



State of Vermont
Agency of Administration
Office of the Secretary
Pavilion Office Building
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0201
www.adm.state.vt.us

[phone] 802-828-1354
[fax] 802-828-3322

Sue Minter, Irene Recovery Officer

Irene Recovery – Overview

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- 1) Welcome
- 2) Irene's Impact & The Recovery Continuum
 - a. Response
 - b. Recovery
 - c. Preparedness
- 3) Individual Recovery: Vermont – A National Model
 - a. Disaster Case Management & Regional Recovery Organizations
 - i. Long Term Recovery Committees – volunteer driven
 - ii. Disaster Case Managers
 - iii. Home Rebuild efforts & ongoing volunteer mobilization
 - iv. Department of Labor Grant – unemployed Vermonters in recovery mission
 - b. Federal Recovery Programs
 - i. FEMA Individual Assistance
 - ii. CDBG- Disaster Relief (Agency of Commerce)
 - iii. Hazard Mitigation and Home Buy Outs (Vermont Emergency Management)
 - c. Vermont Disaster Relief Fund: Statewide Long Term Recovery Committee
 - i. Private Non- Profit (non-governmental)
 - ii. Statewide fundraising for long term recovery
- 4) Community & Economic Recovery
 - a. FEMA Long Term Community Recovery (Wilmington, Waterbury)
 - b. CDBG- DR: Business Assistance and Housing Development (ACCD)
 - c. Agriculture Case Management (Agency of Ag.)
 - d. Economic Development Agency Initiatives (ACCD)
 - e. FEMA Public Assistance Program (VEM)
 - i. Town/ Infrastructure Rebuilding
- 5) Infrastructure and Ecosystem Recovery
 - a. State and town infrastructure repair : Building back stronger
 - b. River restoration and debris removal
 - i. Emergency Watershed Protection
- 6) Preparing for Future Disasters
 - a. Restructuring Vermont Emergency Management
 - i. Establishing Recovery and Mitigation branch
 - b. Institutionalizing Lessons Learned from Irene
 - i. Recovery with an eye to the future: resilience



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**FEMA Public Assistance
for
Tropical Storm Irene
Status as of 11/26/12**

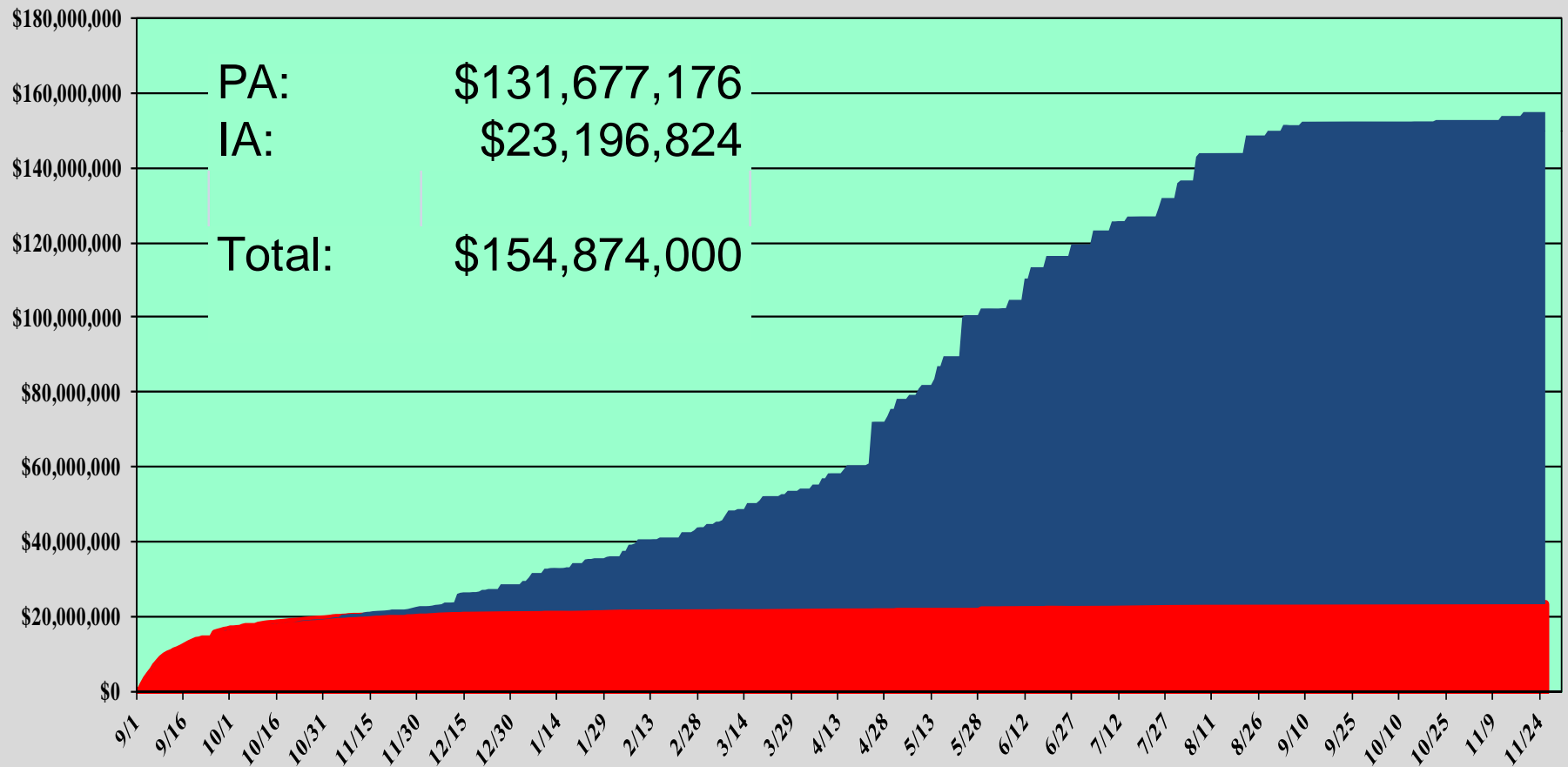
- Statewide 292 applicants were deemed eligible for FEMA Public Assistance.
- To date, 3,289 project worksheets (PWs) have been written by FEMA, of which 3,103 -- 94% -- have been obligated. Federal share obligated to date (at 90%) is \$131,677,176.
- \$81,910,640 has been disbursed by the State of Vermont to sub-grantees. (Note: of the approximately \$50M obligated but not disbursed, most is for large projects which will not be constructed until 2013.)
- There were 440 “large projects” (defined as larger than \$63,900). Of these, approximately half have been completed and are ready for close-out.
- The state Public Assistance team within Vermont Emergency Management continues to support applicants through the FEMA PA process:
 - Ongoing advocacy with FEMA counterparts on PWs to administer:
 - scope change requests (88); appeals (34), time extension requests (15); improved project requests (18), Alternate Project Requests (19);
 - Teleconferences and outreach memos in partnership with VLCT;
 - Workshops on FEMA PA program & FEMA Audit preparations;
 - Survey of remaining municipal funding gaps.
- The state has worked to support towns that FEMA did not reimburse for debris removal (primarily Bennington, Woodford, and Rockingham). A potential appeal was averted when FEMA amended its debris removal policy, following persistent advocacy by Congressional Delegation. New project worksheets are now being developed.
- On 10/18/12, FEMA Region 1 denied State of Vermont appeal of Project Worksheet #01803 (related to codes and standards for culverts, as specifically related to a large culvert on the Townshend Dam Road). A second appeal to FEMA Headquarters is under development.

Money on the streets for DR-4022

FEMA-4022-DR-VT
Money on the Street

As of : 11/27/2012

■ IA ■ PA



Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Allocation - \$21.6 million

From U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

Available to help communities, businesses, organizations and individuals with long term disaster recovery and to meet unmet housing, economic, and community infrastructure needs. HUD requires that 80% of the funds be used in Washington, Windsor and Windham counties.

After public outreach and hearings, plan for use of the funds submitted to and approved by HUD.

Uses

Housing Recovery (rehab, downpayments, financial counseling)	\$3.9 million
Match for FEMA Buyouts	\$5.8 million
Downtown Assistance and Marketing for Recovering Communities	\$650,000
Business, economic recovery, housing replacement and infrastructure grants awarded on a competitive basis	\$8 million
Contingency	\$2.2 million
State Administration (Over 5 years)	\$1.1 million

Applications for competitive grant funds now being accepted. ACCD staff reviews within 30 days. Funding recommendations made by the Vermont Community Development Board monthly with final decisions made by ACCD Secretary Lawrence Miller

First funding (\$1.5 million) of competitive grants was announced on November 8th.

\$1 million for grants and loans for businesses

\$100,000 to Waterbury for planning and feasibility work for new municipal office complex.

\$100,000 to the Brattleboro Housing Authority to plan and site redevelopment of Melrose Terrace.

\$309,000 to Johnson to bring a grocery store back to the community.

Next board meeting December 12th. \$6.5 million remains. 14 applications in process.

Information available at:

http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/cdbgdr





Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Department of Public Safety
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101
<http://vem.vermont.gov>

Toll free 800-347-0488
phone 802-244-8721
fax 802-241-5556

Memorandum

To: Sue Minter, Recovery Officer

From: Ross Nagy, Deputy Director

Date: November 27, 2012

HMGP allocation & obligations to date:

- Total HMGP allocations from 2011 and 2012 declarations: \$34 million
- 73 applications submitted under first two rounds; 53 applications approved
- HMGP totals for submitted applications (first two rounds): \$23.4 million, representing a \$17.5 million federal share
- Total HMGP federal dollars approved to date: \$12.4 million

Third round: 23 applications submitted, representing approximately \$5 million in project costs.

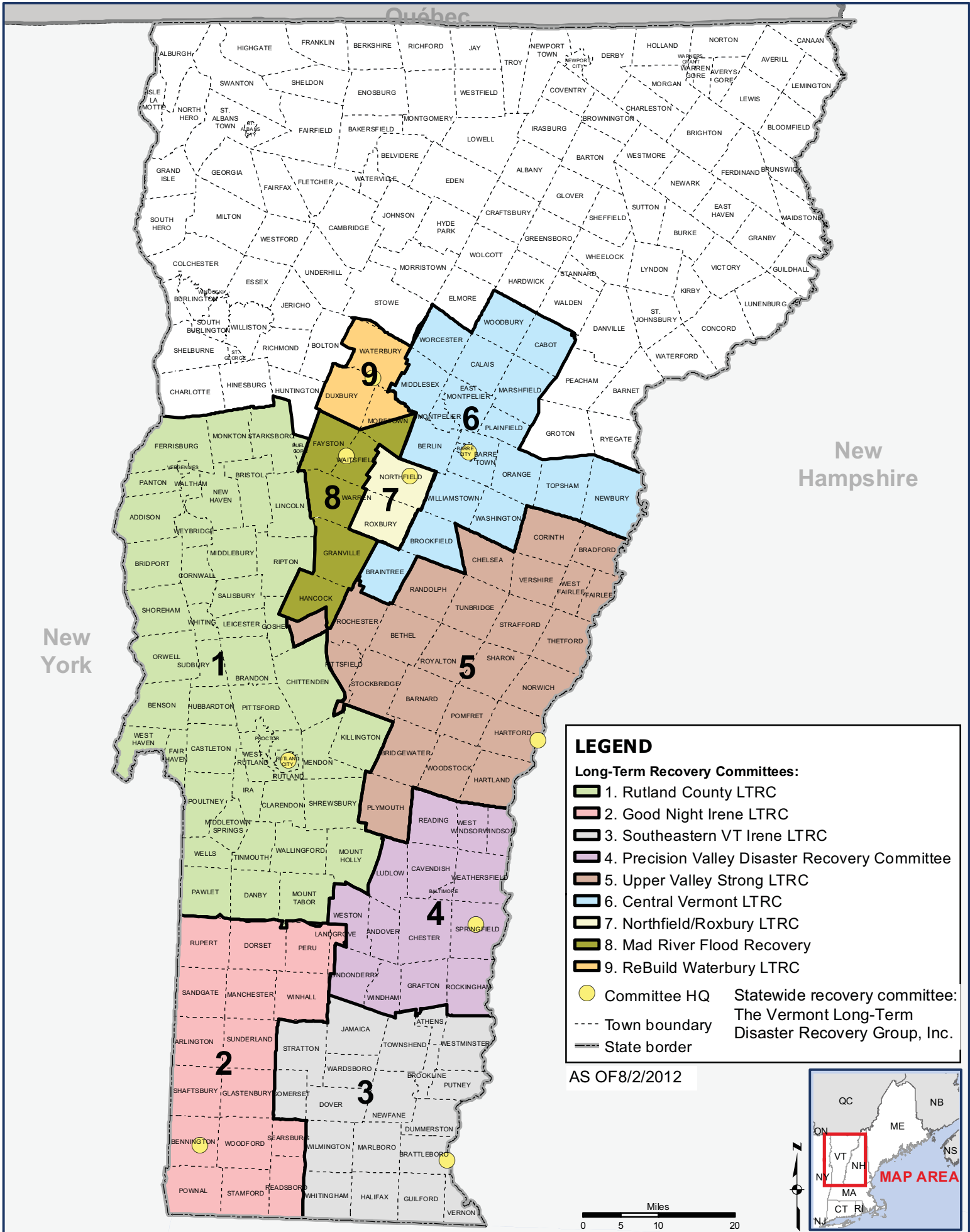
FEMA HMGP approvals:

- 81 property acquisitions (buy-outs), mostly primary residences
- 5 planning grants and initiative projects
- 7 infrastructure upgrades (roads, bridges, culverts)
- HMGP applications yet to be approved: 20 applications from the first 2 rounds
- Home buy-outs yet to be approved: 33

HMGP subgrant agreements issued by the Department of Public Safety to date:

- Property acquisitions: 17 towns (all 81 approved acquisitions)
- Drainage/infrastructure upgrades: 2 towns
- Planning/5% initiative grants: towns/agencies

Vermont Long-Term Recovery Committees – FEMA-4022-DR-VT



Summary of Repair/Rebuild Cases Identified by Disaster Case Managers and Long Term Recovery Committees

Total Number of Cases Opened: 615
 Number of Cases Closed: 116
 Number of Current Open Cases: 499

268 of the 499 open cases have completed the assessment process and are in need of some sort of repair/rebuild as summarized in the table below. The remaining 231 cases have either not completed the assessment process, are in the HMGP buyout program or have recovery needs that are not categorized as repair/rebuild.

Long Term Recovery Committee Project Construction List

LTRC name	Area	Project Count	Total Rebuild	Mold	Excavation	Foundation
Vermont Long Term Disaster Relief Group	Northeast Kingdom & all areas not listed below	23	0	8	4	6
Rutland County LTRC	Rutland County	17	1	3	2	0
Good Night Irene LTRC	Bennington County	0	0	0	0	0
Southeastern Vermont Irene LTRC	Windham County	57	4	8	9	4
Precision Valley Disaster Recovery Committee	Springfield, Grafton, Chester, Ludlow**	5	2			1
Upper Valley Strong LTRC	Upper Windsor Valley, Rochester, Bethel	105	4	11	43	8
	Lower Orange County					
Northfield/Roxbury LTRC	Northfield, Roxbury	11		4	3	2
Mad River Valley LTRC	Waitsfield, Warren, Fayston, Moretown, Hancock, Granville	14	1	2	3	2
ReBuild Waterbury LTRC	Waterbury, Duxbury, Moretown, Bolton	27		0	7	
Central Vermont LTRC	Washington County, Brookfield, Braintree	9		3	1	2
Totals		268	12	39	72	25

Assessments continuing in this region; additional cases anticipated.



Case for Support

Tropical Storm Irene: The Worst Vermont Disaster since 1927

From the first hours after Tropical Storm Irene left the state it became clear that Vermont would need an unprecedented organized recovery effort. Tropical Storm Irene measures the 6th in total damages of all-time US hurricanes. It caused \$733 million in damage to Vermont infrastructure, businesses and homes and was the worst Vermont disaster since the flood of 1927.

Even just a few of the statistics of the storm, if known and comprehended soon afterwards, would have been daunting:

- The estimated \$733,000,000 in damages amount to two-thirds of Vermont's annual state government budget. The damages were equally to infrastructure and residential properties, plus agriculture and business losses.
- Over 500 miles of state roads, 2,260 town road segments, and 311 bridges were severely damaged, destroyed or closed.
- Tens of thousands were stranded and without power, and thousands of those no longer had safe homes or homes at all.
- Dozens of public facilities—from hospitals to public buildings to sewage and water systems—needed substantial work.
- Rivers, streams, forests, and farmland suffered significant contamination, destruction, and erosion.
- Individuals and families with personal losses—the focus of this funding request—were in the thousands, with 7,252 FEMA assistance applications filed by September 2012.

Vermont's Response to Unmet Personal Needs of 800 Surviving Families

The Vermont Long-Term Disaster Recovery Group (the Group) was established as an independent non-profit organization to specifically coordinate resources and deliver donor dollars to those in need for the most basic human needs necessary for recovery. Its nine-member Board consists of volunteer private citizens who are respected in the state and skilled in human services delivery, organization, fiscal management, and fundraising. The Group's charge is to:

- coordinate long-term recovery efforts for Vermont's families and individuals throughout the state, bringing together the efforts of local and regional disaster recovery groups and Funds,
- oversee a disaster case management system through local committees to assist survivors of Irene to develop individual recovery plans,
- raise money for a new Fund to be called the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund (VDRF), and

- allocate the Fund’s resources to individuals who need assistance beyond what FEMA, insurance companies, and local recovery funds could provide.

The Vermont Long-Term Disaster Recovery Group estimated from nearly the beginning that Vermont would need \$10 million to provide this “last-resort” assistance for unmet needs. They learned from other natural disasters the restrictions and qualifications of FEMA - a \$30,200 cap, for example, on any individual application, for which only about 3% of all applications will qualify. A year later, FEMA has made average disbursements of \$5,600 per case in Vermont to a total of 5,162 cases as of September.

The Vermont Long-Term Disaster Recovery Group Board members also quickly learned that landlocked Vermont had only about 3,500 households who paid for specific flood insurance policies. They knew that most homeowners’ policies had minimum or capped payments for damages caused by rising waters and burst dams. They also factored in what local emergency funds, both public and private, might be available. Today, with all the other Vermont sources of funding making their final disbursements, the \$10 million number still appears to be on the mark. And to the extent that not all of the funds raised by VDRF are ultimately allocated to Irene survivors, the remainder will be set aside for addressing the needs arising from the next serious disaster to strike Vermont, since the organization has an on-going mission as the “funder of last resort” for addressing future emergencies.

How Families are Qualified and Helped

When an individual has exhausted all other resources and still has significant unmet needs/losses, that person’s Local Long-term Recovery Committee (of which there are nine around the state) and the disaster case manager can then help the family apply to the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund, if necessary, as the last source for unmet needs. The VDRF’s Board Allocations Committee itself has a set of criteria for then awarding funds. Once funds are awarded to a family, they are not paid directly to the applicant, but to vendors who submit bills to the disaster case manager for approved work done or goods delivered. Examples of funded efforts include drilling of new wells, replacing septic systems, foundation repair, home reconstruction, new appliances, furnace and water heater replacement, and property mitigation.

All survivors are means tested and must demonstrate not only need but personal financial and/or sweat equity participation in their own recovery.

Here are examples of some of the 230 awards through mid-November 2012:

- \$20,000 for a family who, after a very difficult evacuation, was still displaced after four months because of needed repairs for severe foundation and first floor damage.
- \$10,000 for a single mother with a young child to repair her significantly damaged house, which was also her source of livelihood as an in-home daycare provider.
- \$2,846 for a disabled veteran and her husband whose damaged basement was molding and whose single income was unable to finish the repairs.
- \$18,174 for parents and two minor children whose gutted home was rebuilt mostly by the husband using all their savings with none left to rebuild the final, necessary septic system.
- \$25,000 to assist in the purchase of a replacement mobile home for an elderly couple who had resided in the same mobile park for 32 years and lost their home completely.

For many Vermont families, getting by in the best of times is a challenge. These residents along with hundreds of other families whose insurance had limited or no coverage for flooding suddenly were faced

with the overwhelming task of finding tens of thousands of dollars for unforeseen repairs, relocations, or purchases. Their need is the last humanitarian challenge to be met in this final phase of recovery.

Each of these cases represents a family—perhaps parents with several kids, perhaps a single mother and a child, perhaps a multi-generational family, perhaps a non-traditional family, perhaps a family with a home business on which other families rely. In short, these cases are over 2,000 men, women and children who need to get back into a home and who have exhausted all other avenues of support.

Many of them are employees and even employers. For every day they continue living in temporary housing, struggling to work around possessions lost, dealing with their kids in new schools, or facing paperwork and bills related to reclaiming their lives, vital productivity is lost and the future delayed in a state that needs to complete getting back to the new normal.

Many of them are also children—who see and feel their parents' stress, who struggle to understand what happened and why, who worry about the tenuousness of life that the storm demonstrated and that their continued lack of a permanent home reemphasizes. These are Vermont's future parents and workers—and they need to be focusing on their education, relieved of stress, worry, and fear.

Building Vermont Strong: The Campaign for Irene Recovery

To date the Fund has raised \$6.6 million to cover its costs and the needs of Vermonters, not counting funds raised expressly for operating and campaign expenses. As of November 21, 2012, it had awarded \$2,429,447.41 to provide direct recovery assistance to 230 Vermont families with unmet needs from Irene. However, there are almost 600 unresolved cases remaining, most of which are expected to come before the VDRF for funding. With an average grant of around \$12,000 overall and an average grant to the hard-hit mobile home community of \$16,200, the Fund expects to disburse over \$7 million more in private funding to complete the initial Irene-related mission for which it was created. The fund specifically needs to raise another \$3,400,000.

One year later, the Group has galvanized around, “Building Vermont Strong: The Irene Recovery Campaign.” The campaign is a volunteer-driven campaign for private support and is being led by David Coates, Charlie Kireker and Karen Meyer. Assisted and supported by VDRF Executive Director Betsy Ide and Demont Associates, fund-raising counsel, they have created a final-phase plan to raise these needed funds. The ancillary costs of the Capital Campaign are being covered entirely by dedicated gifts from several Board members and by specific donors at the Vermont Community Foundation, so that every dollar obtained through VDRF's fund-raising efforts goes to meet the needs of Vermonters.

In joining the campaign or helping locally, many Vermonters have found it rewarding beyond their expectations. They have witnessed a resiliency and determination that now goes by the coin “Vermont Strong.” Those who have given know the truth in the words of President Coolidge, “I love Vermont because of her hills and valleys, her scenery and invigorating climate, but most all because of her indomitable people. They are a race of pioneers who have almost beggared themselves to serve others. If the spirit of liberty should vanish in other parts of the Union and support of our institutions should languish, it could all be replenished from the generous store held by the people of this brave little state of Vermont.”