

# The Vermont Community Development Program announces Approval of CDBG-DR Action Plan, Applications Available

By: Josh Hanford, Vermont Community Development Program

“We are pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has approved [Vermont’s Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Action Plan](#). CDBG-DR applications are now available through the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development (DEHCD). A total of \$21.6 million in HUD CDBG-DR funding is available to help communities, businesses, organizations and individuals with long term disaster recovery. The funding will be distributed through both a competitive grant application process and state direct allocations, as outlined in the Action Plan.”

**Individuals pursuing FEMA “buy-outs” for their damaged properties do not need to submit an application to the state to access CDBG-DR funding for the 25% match.** CDBG-DR funding has been made available to the regional planning commissions through the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) to provide this assistance directly to property owners. TRORC is working with property owners, municipalities and the Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) staff to coordinate property “buy-outs”. TRORC will be in direct communication with all known property owners in the coming weeks. For more information please call the **HMGP Information Line at 1-866-953-2325** or email questions to TRORC at [kgeiger@trorc.org](mailto:kgeiger@trorc.org) .

**Individuals needing assistance with housing repair and recovery do not need to submit an application to the state to access CDBG-DR funding.** CDBG-DR funding for housing recovery will be distributed through the statewide network of homeownership centers, also known as the NeighborWorks Alliance of Vermont, and will be administered by Gilman Housing Trust. The homeownership centers operate in all regions of the state and will provide direct assistance to homeowners and small rental property owners impacted by last years’ flooding. The funding is available for rehabilitation and flood damage repairs, services, grants and low interest loans. In addition, the HOCs will provide financial counseling services to assist with home purchase, foreclosure prevention and advocacy assistance with lenders, insurance, FEMA and other flood programs. The HOCs will serve as the source for CDBG-DR funding for flood repair and replacement housing. If you are in need of assistance please contact them directly at **888 MY VT HOME (698-8466)**.

**If you are an individual in need of disaster recovery assistance and you do not already have a case manager working with you, please contact Dawn Butterfield at 1-800-846-9506 to get one assigned to you.** Case managers can play a critical role in your recovery and are the best people to assist you with connecting all the resources available to you and addressing your individual needs.

**Grant applications are now being accepted from communities, organizations, farms, businesses and other groups impacted by last years’ flooding.** \$8 million in competitive grant funding is available to restore community infrastructure, build and relocate replacement housing and assist businesses re-open and recover. Potential applicants should review the information provided on the CDBG-DR website [http://accd.vermont.gov/strong\\_communities/opportunities/funding/cdbgdrr](http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/cdbgdrr) and email general questions to [ACCD.CDBGDisasterRecovery@state.vt.us](mailto:ACCD.CDBGDisasterRecovery@state.vt.us) .

Several **CDBG-DR Application Workshops** have been scheduled to assist potential applicants with the process and provide information about the grant program. On-line applications are available at <http://development.grants.vermont.gov> and will require a registration process to ensure eligibility. If you have already attended a CDBG-DR Application Workshop or have

already received technical assistance and wish to start an application, please contact Cindy Blondin at [\(802\) 828-5219](tel:802-828-5219) or [cindy.blondin@state.vt.us](mailto:cindy.blondin@state.vt.us) to register.