



COVID 19 Updates & Resources

4/28/2020

CVRPC is providing this information to assist municipalities to maintain situational awareness and to plan for, respond to, and recover from the COVID 19 pandemic. CVRPC hereby grants permission for reuse and reprint of information contained in this document.

The document contains only updated information. Previous resources can be found on our website – <http://centralvtplanning.org>.

MUNICIPAL NEWS

Information has been gathered from municipal websites or provided directly to CVRPC by the municipality and updated to this [Municipal Chart](#). This information is being shared to assist municipalities with mutual response as well as service and planning ideas. Contact Nancy Chartrand, chartrand@cvregion.com with updates.

CVRPC SERVICES

CVRPC provides a variety of services related to planning, public engagement, project management and project implementation in all programmatic areas (transportation, community development, brownfields, emergency planning, energy, natural resources, etc.) and on special projects. Municipalities can contact Bonnie Waninger via email (waninger@cvregion.com) or cell (802-585-9174) to discuss how CVRPC can assist.

CVRPC's roundtable for Selectboards and Managers/Administrators is being planned for early next week – more details to follow soon. Contact Bonnie Waninger, waninger@cvregion.com, if you'd like to recommend specific topics for discussion.

UPDATES

None.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Property Valuation Reviews and COVID-19 Webinar scheduled for *Wed 5/6, 10 AM* – For listers, assessors, and others involved in the assessment process. Register [here](#).

Municipal Essential Functions and Services Explained – watch recorded webinar.

STATE UPDATES

Vermont Emergency Management

Beginning 4/30, the SEOC Weekly Municipal Officials call will be combined with the SEOC First Responders call. The next call is this Thursday 4/30 at 2pm and will be held at that time going forward. Contact Grace Vinson for additional details – vinson@cvregion.com

Agency of Agriculture, Foods and Markets (AAFM)

Guidance to help Food Producers Adapt to a Changing Marketplace

AAFM has developed a FAQ document to provide information on requirements for licensing, registration, and labeling for farms that are shifting away from wholesale sales towards retail and direct to consumer markets. Read the FAQ [here](#).

Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)

In partnership with VLCT, ACCD held a webinar on Monday, April 27 discussing local financing options for municipalities. View the recorded webinar [here](#) and the presentation slides [here](#).

Takeaways from the webinar: *What tools are currently available (and what tools are being considered by the state) to help towns access financing that bridges expected revenue gaps due to the COVID-19 pandemic?*

- If municipalities have immediate needs, Vermont State Treasurer Beth Pierce recommends they talk to their local lenders and banks and discuss their financial shortfalls.
- The Federal Reserve has established the [Municipal Liquidity Facility](#) to help state and local governments manage cash flow pressures, however at current eligibility levels Vermont municipalities lack access to funding. This facility is not yet operational; more information to follow as guidance is received.
- The [FEMA Community Disaster Loan](#) (CDL) program may be an option for long-term loss of revenue. Municipalities can apply if they experience a substantial loss of tax and other revenues from a major disaster. The State will start this process once immediate disaster response is over and will bring in technical assistance from FEMA to help guide applicants.
- Other disaster grant funding opportunities include:
 - [CARES Act Community Development Block Grants](#): VT has received \$4.25 million. ACCD is expecting further guidance and their Department of Housing and Community Development) is collecting comments on recovery needs of communities and towns are encouraged to contact ACCD with project ideas.

- [Northern Border Regional Commission](#): \$4 million available for economic infrastructure development projects. Application deadline is June 1, 2020
- **Economic Development Administration**: \$1.5 billion in CARES Act funding (as compared to about \$250 million annual appropriation). A Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFA) is forthcoming.
- **CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund: VT**: received \$1.25 billion, the Administration and Governor are working to identify how best to use the funding.

Recovery resources for arts and humanities organizations

- [Cultural Relief Grant Program](#) – Grants do not require a match and range between \$5,000 and \$10,000, based on organization size. Complete details [here](#).
- [Rapid Response Artist Relief](#) – Grants of up to \$500 to Vermont artists in need. The application deadline is May 13, 2020. Complete details [here](#).
- Arts Recovery – Vermont Community Foundation will offer grants starting in May to support artists and cultural organizations experiencing financial distress

Stay Home Stay Safe Update

On April 24th, Governor Phil Scott released [Addendum 11](#) to the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order which includes updated guidance for the phased restart of business in strict accordance with mandatory health and safety requirements. Outdoor businesses, construction, retail, manufacturing operations, as well as libraries and farmer’s markets now have new guidance for reopening. Please see ACCD Secretary Kurrle’s [Memorandum to Businesses and Employers](#) for full clarification of Addendum 11.

Agency of Natural Resources

DEC has confirmed that Grants-In-Aid work can resume if it can be done in compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order and associated Addendums. ACCD has been tasked with interpreting/clarifying the Order and providing guidance for each sector. **ACCD has asked that municipal public works departments comply with the [VTrans guidance from April 27th](#), therefore NRPC is requiring that towns choosing to begin construction on Grants-In-Aid projects only do so at this time if they are able to follow these requirements.**

It is anticipated that the situation will continue to evolve rapidly and RPC’s should default to following the current ACCD guidance for their Grants-In-Aid work, which is being posted [here](#). It is expected that RPC’s and municipalities will follow all ACCD guidance for employees/employers/businesses. This includes completing required VOSHA training, which can be found online [here](#).

Resuming Grants-In-Aid site visits/field work is at the discretion of each RPC Director. RPC’s choosing to resume site visits for GIA projects at this time are required to comply with the bullet points below from the Executive Order.

- Employees shall not report to, or be allowed to remain at, work or job site if sick or symptomatic (with fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath), or if they have concerns about potential exposure.
- Employees must observe strict social distancing of 6 feet while on the job.
- Employees must wear non-medical cloth face coverings (bandanna, scarf, or nonmedical mask, etc.) over their nose and mouth when in the presence of others. In the case of retail cashiers, a translucent shield or “sneeze guard” is acceptable in lieu of a mask.
- Employees must have easy and frequent access to soap and water or hand sanitizer during duration of work, and handwashing or hand sanitization should be required before entering, and leaving, job sites.
- All common spaces and equipment, including bathrooms, frequently touched surfaces and doors, tools and equipment, and vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected at the beginning, middle and end of each shift and prior to transfer from one person to another.
- No more than 2 people shall occupy one vehicle when conducting work. NRPC strongly encourages no more than 1 person per vehicle. No RPC staff will ride in a municipal vehicle or transport municipal staff in their vehicle.
- RPC staff should use their discretion and terminate any site visit if there is concern that safety protocols are not being followed by others.
- RPC staff and municipal staff should not congregate or meet indoors.

Department of Labor

Mandatory Health & Safety Training - [Addendum 11](#) signed April 24, 2020 requires all businesses, non-profit and government entities in operation to complete and document mandatory health and safety training **by Monday, May 4, 2020**. This training, developed by the Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Agency (VOSHA), is available [here](#).

Department of Health

[Town level data](#) for COVID-19 cases is now available on VDH's website.

Vermont Secretary of State

The Secretary of State’s office published guidance on 4/24/20 for keeping voters and election workers safe in upcoming local elections. [New Election Guidance](#)

FEDERAL UPDATES

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

The CDC has provided guidance for Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters and EMS Providers. This guidance is available [here](#).

Small Business Administration

[Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) applications](#) have reopened and will be accepted from

participating lenders as of Monday, April 27, 2020 at 10:30am. If you've already applied, check with your lender to ensure you are in the queue. If you haven't heard from them contact them.

The Vermont District Small Business Administration (SBA) office is holding free daily webinars, Monday through Friday at 9:00 am, to discuss SBA's Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Advance. Join [online](#) or call (202) 765-1264 and enter the code 470177937# when prompted.