov.

Respectfully,

Sarah

Cc: Kristine Seipel, Financial Manager

Cc: Melissa Austin, Financial Manager

Cc: Richard Hallenbeck, Director of Administration and Finance

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION

1. Agency:			
2. Department:	Public Safety		
3. Program:	Vermont Emergency Management		
4. Legal Title of Grant:	Disaster Grants- Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)		
5. Federal Catalog #:	97.036		
6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:	Federal Emergency Management Agency		
7. Grant Period:	From:	9/26/2024	To: 9/26/2028
8. Purpose of Grant:	To provide Federal disaster assistance for emergency work and the repair/replacement of disaster damaged facilities during the severe storm and flooding event for the period July 29-31, 2024 in Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties.		
9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:	Eligible State, Local, and Non-Profit agencies may have to bear the full cost of the disaster related expenses. Budget information below is based on the Preliminary Damage Assessment, SF-424 submission, and allowable State Management Cost.		

10. BUDGET INFORMATION

	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
Expenditures:	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	
Personal Services	\$105,151	\$131,440	\$26,289	CAT Z MC 100%
Operating Expenses	\$	\$	\$	
Grants	\$1,502,167	\$1,877,713	\$375,546	Subgrants 75% Federal Share 25% Match
Total	\$1,607,318	\$2,009,153	\$401,835	
Revenues:				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$183,291	\$229,114	\$45,823	ERAF 12.20%
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$1,231,777	\$1,539,724	\$307,947	MC 100% & Subgrants 75%
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source Local Match)	\$192,250	\$240,315	\$48,065	Subgrant Match 12.80%
Total	\$1,607,318	\$2,009,153	\$401,835	

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

Appropriation No:	2140030000 Fund 22005	Amount:	\$1,231,777
	2140030000 Fund 21555		\$183,291
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
		Total	\$1,415,068

PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION


11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.

Appointing Authority Name: _____ Agreed by: _____ (initial)

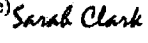
12. Limited Service Position Information:	# Positions	Title
Total Positions		

12a. Equipment and space for these positions: ☐ Is presently available. ☐ Can be obtained with available funds.

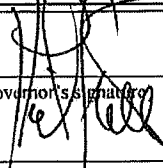
13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):	Signature: 	Date: 12/5/2024
	Title: Daniel Batsie, Deputy Commissioner	
	Signature:	Date:
	Title:	

14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved:	(Secretary or designee signature) 	Date: 12/27/2024
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15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check One Box: Accepted		Date: 12/31/24
<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected		

16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Required GRANT Documentation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Request Memo	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable)

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

☐ Grant Budget

End Form AA-1

(*) The term "grant" refers to any grant, gift, loan, or any sum of money or thing of value to be accepted by any agency, department, commission, board, or other part of state government (see 32 V.S.A. §5).

DocuSigned by:

Melissa Austin 12/27/2024

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DS

RA

12/5/2024

DECLARED SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

SUMMARY

STATE: Vermont

NUMBER: FEMA-4826-DR

INCIDENT: Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides

INCIDENT PERIOD: July 29-31, 2024

DATE REQUESTED BY GOVERNOR: August 28, 2024

FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER: William F. Roy
National FCO Program

DESIGNATIONS AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE (Assistance to individuals and households):

Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities):

Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (Assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long term risk to life and property from natural hazards):

All areas in the State of Vermont are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

OTHER: Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**REQUEST FOR MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION
GOVERNOR'S REQUEST COVER LETTER**

August 27, 2024

The Honorable Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Through: Ms. Lori Ehrlich
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 1
220 Binney Street
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I request you declare a Major Disaster for the State of Vermont for severe storms, flooding, flash flooding, landslides and mudslides in three counties from July 29-31, 2024. I am specifically requesting Individual and Public Assistance for the Counties of Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans; Hazard Mitigation Assistance statewide; Including Individuals and Households Program, Disaster Case Management, Crisis Counseling Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and Disaster Legal Services); as well as any other available federal disaster assistance, including but not limited to U.S. Small Business Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance.

A State of Emergency remained in effect as of July 29, 2024, as reaffirmed in my Addendum 2 to Amended And Restated Executive Order No. 03-23 Declaration of State of Emergency, Guard Call-Out and Activation of Emergency Operations Plan for the State of Vermont in Response to Anticipated Storm-Related Damage executed on August 8, 2024 and Addendum 3 to Amended And Restated Executive Order No. 03-23 Declaration of State of Emergency, Guard Call-Out and Activation of Emergency Operations Plan for the State of Vermont in Response to

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Anticipated Storm-Related Damage [Housing Response to Storm-Related Damage] executed August 9, 2023. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) remained in Partial Activation status following the storm events that had occurred from July 9-11, 2024 (DR4810 (Severe Storm, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides, July 9-11, 2024, declared on August 20, 2004). The operational period ran from 0800hrs to 2000hrs each day and then reverting to Monitoring Status by the Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) Watch Officer and the Director of VEM during overnight periods. Multiple conference calls with the National Weather Service offices in Burlington, Vermont and Albany, NY occurred with state agencies and utility companies.

National Weather Service Overview

"During the late-night hours of July 29, 2024, into the early morning of July 30, 2024, a cluster of heavy showers and thunderstorms developed across central Vermont, then moved north northeastward toward Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties. This band of heavy rain and thunderstorms remained nearly stationary over Caledonia, Essex, and eastern Orleans counties yielding between 6-8 inches of total rainfall. Most of this fell within a roughly 3-6-hour period with rainfall rates exceeding 2 inches/hour at times. The results were localized flash flooding leading to numerous road washouts in the three counties.

The heaviest rainfall was due to a series of heavy showers and thunderstorms that continuously moved near the border of Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties during the late night/early morning hours of July 29, 30 respectively. Localized rainfall totals of 6.00-8.00 inches were observed, much of which fell in a short period of 3-6 hours. Rainfall rates exceeded 2.00 inches/hour at times over the period of 3-6 hours. This overcame local drainage ability. The rainfall caused flash flooding which led to washouts and inundation of several roadways.

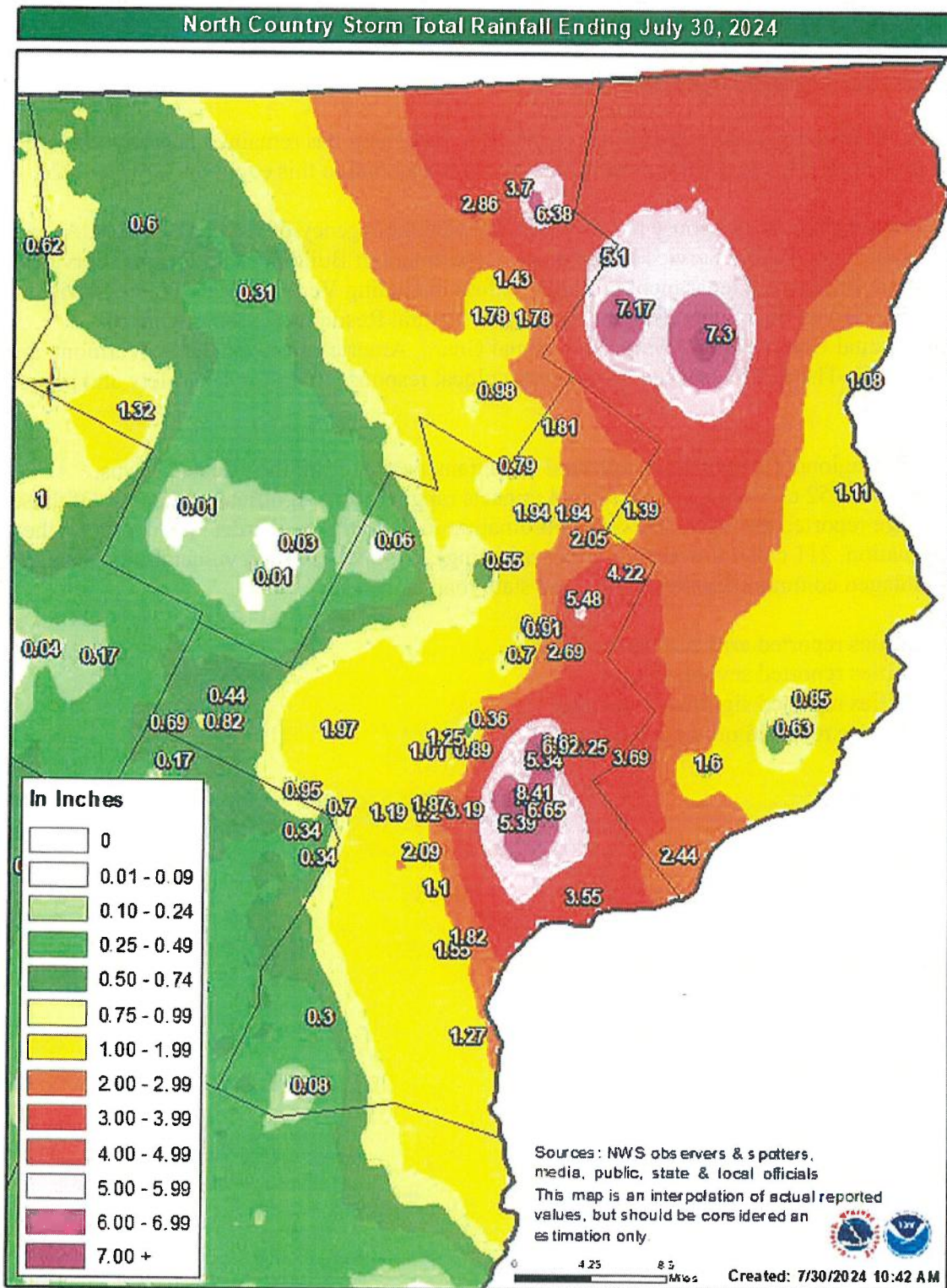
While heaviest rainfall was localized, some area rivers did show rapid rises and reached minor to moderate flood, primarily in the Passumpsic River and its tributaries."

-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service - Eastern Region -(August 20, 2024).

For complete details of these events, please refer below to Weather Summary, **Enclosure C: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service - Eastern Region, Heavy Rain and Flood Event in Northeast Vermont July 29-30, 2024, Report**. Although the National Weather Service report reflects that the meteorological event ended on July 30, mudslides and landslides directly attributed to the precipitation were documented by the State Geologist on July 31 as discussed below in the **VT DEC Landslide** section.

The following map depicts localized rainfall amounts on July 30, 2024:

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The National Weather Service began sending out information warning of potential impacts of this system several days in advance. VEM personnel participated in several briefings with the

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National Weather Service Burlington, VT and Albany, NY meteorologists for forecasting data and prepare for the potential impacts to the state.

Statewide Emergency Response

The State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) in Waterbury has remained partially activated since July 11, 2024, and directed operational focus to respond to this event on July 30, 2024.

Partners supporting the response to this event included the Agency of Human Services, Agency of Transportation, Public Service Department, Department of Buildings and General Services, Department of Health, Department of Public Safety, including Vermont State Police, Division of Fire Safety, Urban Search and Rescue, Agency of Natural Resources - Department of Environmental Conservation, Vermont National Guard, American Red Cross, SerVermont, and Vermont 211. The SEOC focused on supporting local response to ensure life safety and property preservation.

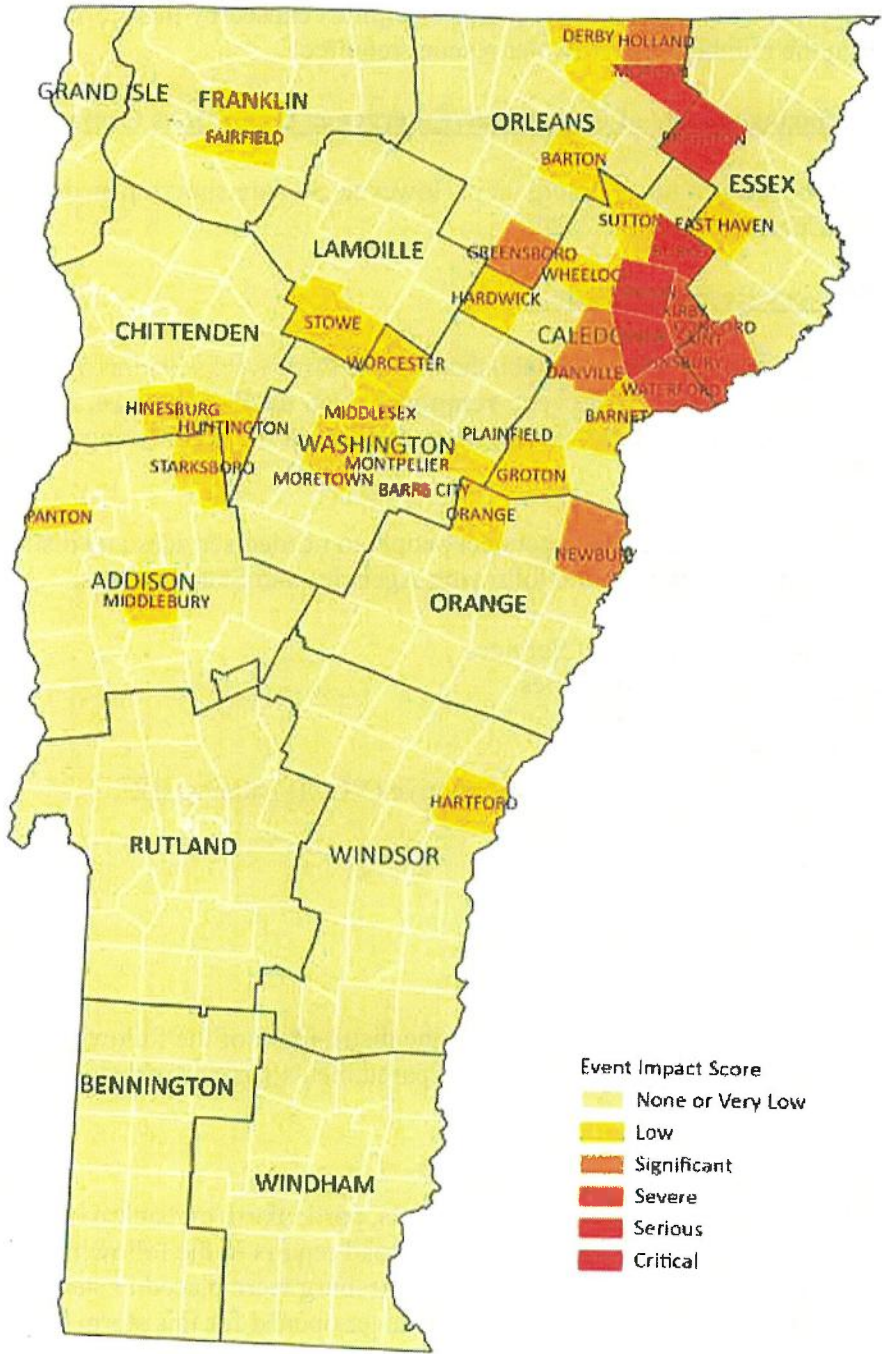
The VEM Regional Coordinators collected local damage data from the affected towns. Of Vermont's 252 cities and towns, 33 had impacts ranging from significant to major. Of those, the damage reported through follow-up coordination identified 5 as "hardest hit" based on the local situation, 211 call volume (individual reporting), regional assessed vulnerability, Justice 40 disadvantaged communities, landslides, and state road closures.

5 towns/cities reported critical/serious damage
4 towns/cities reported severe damage
4 towns/cities reported significant damage
21 towns/cities reported minor damage

(See map below)

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July 29-31, 2024 Vermont Flood Event Hardest Hit Towns



Of those, the damage reported in the state's "hardest hit" based on the local situation, 211 call volume (individual reporting), regional planning commissions assessed vulnerability, "Justice 40" disadvantaged communities, landslides, and state road closures.

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Storm related Casualties and/or Deaths

Fortunately, there were no reported deaths or injuries caused by this storm. That is remarkable considering the number of Swiftwater rescues required.

Towns Declaring a State of Emergency/Emergency Operations Centers Opened

No towns declared a State of Emergency. However, St. Johnsbury opened their Emergency Operations Center on July 30, 2024.

Flood Recovery Resource Centers

A State Flood Recovery Center, established for the three weeks beginning July 24, 2024 in response to the July 9-11, 2024 event, **remained open until August 14, 2024 in Lyndonville for residents impacted by this event**, as an element of the broader ongoing statewide response to DR-4810.

The purpose of these centers is to connect people to needed services and distribute necessities. Services were offered through the following Agencies and State partners:

American Red Cross

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Services

Community Mental Health Agencies

Division of Financial Regulation

Economic Services Division

Field Services/Vermont Chronic Care Initiative (VCCI) Nursing staff.

Fire Safety

Salvation Army

VT 211

Vermont Department of Health

Vermont Department of Labor

315 households were served. Included was the distribution of the following: 555 cleaning kits, 36 water testing kits, 88 hygiene kits. 1,704 prepared meals were provided.

Shelters

No local shelters were activated. Many residents, particularly on backroads in Lyndon, were isolated and sheltered in place until temporary road repairs in the following days. Two American Red Cross (ARC) shelters in Barre City and Hinesburg were placed in stand-by, but never opened. Staff and supplies were in-place, but never opened for this storm event.