



COVID 19 Updates & Resources

7/31/2020

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.

RESOURCES

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

Northeast BIPOC Farmer Relief Fund Application Open through August 10

The Northeast BIPOC Farmer Relief Fund is now accepting applications from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) folks living in Vermont and the Northeast. This fund will provide \$500 relief payments for up to 200 applicants in states, which include Vermont. For more information, visit [NESAWG](#).

Vermont League of Cities & Towns

Second VLCT COVID-19 Fiscal Impacts Survey

VLCT wants to hear how COVID-19 has affected your municipality's finances so they can advocate for your needs when the legislature returns in August. The deadline to complete Survey II is Aug. 5. The Survey I summary is available [here](#).

COVID-Related FAQs – revised 7/28

- [Town Finance and Tax](#)
- [Town Operations](#)
- [Open Meeting Law](#)

Revitalizing Waterbury

Waterbury Bucks

Waterbury Bucks is a new town-wide shop local program that encourages spending locally. Bucks come in \$5 or \$20 denominations and can be used like cash at any participating business in town. You can purchase Bucks dollar for dollar from Revitalizing Waterbury. For more information, including how to purchase Waterbury Bucks, and a list of participating businesses, visit

<https://discoverwaterbury.com/>, email <mailto:karen@revitalizingwaterbury.org>, or call 802-793-6029.

STATE UPDATES

Mask Mandate Effective August 1st

On Friday August 24, Governor Scott signed an [executive order](#) requiring masks to be worn indoors and outdoors where social distancing is not possible. This order applies to everyone over the age of two, except when eating, drinking, exercising or participating in strenuous activity. Additionally, those with medical reasons not to wear a mask will also be exempt; no written documentation will be required in order to preserve the medical privacy of individuals.

Businesses, nonprofits, and government entities are required to implement measures notifying customers or clients of the requirement to wear masks/facial coverings. This can include signage or denial of entry or service to customers/clients who decline to wear masks/facial coverings. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development has signage available [here](#).

Department of Education

On July 31, Governor Scott signed a Directive officially setting Tuesday, September 8 as the universal reopening date for Vermont schools. Read the directive [here](#).

Department of Mental Health

COVID Support VT Launched to Help Vermonters Stressed by Pandemic

This new web-based resource offers self-help tips, resources, and a way to connect to existing mental health and community services. See more info at <https://covidsupportvt.org/>

State CARES Act

Funding Through Municipal Grants

The Vermont Legislature passed Act 137 of 2020 to distribute Coronavirus Relief Funds to various entities in Vermont. Sections 7 - 10 appropriate \$13 million to Vermont units of local government to reimburse eligible COVID-19 expenses, and \$2 million to assist municipalities in digitizing land records for online public access. The Agency of Administration, including the Vermont Department of Taxes, will be responsible for distributing the grant funds. Information about the program is available at <https://tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus/municipal-grants>. The Dept. of Taxes will be contracting with Regional Planning Commissions to assist municipalities to document eligible expenses.

Expenses are only eligible for reimbursement to the extent that they are not covered by insurance or other federal funding sources, including funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Therefore, it is imperative that your unit of local government apply for FEMA funding for those expenses which are eligible through the FEMA Public Assistance program prior to submitting your application for the LGER Grant. For FEMA-eligible costs, LGER will cover the 25% non-FEMA match. For more information on how to apply for FEMA funding, go to <https://vem.vermont.gov/applicant>.

Two assistance programs are available.

Local Government Expense Reimbursement Grant (LGER) – Reimburses eligible COVID-19 expenses incurred on or before December 30, 2020, including hazard pay, supplies and equipment, sanitation, facility alterations, overtime compensation, redirection of staff for first-response needs, and any other eligible COVID-19 expenses not covered by other funding sources, including funding provided by the FEMA. As this is pass through CARES Act funding, federal guidelines and information is available through the Vermont Department of Finance and Management at <https://tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus/municipal-grants>

Digitization of Land Records Grant – Reimburses qualifying municipalities for certain costs associated with making digital copies of land records available online for public access through a secure portal. The grants are being issued to provide economic support to town offices which have been impacted by increased customer demand due to the COVID-19 public health emergency but are otherwise unable to successfully allow those customers to search land records. The funds can be used both to pay necessary expenditures that qualifying municipalities face and costs directly associated to digitizing land records. Vermont's information management standards apply and are available at <https://sos.vermont.gov/vsara/manage/information-governance/standards/>. One specifically related to converting paper land records to digital format.

Read the grant guidelines [here](#). Visit <https://tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus/municipal-grants> for more information, and contact Jill Remick at jill.remick@vermont.gov with any questions.

NOTE: Expenses are only eligible for reimbursement to the extent that they are not covered by insurance or other federal funding sources, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) program. Municipalities should apply for FEMA funding prior to submitting an application for the LGER Grant. Note that for FEMA-eligible costs, LGER will cover the 25% non-FEMA match. [Click here](#) for more information on how to apply for FEMA funding.