**Information and Resources for DR-4720-VT (the July 2023 storms)**

**from the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) of FEMA Last updated 8.4.2023**

**Major Disaster Declaration**

On July 14, 2023, the President approved a major disaster declaration for Vermont. Federal disaster assistance has been made available to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by severe flooding beginning on July 7, 2023 and continuing.

**File an Insurance Claim**

Whether or not you decide to apply for Public Assistance, if you have insurance you need to file a claim. **Identify and document any damages sustained from the recent flooding events and contact your insurance company immediately.** Follow all the deadlines set by the insurance company, and submit all documents and information requested within the deadlines set by the company.

**Apply for a loan from the Small Business Association**

The deadline to apply for an SBA Physical Loan is Sept. 12, 2023

From the [SBA fact sheet](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdisasterloanassistance.sba.gov%2Fela%2Fsfc%2Fservlet.shepherd%2Fversion%2Fdownload%2F06882000000TCjuAAG&data=05%7C01%7Crachel.onuf%40vermont.gov%7Cddce7e89d526437a1bab08db928ae363%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C638264897468783404%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oQa39OXxspAY85nabxNtOTTdYg5rpgiNM9X%2BLDyuJxs%3D&reserved=0):

[A] private nonprofit facility which provides non-critical services of a governmental nature must first apply for disaster assistance from SBA, and exhaust SBA loan assistance, or be declined by SBA **before it can seek grant assistance for permanent repairs and/or replacements from the FEMA**. (Except that **expenses related to debris removal or emergency measures taken to protect their facilities or employees may be reimbursed from FEMA without regard to the availability of an SBA disaster loan**.)

Translation: Non-Critical PNPs – most arts organizations and cultural institutions – must first apply to the Small Business Administration for disaster assistance. If denied by SBA or if their costs exceed what SBA covers, then FEMA may be able to provide grant assistance for permanent repairs (e.g., treatment of damaged collection items) and/or replacements (e.g., of general circulating books at a library).

Cultural institutions under a government agency, such as municipal public libraries, do not have to apply to SBA. BUT they need to communicate with their agency to ensure that any damages suffered and expenditures made are included as part of their government agency’s Request for Public Assistance.

**Public Assistance**

The deadline to submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) has been extended to October 12, 2023

* Public Assistance is a federal program that reimburses state and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations for the cost of disaster-related debris removal, emergency protective measures to protect life and property, and permanent repair work to damaged or destroyed infrastructure.
* Public Assistance is not available to individual artists or cultural workers. Those individuals can start the application process for FEMA disaster assistance by registering via the online portal [**DisasterAssistance.gov**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.disasterassistance.gov%2F&data=05%7C01%7Crachel.onuf%40vermont.gov%7C77831d56f2d445b4effe08db886c57c9%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C638253771484432752%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eVjPlg%2FcCg1B%2BMdDBwtb%2Bm5RPP2B8t%2FNNvwclcjTsxg%3D&reserved=0)**.**
* **You will need a SAM.gov Unique Entity ID.** If you’ve ever applied for a federal grant, you should have one already. Don’t have one? Obtain one through [System for Award Management (SAM.gov).](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsam.gov%2Fcontent%2Fentity-registration&data=05%7C01%7Crachel.onuf%40vermont.gov%7C77831d56f2d445b4effe08db886c57c9%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C638253771484432752%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FSaWqH5nBhug0Yb%2BVFpL1T5Bx9K2sLX11KMgX7weU3A%3D&reserved=0)
* **Gather the documentation needed to enter into the online account.** These documents include your Tax Exemption Certificate and Organization Charter or By-Laws. If your organization is a school or educational facility, you will need to provide information on accreditation or certification.
* **Create an online account in** [**Grants Portal**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgrantee.fema.gov%2F&data=05%7C01%7Crachel.onuf%40vermont.gov%7C77831d56f2d445b4effe08db886c57c9%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C638253771484432752%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9h1IBpugirdafC9limfFSPzqycZZqNwWa8rhx0uztzI%3D&reserved=0) to register your organization. Should your organization be deemed eligible for Public Assistance for this or future disasters, having an account in Grants Portal will make your application process easier and faster. Most importantly, registering in Grants Portal will ensure that you will be contacted with important Public Assistance announcements, such as deadlines and briefings.
* This [Applicant Quick Guide Grants Portal Account and RPA (Mar 28 2020).pdf (fema.gov)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgrantee.fema.gov%2FContent%2Ffiles%2FApplicant%2520Quick%2520Guide%2520Grants%2520Portal%2520Account%2520and%2520RPA%2520(Mar%252028%25202020).pdf%23%3A~%3Atext%3DThis%2520Quick%2520Guide%2520explains%2520the%2520steps%2520an%2520Applicant%2Cto%2520view%2520their%2520RPA%2520status%2520in%2520Grants%2520Portal.&data=05%7C01%7Crachel.onuf%40vermont.gov%7C77831d56f2d445b4effe08db886c57c9%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C638253771484432752%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pROM3nDls3%2FMRW4Py2fZDmTMG%2Be0iK2UKHbhnRLS%2F2U%3D&reserved=0) is a useful tool for understanding Grants Portal.
* For more information, refer to FEMA’s [*Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide*](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fema.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2Ffema_pappg-v4-updated-links_policy_6-1-2020.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Crachel.onuf%40vermont.gov%7C77831d56f2d445b4effe08db886c57c9%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C638253771484432752%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Yosy5gqSzsDsEmbxb1S8mgS9z3Kc%2FAF%2B3B%2F9ArdCFKc%3D&reserved=0), theauthoritative resource on Public Assistance.

**Additional Resources**

* The [Vermont Emergency Management (VEM)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvem.vermont.gov%2F&data=05%7C01%7Crachel.onuf%40vermont.gov%7C77831d56f2d445b4effe08db886c57c9%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C638253771484432752%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JUt4DS5nnCLQeGM2KEDGajShxnLDeYiWwe7uw0WTuWc%3D&reserved=0) website has flood recovery resources and can be used to access the latest news and updates for funding opportunities.
* The [Vermont League of Cities and Towns](https://www.vlct.org/flood-recovery) is assisting VEM with information dissemination.
* [*An Arts Field Guide to Federal Disaster Relief*](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncaper.org%2Fgeneral-8-1&data=05%7C01%7Crachel.onuf%40vermont.gov%7C77831d56f2d445b4effe08db886c57c9%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C638253771484432752%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KkLwHDFzuSAiiyBC%2BSiX%2B2LgtWgKxa2b0OcdHeH14lY%3D&reserved=0) by the National Coalition for Arts’ Preparedness and Emergency Response (NCAPER). A user-friendly explanation of the Public Assistance process. Not just for arts organizations, it includes other sources of federal funding as well.
* [Small Business Administration’s disaster assistance website](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sba.gov%2Ffunding-programs%2Fdisaster-assistance&data=05%7C01%7Crachel.onuf%40vermont.gov%7C77831d56f2d445b4effe08db886c57c9%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C638253771484432752%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=H%2F%2BKmvMQFVslPBPdsvN%2ByvUQRptzN7s2O3TyG6PHAjw%3D&reserved=0) provides information about applying for low-interest disaster loans to help recover from declared disasters.