

Vermont Department of Economic Development
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To: Joint Fiscal Committee

From: Joan Goldstein, Commissioner, Dept of Economic Development, ACCD

Subject: BEGAP Results

Date: September 25, 2024

Per the motion approved at the August 8, 2024 meeting of the emergency board, the Department of Economic Development was given authority to provide support to businesses affected by the 2024 Vermont flood events. Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §§ 133(b) and 706(2), the motion was approved unanimously to transfer \$7 million of the \$20 million total appropriation to the State Treasurer's Office pursuant to 2022 Act 83, Sec. 53(b)(5)(B) as amended by 2022 Act 185 Sec. C. 102, to the Department of Economic Development for the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program. As part of the Governor's fiscal year 2025 budget adjustment proposal, the Commissioner of Finance & Management shall present a proposal to replace the funds transferred from the Treasurer's Office appropriation pursuant to 2022 Act 83, Sec. 53(b)(5)(B) as amended by 2022 Act 185 Sec. C. 102. At the September and November 2024 Joint Fiscal Committee meetings, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee shall report on the amounts and use of funds distributed by the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program.

Since we launched the program on August 29, 2024 the following details are available:

- **2024 Flood Applications** : 111 (As of September 24, 2024)
 - Data collected from applications: Estimated Net Damages \$8.9M, Estimated Award Total: \$2.2M
- **2024 Agriculture Applications**: 43 (Subset of the 111 applications received)
 - Data collected from applications: Estimated Net Damages \$5.0M Estimated Award Total: \$1.1M
- **Awarded/Paid**: 16 (As of September 23, 2024) (Subset of the 111 applications received) amounting to \$419,278.22, of which:
 - \$183,891.99 **AG Set Aside**
 - \$18,002.31 **BIPOC Set Aside**
 - \$223,838.92 (**Non AG/BIPOC**)

The BEGAP program is ongoing and an additional update will be provided at the November JFC meeting. The 2024 BEGAP application closes on November 15, 2024.

