

# United States Department of Agriculture

## Home Repair Disaster Relief Grant Pre-Qualification Package

We are sorry for your hardships caused by the recent natural disaster in Vermont. The Disaster Relief Grant program is available for very-low-income households to assist in funding necessary repairs and improvements cause by the July 2023 flood. Included in this packet is information other Disaster Resources that applicants are encouraged to contact, as well as information about our Disaster Relief program.

To be considered for funding, applicant(s) must show evidence of funding decisions from FEMA and your homeowner's insurance company.

### RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR HOMEOWNERS IMPACTED BY JULY 10<sup>th</sup> VERMONT FLOOD

With the Presidential Disaster Declaration related to the flood on July 10<sup>th</sup> now in place, eligible homeowners in the affected counties will have some options for financial assistance available to apply to now.

If you are a **current Single Family Housing Direct Loan** borrower in these counties (502 program):

- You may be eligible to have late fees waived for 6 months
- You may be eligible to have a payment assistance agreement extended for 6 months
- You may apply for a payment moratorium for 6 months.

You may fax, mail or hand deliver this package to the Rural Development Office listed below. If deemed eligible, a Single-Family Housing Specialist will reach out to you with your next steps.

**Complete the Pre-Qualification Information Sheet and the Authorization to Release Information Form and submit them to the:**

**USDA, Rural Development – NH 10  
Ferry Street, Suite 218,  
Concord, NH 03301  
Phone (603) 223-6035 ; Fax (855) 428-0329  
[HousingVT.NH@usda.gov](mailto:HousingVT.NH@usda.gov)**

**Due to VT/NH being a dual jurisdiction state, all application material is processed in our Concord, NH Office.**

**Please contact us with any questions you may have about our program. Pre-qualification is based on unverified information and does not guarantee loan/grant approval.**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S. W, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 or the USDA through Federal Relay Services at (800) 877-8339.

**July 24, 2023**

## **Disaster Relief Single Family Repair Grants**

### **Purpose of the Program:**

- To provide direct grant funds to very-low-income applicants to repair the damages to their dwellings caused by the natural disaster.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must own the dwelling to be repaired, maintain a life estate or long-term leasehold.
- Must be a US Citizen or permanent resident.
- Must be able to personally occupy the dwelling once the repairs are completed.
- Home is in a disaster area identified in the Presidential Disaster Declaration.
- Obtain the State Preliminary Damage Assessment from FEMA.
- Proof of ownership, rental, or other arrangement for principal residence documentation in the designated disaster area.
- Applicant's insurance information claim is needed for insurance benefits and evidence to show that the damage to the property is not fully covered.
- Applicant must provide documentation regarding destruction of or damage to the residence. This may include an insurance report, an inspection report by an independent fee inspector or government agency, or conclusive photographic evidence showing the destruction or damage.
- Must have total household income that does not exceed the Rural Development very-low-income limits.
- Must lack personal resources (e.g., cash, securities, real estate other than home and home-site) that can be used to meet repair needs.

### **Eligible Grant Purposes:**

Grant funds may be used to pay costs of repairs or improvements which are identified health or safety hazards caused by the natural disaster.

## **Housing Requirements:**

- Homes must be brought into good repair with loan/grant funds.
- Homes must be located in a rural area and in one of the eight counties (see income limits worksheet enclosed for ineligible areas.) Not all deficiencies need to be corrected to be eligible.

### Repairs to mobile homes can only be approved when:

1. The applicant owns the site or the mobile home is located in a mobile home park. The home is, or will be, placed on a permanent foundation.
2. Health and safety hazards are removed.
3. Properties must generally have access (either direct or via private right of way) to a town- owned or maintained road.

## **Ineligible Purposes:**

- Cannot repair income-producing property.
- Cannot finance the purchase of a dwelling.
- Dwelling should not be in a flood hazard area.
- Cannot finance cosmetic improvements, appliances, furniture or other personal property.

## **Maximum Disaster Grant Amount:**

Maximum grant assistance to any one household for one dwelling is \$40,675.

If more funding is needed applicants are welcome to apply for our 504 Home Repairs Loan and Grant Program. Contact 603-223-6035 for more information.

## **Maximum Adjusted Income Limits:**

On the following pages are Household Income Limits for New Hampshire and Vermont. If your current income exceeds these limits or your household size is larger than 8 people, ask Rural Development about adjustments to income: ex. dependent children, childcare expenses, disabled, handicapped and elderly applicants or co-applicants.





**DIRECT DISASTER RELIEF REPAIR GRANTS**

[www.rd.usda.gov/nh](http://www.rd.usda.gov/nh); [www.rd.usda.gov/vt](http://www.rd.usda.gov/vt)

**INCOME LIMITS WORKSHEET TO FIGURE YOUR ADJUSTED FAMILY INCOME**  
**VERMONT**

Applicant's gross income per year (Current gross weekly income x 52) include annual overtime \_\_\_\_\_  
 Co-applicant's gross income per year (Current gross weekly income x 52) include annual overtime \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Applicant Household income (Annual Amounts) (i.e. Social Security, Pension Income, VA \_\_\_\_\_  
 Benefits, Child Support, Annual Bonuses etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Household members: Include gross annual income from all sources \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subtract Child Care Expenses (Expenses for child care while at work) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subtract \$480.00 for each child \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adjusted Household Income \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are elderly or disabled ask the Rural Development staff for additional deductions to which you may be entitled.**

All applicants must have Adjusted Household Income at or below the "very low" RD published income limits according to your household size as noted below. If your household exceeds the 8 person limit, please contact any Rural Development office to obtain the income threshold.

VERMONT - MAXIMUM INCOME LIMITS (REVISED 07-17-2023)

COUNTY	1-4 PEOPLE	5-8 PEOPLE
Addison County	\$49,550	\$65,450
Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties	\$56,800	\$75,000
Bennington County	\$49,550	\$59,900
Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties	\$45,350	\$59,900
Lamoille County	\$45,350	\$59,900
Orange County	\$45,350	\$59,900
Rutland County	\$45,350	\$59,900
Washington County	\$48,400	\$63,900
Windham County	\$45,350	\$59,900
Windsor County	\$46,650	\$61,600

Loans cannot be made in Burlington, South Burlington, Essex Junction and Winooski, and the Southeastern part of Colchester, due to Population Density.

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**504 FLOOD DISASTER RELIEF PRE-QUALIFICATION INFORMATION**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Physical Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**HOUSEHOLD INCOME: (Per Month)**

Applicant #1 Monthly Wage Income \_\_\_\_\_ Annual \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant #2 Monthly Wage Income \_\_\_\_\_ Annual \_\_\_\_\_  
Food Stamps \_\_\_\_\_ AFDC/TANF \_\_\_\_\_ SS/SSI \_\_\_\_\_ Pension \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Foster Care \_\_\_\_\_ State Public Assistance \_\_\_\_\_ Child Support/Alimony \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:**

Other Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Income \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Income \_\_\_\_\_  
Children \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Children \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Children \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Foster Child/Adult \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSETS:**

Checking Account Balance \_\_\_\_\_ Savings Account Balance \_\_\_\_\_  
Stocks, Bonds, CD's \_\_\_\_\_ IRA Account Balance \_\_\_\_\_

**DEBTS:**

**Monthly Balance**

Rent/Non-RHS House Payment - \_\_\_\_\_ Real Estate Insurance \_\_\_\_\_  
Car/Truck Debt - \_\_\_\_\_ Real Estate Taxes \_\_\_\_\_  
Car/Truck Debt - \_\_\_\_\_ Child Care Costs \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Vehicles/Equipment - \_\_\_\_\_ Child Support Paid Out \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Debts - \_\_\_\_\_ Unreimbursed Medical \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Debts - \_\_\_\_\_ Other RHS Loans/Grants Yes No

Is your property on a: Town Road Private Road Association Road COOP

Was your property damage caused by the July 2023 Flood? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you contacted FEMA and your insurance company?

**Please List Repairs Requested:**

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development  
Rural Housing Service**

**AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION**

TO: **USDA** \_\_\_\_\_

RE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Account or Other Identifying Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Customer

I, and/or adults in my household, have applied for or obtained a loan or grant from the Rural Housing Service (RHS), part of the Rural Development mission area of the United States Department of Agriculture. As part of this process or in considering my household for interest credit, payment assistance, or other servicing assistance on such loan, RHS may verify information contained in my request for assistance and in other documents required in connection with the request.

I, or another adult in my household, authorize you to provide to RHS for verification purposes the following applicable information:

- Past and present employment or income records.
- Bank account, stock holdings, and any other asset balances.
- Past and present landlord references
- Other consumer credit references.

If the request is for a new loan or grant, I further authorize RHS to order a consumer credit report and verify other credit information.

I understand that under the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978, 12 U.S.C. 3401, et seq., RHS is authorized to access my financial records held by financial institutions in connection with the consideration or administration of assistance to me. I also understand that financial records involving my loan and loan application will be available to RHS without further notice or authorization, but will not be disclosed or released by RHS to another Government agency or department or used for another purpose without my consent except as required or permitted by law.

This authorization is valid for the life of the loan.

The recipient of this form may rely on the Government's representation that the loan is still in existence.

The information RHS obtains is only to be used to process my request for a loan or grant, interest credit, payment assistance, or other servicing assistance. I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Notice to Applicant Regarding Privacy Act Information. I understand that if I have requested interest credit or payment assistance, this authorization to release information will cover any future requests for such assistance and that I will not be renotified of the Privacy Act information unless the Privacy Act information has changed concerning use of such information.

**A copy of this authorization may be accepted as an original.**

Your prompt reply is appreciated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** (Applicant or Adult Household Member)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** (Applicant or Adult Household Member)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless as displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0575-0172. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

*RHS Is An Equal Opportunity Lender*

**SEE ATTACHED PRIVACY ACT NOTICE**

## NOTICE TO APPLICANT REGARDING PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION

The information requested on this form is authorized to be collected by the Rural Housing Service (RHS), Rural Business-Cooperative Services (RBS), Rural Utilities Service (RUS) or the Farm Service Agency (FSA) ("the agency") by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) or by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.), or by other laws administered by RHS, RBS, RUS or FSA.

Disclosure of information requested is voluntary. However, failure to disclose certain items of information requested, including your Social Security Number or Federal Identification Number, may result in a delay in the processing of an application or its rejection. Information provided may be used outside of the agency for the following purposes:

1. When a record on its face, or in conjunction with other records, indicates a violation or potential violation of law, whether civil, criminal or regulatory in nature, and whether arising by general statute or particular program statute, or by regulation, rule, or order issued pursuant thereto, disclosure may be made to the appropriate agency, whether Federal, foreign, State, local, or tribal, or other public authority responsible for enforcing, investigating or prosecuting such violation or charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, or rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant thereto, if the information disclosed is relevant to any enforcement, regulatory, investigative, or prosecutive responsibility of the receiving entity.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed to a Member of Congress or to a Congressional staff member in response to an inquiry of the Congressional office made at the written request of the constituent about whom the record is maintained.
3. Rural Development will provide information from this system to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and to other Federal agencies maintaining debt servicing centers, in connection with overdue debts, in order to participate in the Treasury Offset Program as required by the Debt Collection Improvement Act, Pub. L. 104-134, Section 31001.
4. Disclosure of the name, home address, and information concerning default on loan repayment when the default involves a security interest in tribal allotted or trust land. Pursuant to the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.), liquidation may be pursued only after offering to transfer the account to an eligible tribal member, the tribe, or the Indian Housing Authority serving the tribe(s).
5. Referral of names, home addresses, social security numbers, and financial information to a collection or servicing contractor, financial institution, or a local, State, or Federal agency, when Rural Development determines such referral is appropriate for servicing or collecting the borrower's account or as provided for in contracts with servicing or collection agencies.
6. It shall be a routine use of the records in this system of records to disclose them in a proceeding before a court or adjudicative body, when: (a) the agency or any component thereof; or (b) any employee of the agency in his or her official capacity; or (c) any employee of the agency in his or her individual capacity where the agency has agreed to represent the employee, or (d) the United States is a party to litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and by careful review, the agency determines that the records are both relevant and necessary to the litigation, provided; however, that in each case, the agency determines that disclosure of the records is a use of the information contained in the records that is compatible with the purpose for which the agency collected the records.
7. Referral of names, home addresses, and financial information for selected borrowers to financial consultants, advisors, lending institutions, packagers, agents and private or commercial credit sources, when Rural Development determines such referral is appropriate to encourage the borrower to refinance the Rural Development indebtedness as required by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1471), or to assist the borrower in the sale of the property .
8. Referral of legally enforceable debts to the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to be offset against any tax refund that may become due the debtor for the tax year in which the referral is made, in accordance with the IRS regulations at 26 C.F.R. 301.6402-6T, Offset of Past Due Legally Enforceable Debt Against Overpayment, and under the authority contained in 31 U.S.C. 3720A.
9. Referral of information regarding indebtedness to the Defense Manpower Data Center, Department of Defense, and the United States Postal Service for the purpose of conducting computer matching programs to identify and locate individuals receiving Federal salary or benefit payments and who are delinquent in their repayment of debts owed to the U.S. Government under certain programs administered by Rural Development in order to collect debts under the provisions of the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (5 U.S.C. 5514) by voluntary repayment, administrative or salary offset procedures, or by collection agencies.
10. Referral of names, home addresses, and financial information to lending institutions when Rural Development determines the individual may be financially capable of qualifying for credit with or without a guarantee.
11. Disclosure of names, home addresses, social security numbers, and financial information to lending institutions that have a lien against the same property as Rural Development for the purpose of the collection of the debt. These loans can be under the direct and guaranteed loan programs.
12. Referral to private attorneys under contract with either Rural Development or with the Department of Justice for the purpose of foreclosure and possession actions and collection of past due accounts in connection with Rural Development.
13. It shall be a routine use of the records in this system of records to disclose them to the Department of Justice when: (a) The agency or any component thereof; or (b) any employee of the agency in his or her official capacity where the Department of Justice has agreed to represent the employee; or (c) the United States Government, is a party to litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and by careful review, the agency determines that the records are both relevant and necessary to the litigation and the use of such records by the Department of Justice is therefore deemed by the agency to be for a purpose that is compatible with the purpose for which the agency collected the records.



**NOTICE TO APPLICANT REGARDING PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION- CONTINUED**

14. Referral of names, home addresses, social security numbers, and financial information to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a record of location utilized by Federal agencies for an automatic credit prescreening system.

15. Referral of names, home addresses, social security numbers, and financial information to the Department of Labor, State Wage Information Collection Agencies, and other Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as those responsible for verifying information furnished to qualify for Federal benefits, to conduct wage and benefit matching through manual and/or automated means, for the purpose of determining compliance with Federal regulations and appropriate servicing actions against those not entitled to program benefits, including possible recovery of improper benefits.

16. Referral of names, home addresses, and financial information to financial consultants, advisors, or underwriters, when Rural Development determines such referral is appropriate for developing packaging and marketing strategies involving the sale of Rural Development loan assets.

17. Rural Development, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(e)(5), will provide to consumer reporting agencies or commercial reporting agencies information from this system indicating that an individual is responsible for a claim that is current.

18. Referral of names, home addresses, home telephone numbers, social security numbers, and financial information to escrow agents (which also could include attorneys and title companies) selected by the applicant or borrower for the purpose of closing the loan.

19. Disclosures pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(12): Disclosures may be made from this system to consumer reporting agencies as defined in the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 168a(f)) or the Federal Claims Collection Act (31 U.S.C. 3701(a)(3)).