BRIC 2022 Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs)

Informational Kick Off Meeting



PROJECT TIMELINE

WHY PLAN

NEXT STEPS

EXECUTING AGREEMENTS and REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS

PROCURING A CONSULTANT

PLANNING, APPROVAL, and ADOPTION

timeline

JAN 2023
VEM applied to FEMA for planning funds for VT communities needing new or updated LHMPs

JAN 2024 +
Project Kick Off and Agreement
Execution between Municipalities and
DPS

FEB 2024 +
Procure Consultants and Begin
Planning Process

NOV 2023
FEMA awarded funds and VEM began outreach to priority communities

NOV 2026
All Planning, local adoption, and Requests for Reimbursement
Complete



What does the LHMP do for us?

- Hazard mitigation planning enables local governments to better protect lives, property, and natural systems.
- Focuses resources on the greatest risks and vulnerabilities.
- Provides a long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage.
- The LHMP is required to receive federal funds from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC).
- The LHMP is one of the steps needed to qualify for additional post-disaster funding through the <u>Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund</u> (ERAF).





Steps to Executing Agreements



https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=O5O0IK26PEOcAnDtzHVZxmpAMrQrIKtDrx0P6QMCKfhUQjhTSUgyTTFSUkE5VDNFNEpVMFRTVzFDUy4u

DPS Risk Survey

- 1. Organization Name
- 2. Title and name of person completing the survey It is recommended that this survey be completed by a financial/accounting representative of the organization such as: Financial Manager, Treasurer, Bookkeeper, Accounting Administrator.
- 3. FEIN (Federal Employer Identification Number)
- 4. Legal name (parent, fiduciary) of entity to which the FEIN was assigned, if applicable
- 5. Mailing Address



DPS Risk Survey (continued)

- 6. Physical Address as listed with Dun & Bradstreet when obtaining your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), or DUNS # at https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform.
- 7. Phone Number
- 8. Email Address
- 9. UEI (Unique Entity Identifier)

See 2 CFR §200.211 (b) & §200.332 (a)(i)):

https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl

- 10. What is the date that you are filling out this survey?
- 11. Your Fiscal Year (e.g. July June or Jan. Dec.)
- 12. Type of organization

DPS Risk Survey (continued)

- 13. What type of accounting system do you use?
 - Automated
 - Manual
 - ☐ Combined automated & manual
- 14. Does your organization have segregation of duties so that no single person has control over all phases of a transaction?
- 15. Does your organization maintain its award documentation for at least 3 years after the final reimbursement?
- 16. Does your organization include financial/accounting personnel in the application review process to ensure that you can meet all compliance requirements?

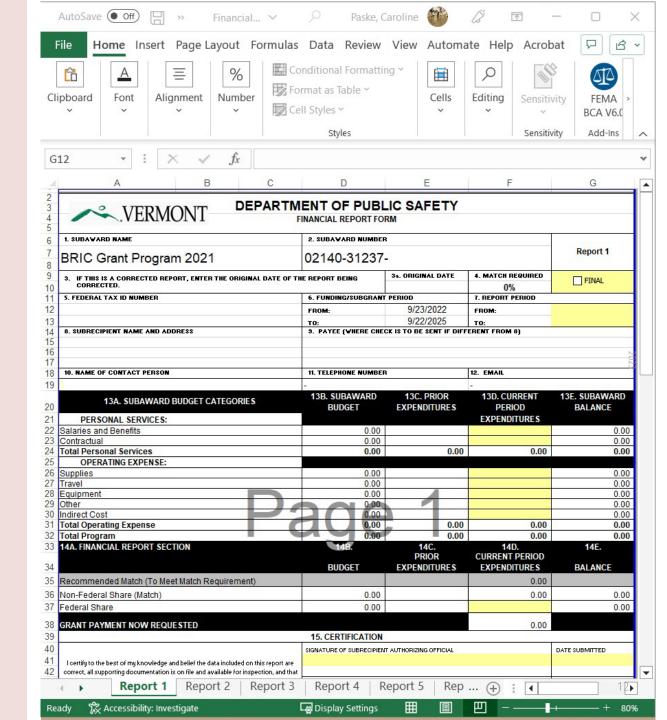
- 17. Has your organization been audited or had a grant monitoring review within the past 24 months? Please select all that apply.
 - □ No, not within the past 24 months skip to question 19
 - ☐ Yes, by an outside audit firm
 - ☐ Yes, by town/local auditors
 - ☐ Yes, by a State of Vermont Agency/Department
 - ☐ Yes, by a federal awarding agency
 - ☐ Yes, by a Single Audit firm
- 18. Did your organization have any findings?
 - o No, the audit produced no findings
 - o Yes, however audit findings have been resolved
 - o Yes, and there are outstanding unresolved findings
 - o Yes, and there is a corrective action plan in place

DPS Risk Survey (continued)

- 19. Does your organization maintain written policies which include procedures for assuring compliance with the terms and conditions as noted in the Department of Public Safety's Standard Grant Agreement? Copies must be made available upon request. Select all that apply.
- See 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance requirements: https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl
 - ☐ Written Grant Management Policy
 - ☐ Written Purchasing Procedures (2 CFR §200.318 (a))
 - ☐ Written Conflict of Interest Policy (2 CFR §200.318 (c)(1))
 - ☐ Written Inventory Policy
 - ☐ Written Employee Policy or Bargaining Agreements
 - ☐ Written Payroll Policy
 - ☐ No, our organization has no written policy/procedures
- 20. Has there been any of the following changes at your organization within the past 12 months?
 - ☐ New personnel who will administer this grant funding
 - ☐ New or changed systems affecting grant management
 - ☐ no changes to personnel or systems

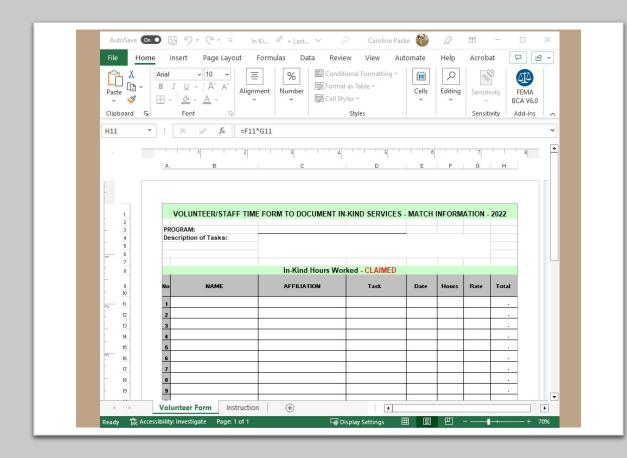
Reimbursement Requests

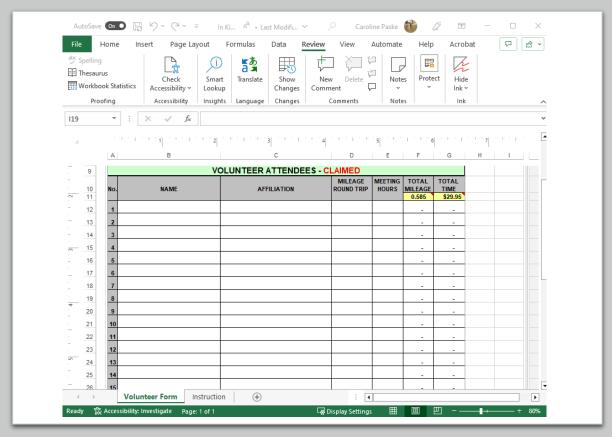
- You will receive a financial report form to submit for reimbursement with your executed agreement with VEM.
- Include supporting documentation for the expenditures (payroll reports, invoices, proof of payment, etc.).
- Financial reimbursement requests should be submitted no later than the end of the month following the month in which the expenditures were incurred.



In-Kind Tracking

- Forms will be sent after the agreements are executed
- Submit in-kind tracking forms to count time spent by staff and volunteers on the plan towards your local match
 • Use GSA approved mileage reimbursement rate
- Use independent sector org to determine volunteer rate be sure to do this at the time of the meeting to ensure correct rate







Going Out to Bid

- Follow local, state, and federal procurement standards
- We will send an RFP template after the agreement with DPS is executed.
- Post the RFP to http://www.vermontbusinessregistry.co m/
- If you are reaching out directly to potential consultants, still make sure procurement requirements are followed
 - There is no prescribed minimum number of consultants you must seek proposals from, at least three attempts to request a proposal is generally accepted as adequate.
- Establish the evaluation criteria and the relevant importance for each factor if you are selecting based on qualifications and not cost alone.

Methods of Procurement



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Are You a Non-State Entity?

- Local Governments
- Tribal Governments
- Hospitals (some)
- Institutions of Higher Education (some)
- Other Private Non-Profit Organizations

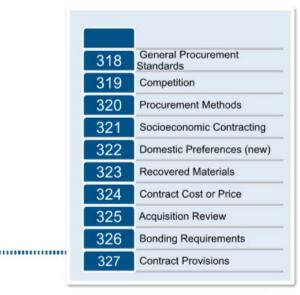
Applicable Rules

Must follow **own** procurement policies and procedures





Must follow federal procurement standards (318-327)





PROCUREMENT REFERENCES

- Document the process of consultant selection (2 C.F.R. 200.337 Record Retention)
- Visit FEMA's website for detailed guidance on federal procurement standards and sample language
- Follow the socioeconomic affirmative steps to use target firms where possible
 - Small businesses
 - Minority businesses
 - Women's business enterprises
 - Labor surplus area firm
- More questions? Our audit team can help you so please email us. Do not ask your RPC as they must participate in a competitive bid for the contract.

6 Steps

- Place qualified target firms on solicitation lists
- Assure that target firms are solicited whenever they are potential sources
- Divide total requirements, when feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by target firms
- Establish delivery schedules, when feasible, which encourage participation by target firms
- Use the services and assistance of the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce
- Require the prime contractor, if subcontracts are to be let, to take the 5 previous steps

Procurement Rules Online

www.ecfr.gov



https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-

2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-D/subject-group-ECFR45ddd4419ad436d





Contractor Responsibility
Determination
www.SAM.gov



PDAT Website

fema.gov/grants/procureme nt

- Contract Provisions Template
- Webinar Series
- Fact Sheets, Checklists and more

https://www.fema.gov/grants/procurement



PLANNING, APPROVAL, and ADOPTION

Steps to Approval

- update their Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) from FEMA through VEM. This may take one year to process through FEMA's grant programs. Apply for funding 2-3 years before the LHMP expires to allow for application review, execution of agreements, soliciting bids, and reaching plan approval and adoption. VEM advises that municipalities hire a consultant to assist the community in conducting community outreach and drafting the plan.
- 2. Draft the Plan: The local community, a consultant, and/or the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) drafts the LHMP. Plan developers are encouraged to contact the State Hazard Mitigation Planner during plan development for any technical assistance needs or to review components of the LHMP as it is being developed.
- 3. Submit the Plan for Review: Once a draft is completed, the LHMP and FEMA Review Tool are submitted to the State Hazard Mitigation Planner (caroline.paske@vermont.gov) for review. The review tool must have the top section filled in as well as the relevant sections or page numbers where each element is addressed. Plans are required to be reviewed within 45 days of receipt by VEM.



Steps to Approval

- 4. Make Requested Revisions: Plans are typically returned with comments on how to meet the Federal requirements. Notes will be included within the Review Tool with additional guidance on how to meet the requirements. The State Hazard Mitigation Planner is available to answer questions or meet with the plan developer to review comments and assist them in meeting the requirements.
- 5. Resubmit the Plan: Once necessary revisions are completed the plan is submitted back into State review with updated page numbers/sections noted in the review tool.
- 6. Approval Pending Adoption: If all requirements are met, VEM will notify the plan developer and the community that the plan is Approvable Pending Adoption (APA). If all requirements are not met, the Review Tool will be returned with updated comments.



Steps to Approval

- 7. Adopt the Plan: When a plan receives the APA notice, the plan developer should not make any changes to the plan, with the exception of removing any references to the plan being a draft and update any dates (e.g. the APA date) on the cover page. The plan developer then works with the local jurisdiction to adopt the LHMP.
- 8. Submit the Plan for Approval: Following local adoption, the plan developer submits the final plan to VEM. The State Hazard Mitigation Planner will then issue a notice to the plan developer and the community that the plan has been Approved. The approval date will be the date that this approval is issued.
- 9. VEM Notifies FEMA: VEM will then notify FEMA that the LHMP has been approved and FEMA will issue an official approval letter to VEM. VEM will send the formal approval letter to the community and plan developer to be included in the final planning document. The LHMP should be made available to the public.
- **10. Implement and Maintain:** The community then has five years from the date of approval to implement the LHMP before the plan expires and an updated plan is due for approval.



Thank You

Questions? Reach out to:

Grant interest: Matthew.Hand@Vermont.gov

All other plan questions: Caroline.Paske@Vermont.gov

Finance and DPS Risk Survey: Aldijana.Zolj@Vermont.gov

Learn more:

https://vem.vermont.gov/plans/LHMP

https://vem.vermont.gov/hm-planning-resources