

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sen. Ann Cummings, Chair, Joint Fiscal Committee; Rep. Catherine Toll, Vice-Chair, Joint Fiscal Committee
FROM: Douglas Farnham, Deputy Commissioner, Vermont Department of Taxes
DATE: September 15, 2020
RE: Act 137 Monthly Update

Esteemed Chairs,

In accordance with Sec. 7(d) of Act 137, the Department of Taxes, on behalf of the Secretary of Administration, is providing a report on the Local Government Expense Reimbursement Grants (LGER).

Applications for the LGER grants were accepted through September 4th, 2020. Applications were structured to limit up front effort on behalf of the towns and captured expenses incurred up to the time of application as well as projected expenses through December 30, 2020. Multiple outreach efforts were conducted through municipal listservs, press releases, and educational webinars with partners such as regional planning commissions to make towns aware of the application and due date.

As of September 15, 2020, 132 applications have been submitted for LGER grants with a total amount of \$7.6M in requests. An additional \$1.5M of claims were submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and some of those claims will likely be denied, triggering potential eligibility for additional LGER claims. Currently, the amount of FEMA claims which may be denied is unknown, thus, the Department estimates the total amount of potential expenditure for LGER at this time at \$9.1M.

A complete list of applicants can be found in Attachment 1 of this document with a breakdown of expense categories in Attachment 2. Applications are currently being reviewed by Department of Taxes staff and awards are being issued. Additional instructions have been created for grantees to advise them how to submit documentation of expenses to receive their grant awards. Because of the compressed application period which was initially offered to assess outstanding need for municipal grants, it is possible that a small number of municipalities who intended to apply were not able to do so. It is also possible that the applications which have been submitted consider only reactive expenses to COVID-19 and do not incorporate proactive or structural improvements to enable communities to navigate restrictions and continue to serve the public.

Recommendation: It is the recommendation of the Secretary of Administration that no legislative action is necessary at this time and that the existing LGER appropriation be maintained with the intention of re-opening applications and extending the application deadline to October 1st. New and amended applications would be accepted and an additional outreach effort would be conducted in coordination with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to educate towns on the proactive uses such as modification of public spaces like libraries or coordination with local businesses to support fall season outdoor seating to which the LGER grants could be applied.

MEMORANDUM

ATTACHMENT 1: APPLICANT LIST

LGER Applicants 9/15/20	
Addison	Dummerston
Addison County Community Trust	Duxbury
Addison County Sheriff's Department	East Montpelier
Addison County Solid Waste Management District	Enosburg Falls
Arlington	Enosburgh Town
Ascutney Fire District #2	Essex Junction
Barre City	Essex Town
Barre Town	Fair Haven
Barton	Fairfax
Bennington	Fairfield
Bennington County Sheriff's Department	Fairlee
Berlin	Ferrisburgh
Bethel	Franklin
Braintree	Grand Isle
Brandon	Groton
Brattleboro	Guilford
Bridport	Halifax
Bristol	Hardwick
Burlington	Hartford
Cabot	Hinesburg
Calais	Huntington
Cambridge	Jericho
Castleton	Killington
Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District	Leicester
Champlain Water District	Lincoln
Charlotte	Ludlow
Chester	Maidstone
Chittenden	Manchester
Chittenden County	Marshfield Town
Chittenden Solid Waste District	Marshfield Village
Colchester	Milton
Concord	Monkton
Cornwall	Montpelier
Danville	Moretown
Derby	Newbury
Dover	Newport City

MEMORANDUM

North Bennington	Starksboro
North Hero	Stowe
North Troy	Strafford
Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District	Swanton
Northfield	Thetford
Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District	Troy
Norwich	Tunbridge
Orange	Underhill
Orleans County Sheriff's Department	Vernon
Pawlet	Waitsfield
Peru	Wallingford
Pittsford	Warren
Plainfield	Washington
Pomfret	Weathersfield
Pownal	West Rutland
Randolph	Westminster
Richford	Whitingham
Richmond	Williamstown
Rockingham	Williston
Royalton	Wilmington
Royalton Fire District #1	Windham
Rutland County Solid Waste District	Windham county Sheriff's Office
Rutland Town	Windham Solid Waste Management District
Salisbury	Winhall
Shaftsbury	Winooski
Sharon	Winooski Valley Park District
Shelburne	Wolcott
Shoreham	Woodstock
South Burlington	
St. Albans	
St. Johnsbury	
Stamford	

MEMORANDUM

ATTACHMENT 2: EXPENSES CLAIMED BY CATEGORY

LGER Grant Expense Category	Category Total
Actual Hazard Pay	\$317,607
Actual Supplies and Equipment	\$653,760
Actual Sanitation	\$138,494
Actual Facility Alterations	\$173,424
Actual Overtime Comp	\$76,738
Actual Redirection of staff	\$1,033,334
Actual Other Expenses	\$1,208,737
Anticipated Hazard Pay	\$384,447
Anticipated Supplies and Equipment	\$745,565
Anticipated Sanitation	\$147,352
Anticipated Facility Alterations	\$542,991
Anticipated Overtime Comp	\$113,387
Anticipated Redirection of Staff	\$554,447
Anticipated Other Expenses	\$1,512,084

Total Expenses **\$7,602,367**