



**State of Vermont**  
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*Susanne R. Young, Secretary*

April 16, 2020

Dear Vermont Municipal Official:

There have been several requests from municipalities to adjust the 30-day requirement in Appendix A of the ERAF Rules in light of the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 emergency. That requirement states that the percentage calculation for state match for federally declared disasters be based upon the adoption of specified programs or measures within 30 days after the Major Declaration date.

I am writing to let you know of a technical clarification regarding State matching funds for the FEMA-3437-EM COVID-19 disaster. As you are aware, unlike past declared disasters, COVID-19 is an event with an open-ended incident period as of the time of the declaration, and therefore does not conform to the usual relationship between the declaration date and resulting requests for FEMA assistance.

In consideration of the unprecedented open incident period for COVID-19, for purposes of calculating ERAF share for the FEMA-3437-EM COVID-19 disaster, the 30-day period established in Appendix A of the ERAF Rules shall start from the date when the State Emergency Management Operations Center (SEOC) returns to monitoring status. The SEOC will notify municipalities when that status transition occurs.

Please refer to the Emergency Relief Assistance link for more information on matching percentage and the four (for 12.5% state match) or five (for 17.5% state match) basic steps communities can take to prepare for disasters: [https://floodready.vermont.gov/find\\_funding/emergency\\_relief\\_assistance](https://floodready.vermont.gov/find_funding/emergency_relief_assistance).

Please contact your regional planning commission or development agency, Vermont Emergency Management, or the Vermont League of Cities and Towns if you need additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bradley Ferland  
Deputy Secretary of Administration

