



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Agenda

Monday, November 9, 2020

[Meeting available by LIVE Stream](#)

- 9:00 a.m. Call to order
- 9:05 a.m. A. Unemployment Insurance [[UI Fund Scenarios](#)]  
*Michael Harrington, Commissioner,*  
*Cameron Wood, Director of Unemployment Insurance Division, and*  
*Matthew Barewicz, Chief Economist and Labor Market Information Director,*  
*Department of Labor*
1. Condition of the UI fund overall and is it funded through June 30<sup>th</sup> or end of December 2021 depending on what conditions?
  2. Update on the \$17 million for five weeks of \$100. Was there any left? When does/did it end? And how much would it cost to continue the \$100 a week through December?
- 9:20 a.m. B. Request for Adjustment from the Department of Public Service for Communication Union District (CUD) grants. [[Revised Request Approved](#)]
- 9:35 a.m. C. Other Requests – *see addendum on last page*
- 10:00 a.m. D. Administrations Re-allocation Requests [**Postponed**]  
*Adam Greshin, Commissioner, Department of Finance & Management*  
[\[CRF reallocations\]](#) [\[CRF Requests Tracking\]](#) [\[CRF Appropriations Expenditure Status\]](#) [\[CRF Stimulus Report\]](#) [\[Motion to Approve CRF Requests – 11/5/2020\]](#)
1. Higher Education  
*Discussion of available funds*
    - a. [VSAC Funding Proposal](#) [[Request Letter can be found HERE](#)]  
*Scott Giles, President, and*  
*Tom Little, VP, General Counsel, and Asst. Secretary, VT Student Assistance Corporation*
  2. Agency of Human Services
    - a. Total Amount Requested: \$700,000. The Agency of Human Services is seeking funding for the creation of a financial support program for

Vermonters that have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been asked by the Department of Health to quarantine. The request for funding is through December 30, 2020.

- b. Total Amount Requested: \$931,880. DVHA requests CRF for expenditures resulting from the use of the Vermont Health Information Exchange (VHIE) to meet the State's needs for real-time exchange of health information as part of its public health response to COVID-19.

10:30 a.m.

3. Economic Development

- a. Needs and Update [[Memo](#)]

*Tom Kavet, Legislature's Economist, Kavet, Rockler & Associates*

10:50 a.m.

- b. Joint Fiscal Office [[Memo](#)]

*Graham Campbell, Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Joyce Manchester, Senior Economist*

11:00 a.m.

- c. Administrations Requests

*Joan Goldstein, Commissioner, Department of Economic Development, and  
Susanne Young, Secretary, Agency of Administration*

*Tom Brady, Secretary, Agency of Commerce & Community Development*

1. Total Amount Requested: \$75,000,000. The Agency of Commerce and the Department of Taxes requests an increase in funding to fund Expanded Economic Development Grants unmet need requests closer to the business and nonprofits unmet need figures.
2. Total Amount Requested: \$750,000. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development requests additional funding to enable the state's small business technical assistance network to provide additional services to COVID-19 impacted businesses.

11:20 a.m.

4. Other Requests

*Anson, Tebbetts, Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets*

- a. Total Amount Requested: \$2,410,000. Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets requests the following CRF reallocations in two critical program areas: Buy Local Campaign and Expanded Meat Processing. *Includes two requests: \$2,075,000 for meat processing capacity; and \$335,000 for the Buy Local Campaign.*

11:30 a.m.

E. Committee Discussion and Other Testimony

12:00 p.m.

Adjourn and Next Meetings (*November 14, and 20, and December 9 and 21*)

*Updated 11/9/2020 at 5:00 p.m.*

## ADDENDUM – Other Requests

Seed Capital - #Recap on the Seed Fund Recapitalization Effort (David Bradbury) – Ultimately, we found a way for VCET to "grant" the funds into eligible companies and then get a "stock warrant" as the "transaction fee" which would have gone into the Seed Fund for long term appreciation if something paid back. I am trying to maintain a list of high potential companies around VT should there be unspent CRF funding in the weeks ahead. We could make a basket of investments (as grants) into 10-20 in short order if needed too.

Foster Parents (Rep. Theresa Wood) - The amount being requested by the Vermont Foster and Adoptive Family Association (VFAPA) is very modest — \$10,000. The mental health of these foster parents is critical to the stability of the children in custody and families. It's a very modest amount but could go a long way. The foster families have had to deal with extra stress during the pandemic.

Nonprofits (Annie Guion, Windham County Human Society) - Please consider granting funds to every non-profit in good standing in the state. State and Federal support has supported us this year, but 2021 looks daunting. We fill the gaps in our communities in very important ways and our services are more important than ever as people lose their homes and their livelihoods.

Reach-up (John Sayles, for the Vermont Reach Up and Food Security Coalitions). We propose that any Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) dollars unspent by December 20 be reallocated as one-time cash assistance to the families with children on Reach Up. [[FULL letter can be found HERE](#)]

- This reallocation would be quick and logistically easy, and could be accomplished in a matter of days by issuing paper checks to each Reach Up household.
- It would directly benefit Vermont children in deep poverty, who have been impacted by the economic and social impacts of the pandemic.
- It would support a group that has not yet seen direct assistance.

### Capacity Building

#### Unemployment Insurance; building reserves; and continuance of \$100 additional funding

Career Placement Training (Alexander Horner) - I am proposing that we use a portion of the funds currently up for reallocation to provide 100 Vermont adults impacted by COVID-19 with tuition assistance to attend courses at Burlington Code Academy and give them the opportunity to start a new career in technology.

Grants into COVID Impacted Tech and Growth Firms (\$5 million) – (David Bradbury) One last effort to request your consideration for CRF grant funding from the to be reallocated sources to be directed into Technology and High Growth startup firms impacted by COVID that are all across Vermont. These companies range from software, tech training, housing units, forest management technology, weather tech, IoT and on and on. Additionally, there are several BIPOC and female founded companies who would be grant funded as well from what we know today. My understanding is that this process has begun.

Correctional Officers Hazard Pay (former Sen. Vincent Illuzzi for the VSEA) - The Legislature did not appropriate hazard pay funds for state employees in essential jobs on the premise that the Scott Administration and VSEA could come to some agreement. As of today, still no hazard pay for correctional officers. This includes correctional officers who have, are and will work with COVID positive inmates.

Business Grants (Lynn Green, for the VT Lodging Coalition) - We respectfully ask that you support allocating all unexpended Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Tax Department so they can use these additional funds for grants to businesses with unmet needs. The latest formula for determining “unmet needs” factored losses through September 30. That “unmet need” increases exponentially when factoring October numbers due to Vermont lodging’s strong reliance on foliage season which was severely impacted by travel guidelines this year. Furthermore, the \$300k cap leaves larger properties with severe and crippling deficits as we enter a very dark winter.