# FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

State of Vermont step-by-step Checklist for Applicants: What to do after a federally declared disaster

1. Attend a State-organized **APPLICANT BRIEFING**

Watch for emails, press releases and news announcements with the dates and times of the State’s Applicant Briefing(s) and attend one to hear about details of the Public Assistance process.

1. Fill out and submit a **REQUEST FOR PUBLIC** **ASSISTANCE** (“RPA”) form

Bring your Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), and your DUNS number to the Applicant Briefing, where you will fill out a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form. It must be submitted to the State within 30 days of a disaster declaration, with no exceptions. The State verifies that each applicant has a federal tax id number and is registered with SAM.GOV and submits the RPA forms to FEMA. Applicants already in the Grants Portal can submit their request through there.

1. Attend an **EXPLORATORY CALL** with your FEMA Program Delivery Manager (PDMG)
	1. FEMA schedules and conducts an exploratory call with each Applicant that has submitted an RPA.
	2. Site Visits from FEMA will be scheduled to gather documentation from Applicants to write up project worksheets (“PWs”) that they submit into the FEMA database, “EMMIE.” It is then reviewed in EMMIE by various FEMA subject matter experts (e.g. insurance, environmental and historic preservation). Applicants have 60 days from the Exploratory Call to identify all damaged sites and provide documentation to FEMA. This must be done through the Damage Inventory sheet FEMA supplies.
2. FEMA writes **PROJECT WORKSHEETS** -- Review and sign off in the Grants Portal

Ask your FEMA representative to show and discuss your project worksheets. Discuss any issues or concerns with your PDMG, State Public Assistance Coordinator, local District Tech and the State Public Assistance Officer. Keep track of your time spent working on each project – it should be eligible for FEMA reimbursement as Direct Administrative Cost (“DAC”)!

1. Receive, Review and sign your **SUBGRANT AGREEMENT**

The Public Assistance Officer (kim.canarecci@vermont.gov) notifies the Department of Public Safety Financial Office to issue a Subgrant agreement to each eligible applicant once your first project obligates. The subgrant agreement, which includes instructions, is emailed to you.

Watch for it and respond immediately. Sign all forms and return to DPS for execution by the DPS Commissioner. An executed subgrant agreement will be sent to you by email, including the form that you will need to request payment, called a “Reimbursement Request Form”. You will need to sign and submit this form to receive payments (described in #7, below).

1. The Financial Office follows Agency of Administration Bulletin 5, along with DPS Granting Plan, to issue sub award agreements by performing a risk assessment and requesting appointing authority approval for any recipient that is high risk. Sub recipients may in their application, request an award with Cash Advance payment, DPS will use risk assessments to determine payment method from the state cash advance vs. reimbursement in arrears with documentation).
2. SUBMIT YOUR **Reimbursement Request Form**

After your first project is completed by FEMA, the DPS Financial Office sends you the executed copy of the subgrant agreement, along with the **Reimbursement Request Form** and a large project quarterly report form (for programmatic progress reporting) if the Applicant has one or more large projects. You need to submit the **Reimbursement Request Form** in order to request payment.

## LARGE PROJECTS

* 1. Applicants can request payments from the DPS Financial Office for up to 75% of the 75% federal share on large projects by sending in a financial report workbook and Reimbursement Request Form with invoices as work is completed. *Note: for large projects, you need to* ***request*** *payment by doing this step and reaching out to* *Kim.Canarecci@vermont.gov.*
	2. Applicants with large projects, MUST submit quarterly large project reports to the Public Assistance Officer (by January 15, April 15, July 15, October 15 and for final closeout) for all large projects until the project is closed out.
	3. When a project is ready for Closeout, the town must submit a **Large Project Closeout Request** form letter with all supporting documentation to the PAO. This form asserts that the work was completed in accordance with the scope of work written in the Project Worksheet and completed within the approved Period of Performance.
	4. Large projects must go through a formal closeout process as detailed in federal regulation (DAP 9570.14 found at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library->

data/20130726-1847-25045-2993/9570.14\_program\_management\_and\_grant\_closeout

\_sop.pdf); closeout documentation must be organized according to the **FEMA Project Documentation Closeout Checklist.**

## Receiving State Share

* 1. The State of Vermont pays a percentage of the 25% non-federal share. How much the State contributes varies, based on the Applicant’s status regarding the criteria set forth in the rules of Vermont’s **Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund** (“ERAF”). All municipal applicants receive 7.5%. Those who meet four criteria qualify for 12.5%, and those who take additional measures to protect against future flood damage can qualify for 17.5%. To see your municipality’s current status and learn more about the criteria, go to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Flood Ready website (www.floodready.vermont.gov). ERAF percentages are determined by the Secretary of Administration or their designee, based on conformance with ERAF rule requirements, as of 30 days after a federal declaration.
	2. The Financial Office uses the Project Completion and Certification Report (PCCR) to reimburse the ERAF State Share of the Applicant’s obligated projects. State Share is dispersed for ALL small projects after they are obligated and closed out in EMMIE and the PCCR, signed by the VTrans District Tech, is received by the PAO.
	3. When all an Applicant’s projects are completed, you must notify the State. Then a Project Completion and Certification Report form will be sent from DPA to the Agency of Transportation District Technician.
	4. The PCCR is signed by the Applicant to assert that the work is completed and signed by the VTrans District Technician to assert that they have completed a final inspection on each project and determined that the work was completed in accordance with the written scope of the Project Worksheet.
	5. The District Technician and Applicant signs and submits it back to the Public Assistance Officer.
	6. The Public Assistance Officer reviews and signs off on the PCCR form and forwards it to the Financial Office for final payment of your ERAF State Share as your final payment.

## FINAL CLOSEOUT

The DPS Finance office emails out a letter closing out the Applicant’s subgrant after all final payments have been made. Retain all documents as required by law for 3-5years.