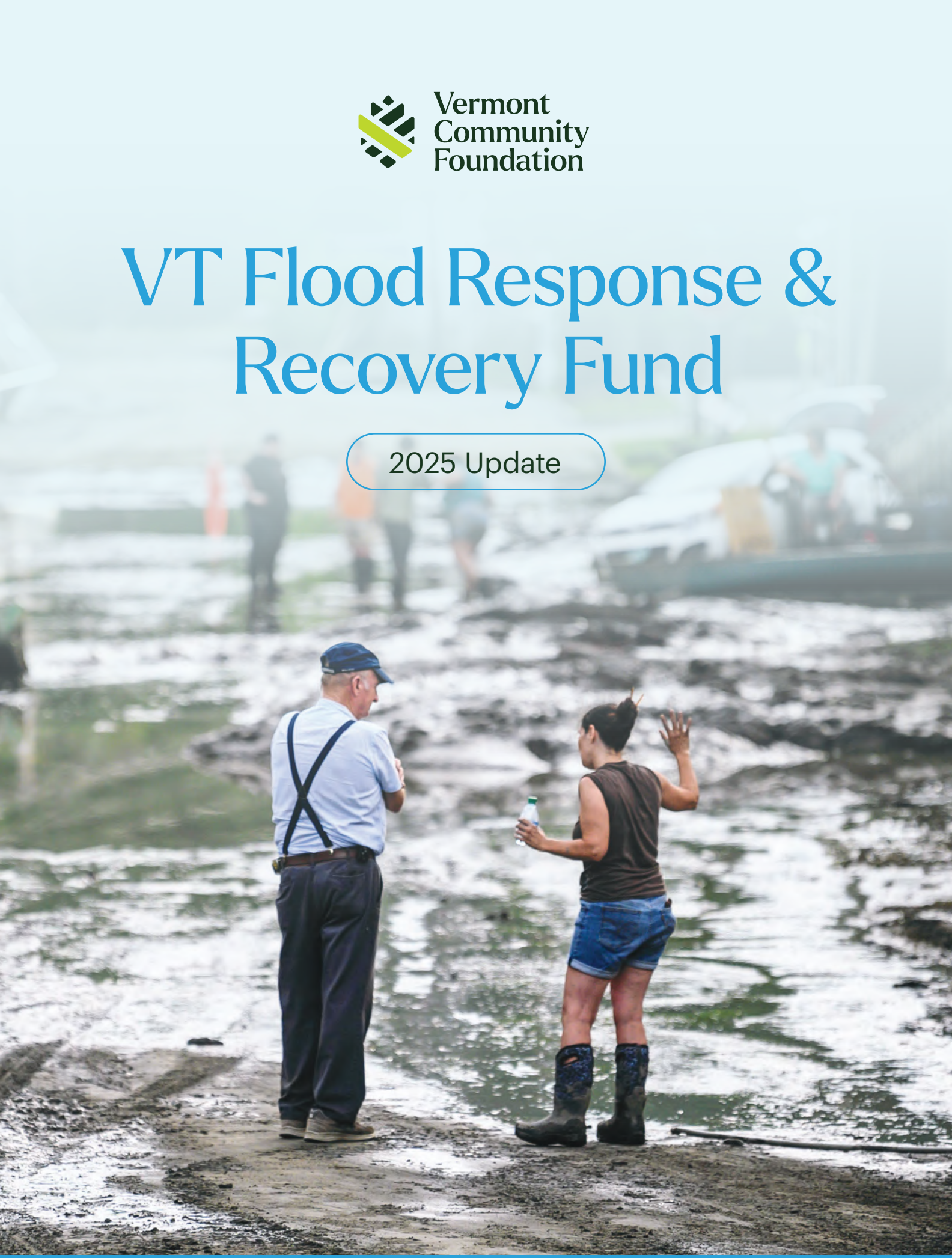
Vermont Community Foundation

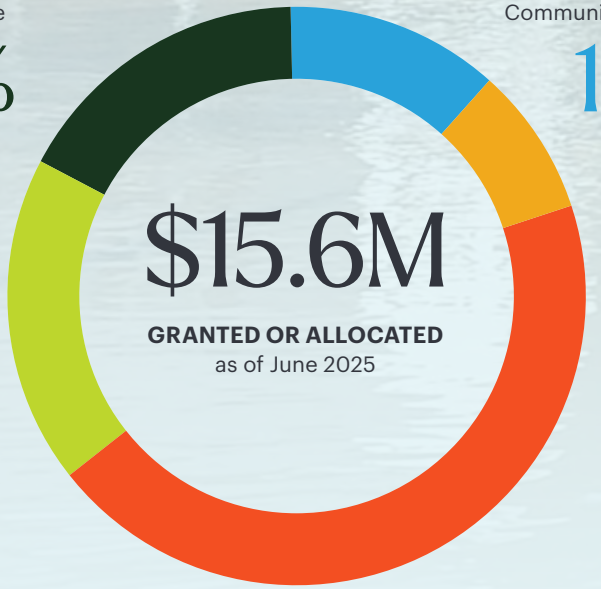
VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund

2025 Update





Grantmaking by Focus Area



Farms & Agriculture
16.9%

Community & Climate Resilience
11.9%

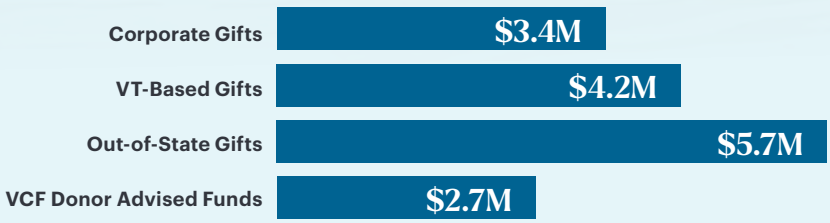
Business & Nonprofit Recovery
8.5%

Critical Needs & Individual Assistance
18.3%

Housing & Home Repair
44.4%

$16M

in Gifts into the VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund as of June 2025



JULY 9, 2023 Flooding Begins

JULY 2023

7/12 VCF establishes the VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund

7/14 Vermont receives federal disaster declaration

7/15 National Life's Do Good Fest benefits VCF Flood Fund

7/17 Vermont Public starts fundraising for VCF Flood Fund

7/19-21 VCF issues 1st grants

97 GRANTS

- immediate response
- food and shelter
- clean up
- debris removal
- volunteer support

VCF team makes contact with all flood impacted towns

VCF partners with EastRise (formerly known as VSECU) to offer interest-free loans to flood victims

7/26 Noah Kahan livestreams Red Rocks concert for flood relief

Cumulative Funds Distributed: $986K

3,500 calls to VT 211



Hope Box Derby, photo credit: John Lazenby

Because You Stepped Up

In the wake of two devastating years of flooding, your generosity made it possible for the Vermont Community Foundation to respond swiftly and stay engaged where it mattered most. Together, we reached more than 100 communities, met urgent needs, and helped build the capacity required for long-term recovery.

VCF's ability to convene, listen, and act meant we could respond quickly and remain present for the long haul, helping local groups access resources, navigate systems, and plan for the future. This kind of catalytic role, rooted in relationships and informed by what's happening on the ground, is what makes community foundations vital in times of crisis.

Your giving supported not just relief but resilience, fueling local leadership, funding essential staff, and filling critical gaps where other systems fell short. We're deeply grateful for your trust and partnership. Together, we've helped strengthen not just recovery today, but Vermont's readiness for tomorrow.

Partners in Generosity

We're deeply grateful to the corporate and philanthropic partners who trusted the Vermont Community Foundation as a hub for collective giving. National Life Group led the way with a record-setting $1.5 million through its Do Good Fest. Others like TD Charitable Foundation, Lawson's Finest Liquids, the WaterWheel Foundation, Vermont Mutual Insurance, Darn Tough, the Manton Foundation, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, and so many more stepped up early and generously.

Support poured in from every direction and in every form, from benefit concerts and lemonade stands to the unforgettable Hope Box Derby and so many other heartfelt efforts. Donations came from individuals, families, and communities across Vermont and far beyond. The outpouring of kindness stretched across the country and from our neighbors in Canada, reminding us how deeply people care when their neighbors are in need.

115 GRANTS

- individual assistance
- human services
- nonprofits, libraries, small business recovery
- volunteer support

VCF Opens Farm Disaster Relief Grant Program

8/25-26

Phish Flood Relief Benefit Concerts Raise $3.5M

118 GRANTS

- farms
- climate resilience
- arts sector
- individual assistance
- volunteer support

9/7

First *Hug Your Farmer* benefit concert held at the Flynn

9/19

Lawson's Finest releases VT Strong Pale Ale to benefit VCF Flood Fund

76 GRANTS

- farms
- climate resilience
- small business
- individual assistance

VCF partners with VT Agency of Agriculture on Farmer Grants

AUGUST 2023	SEPTEMBER 2023	SEPT 18-20 Additional Severe Flooding	OCTOBER 2023
$2.23M	$4.76M		$5.49M

Accelerating Recovery Through Data and Connection

After the 2023 floods, the Vermont Community Foundation partnered with the Stormwise Foundation to launch VTRecovers, a centralized data system that helps Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) assess damage, track needs, and coordinate support. To accelerate progress on the ground, VCF funded case managers and construction leads to strengthen coordination and speed up repairs. The goal was clear: ensure Vermonters could connect quickly to help after a disaster.

When new flooding was forecast in July 2024, VCF worked with United Ways of Vermont to establish a data-sharing agreement—completed in just 24 hours—that allowed real-time damage reports from 211 calls to flow into VTRecovers. Thanks to the quick action and partnership of United Ways, LTRGs were able to follow up with impacted households within hours, not months.

That speed mattered for people like George*, an elderly Vermonter whose manufactured home was damaged when a nearby brook overflowed. Floodwaters ruined his insulation, washed out his driveway, and contaminated his well. George didn't know he qualified for FEMA support until he called 211 and was referred through VTRecovers to the kingdom united Resilience & Recovery effort (kuRRve), the LTRG serving the Northeast Kingdom.

The kuRRve team helped him file his FEMA application and secured funding to complete the repairs. "Having resources from the VCF allows us to walk with survivors on their flood recovery journey," said Paige Hartsell, director of kuRRve. "That has meant the difference between someone staying housed while their home is repaired, instead of being displaced."

> "That has meant the difference between someone staying housed while their home is repaired, instead of being displaced."

Stormwise brought deep disaster recovery tech expertise. VCF helped connect state agencies, nonprofits, and recovery groups around a shared system. The result: a faster, more coordinated response—and more Vermonters getting the help they need to repair, rebuild, and recover.

*Name changed for privacy.

NOVEMBER 2023

22 GRANTS
- long-term recovery groups
- home repair
- farms
- individual assistance

First grants made to establish and support LTRGs

Cumulative Funds Distributed: $6.11M

DECEMBER 2023

39 GRANTS
- watersheds
- long-term recovery groups
- home repair
- mental health
- social services

$6.85M

3rd Flooding Event of 2023

12/8

VCF issues 1st grants to support mental health of flood victims

JANUARY 2024

4 GRANTS
- home repair
- small business
- farm sector

Low-interest EastRise (VSECU) flood recovery home energy loans backed by VCF

$6.9M



Marshall Hartman is part of the ReSOURCE team in Barre helping flood victims rebuild their homes.

Photo credit: ReSOURCE

Building Back, Building Careers

In Barre, flood recovery is doubling as a career pathway for Marshall Hartman. His own home was damaged in the 2023 floods, so when he joined a team repairing homes in town, he brought firsthand empathy.

"Everything is more complicated than it seems," he said. "You start with ripping out the drywall and insulation, but then there is so much more to do. It's very stressful."

Hartman enrolled in Serve Learn Earn, a 12-month program that combines job training with community service while helping participants earn a high school diploma. Working with ReSOURCE, his team has completed five homes in Barre—restoring them fully and making them more resilient to future flooding. He's applied what he learned to his own home, too. "When I learned appliances could be put up on risers, I went home and put my own washer and dryer up, as well."

Serve Learn Earn is a collaboration among ReSOURCE, Vermont Works for Women, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, and Audubon Vermont. It is publicly funded through the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation and supported by the Vermont Community Foundation through the McClure Foundation, Waterwheel Foundation Fund, VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund, and a discretionary grantmaking fund.

32 GRANTS

- town infrastructure
- public spaces
- home repair
- individual assistance
- social services
- watersheds

Healthy watershed initiative launches, VCF supports Addison County Recovery

17 GRANTS

- town infrastructure
- public spaces
- preparedness
- home repair

VCF contracts with Stormwise to support long-term recovery data collection

VCF awards $100K+ to support Art and Community Spaces

FEBRUARY 2024	MARCH 2024	Early Spring Flooding in Southern VT	APRIL 2024
$7.75M	$8.82M	700+ calls to VT 211	$9.1M

From Recovery to Resilience

The stories in this report offer a window into the recovery efforts in 2024–2025, but they represent only a portion of the Vermont Community Foundation's work. Since launching the VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund in 2023, VCF has made hundreds of grants to meet urgent needs, strengthen communities, and build long-term resilience across the state. The examples below highlight just a few more of the ways we've supported Vermont's recovery.

Immediate Assistance and Urgent Needs

When flooding struck again in 2024, VCF quickly mobilized resources through trusted partners— supporting emergency responders and agencies that sheltered, fed, and clothed Vermonters. Community grants helped create local supply hubs and equip volunteers for safe clean-up efforts.

Ensuring Recovery for All

Data shows that natural disasters have the greatest impact on those with the least resources. VCF reached out to partners in every flood-impacted town, urban and rural. Grants supported multilingual flood resources, legal aid for low-income Vermonters' FEMA appeals, and research on the equity of VT's flood response.

Strengthening Community Connections

Recovery also means restoring personal wellbeing and community cohesion. VCF supported 15 arts and public space projects to help towns heal together. Additional grants funded mental health care for flood survivors, local celebrations that foster connection, and the rebuilding of public parks and trails.

Supporting Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Local Farms

VCF grants helped entrepreneurs—especially those historically excluded from aid—access technical help and financial resources to reopen. Libraries, nonprofits, healthcare providers, and social service agencies received help to stay operational. VCF's Farm Disaster Relief Grant Program provided direct aid to farmers who lost equipment, crops, or property.

Watershed Resilience

Creating flood-resilient communities starts with healthy watersheds. VCF continues to partner with Watersheds United Vermont (WUV) to empower local groups to protect and restore waterways. VCF grants support efforts to improve water quality, reduce flood risk, and strengthen long-term community resilience across the state.

MAY 2024

35 GRANTS

- community resilience
- town infrastructure
- public spaces

Cumulative Funds Distributed: $9.39M

VCF and Stormwise launch VTRecovers centralized data system for LTRGs

JUNE 2024

$9.49M

VCF shifts support to long-term recovery and resilience

JULY 2024

$9.88M

VT 211 shares real-time call data through VCF's VTRecovers data system, allowing LTRGs to expedite call backs and response

Remnants of Hurricane Beryle cause additional flooding

2,881 calls to VT 211

34 GRANTS

- immediate response
- food and shelter
- clean up
- volunteer support

From Response to Readiness

The devastating floods of 2023 and 2024 will leave a lasting mark on Vermont. While the initial crisis response is behind us, we know the work is far from over. Many individuals, families, and communities are still navigating long and difficult roads to recovery and will be for years to come.

Throughout our response, we've learned a great deal. We saw the value of listening closely to local leaders and responding with flexibility. We recognized how critical it is to have strong systems in place before disaster strikes. And we witnessed firsthand how Vermonters look out for one another—neighbors helping neighbors in ways that continue to inspire our team every day.

We also know these floods will not be the last, as seen again in July 2025. As climate-related disasters grow more frequent and severe, we are committed to helping Vermont prepare. Our Community Impact team continues to support upstream efforts to strengthen watershed resiliency through the Daybreak Fund for Climate and Community, the Climate and the Environment Fund, and the Colby Hill Fund—with a focus on building long-term resilience at the community level.

This work has deepened our commitment to continuing both long-term recovery work and supporting long-term resilience, knowing that reducing vulnerabilities and supporting readiness will strengthen Vermont's response when it's needed again.

WHAT'S NEXT: The David R. Coates Fund for Vermont Disaster Relief

Recovery takes time. Preparedness takes foresight. We are committed to both.

In partnership with the leaders of the Vermont Disaster Recovery Fund (VDRF), the Community Foundation established this new permanent fund for response. It was seeded with remaining assets from VDRF, which was created in 2011 after Tropical Storm Irene and continued supporting flood recovery efforts through early 2025. The new Fund for Vermont Disaster Relief now stands ready to respond immediately when disaster strikes—ensuring fast, flexible, and equitable aid can reach Vermonters and communities in the earliest, most urgent moments of need and continue throughout the recovery process. Because no one's ability to rebuild should depend on luck, timing, or zip code.

Visit **vermontcf.org/vt-disaster-relief** to learn more and find out how you can support Vermont in future disasters.

18 GRANTS

- direct assistance
- farm sector
- climate resilience
- temporary housing

VCF expands LTRG support to existing and newly formed groups in response to 2024 flooding

17 GRANTS

- direct assistance
- watersheds
- town emergency preparedness

20 GRANTS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2024

- long-term recovery groups
- housing
- flood mitigation
- community resilience
- mental health
- farm sector

2/10

VCF announces a permanent fund for VT disaster relief

AUGUST 2024	SEPTEMBER 2024	FEBRUARY 2025	JUNE 2025
$10.1M	$10.34M	$12.3M	$15.57M Granted or Allocated



To learn more about the Vermont Community Foundation
and its products and services, visit **vermontcf.org**
or contact us at **philanthropy@vermontcf.org**
or **802 388-3355 opt. 5** to be connected with
one of our philanthropic advisors.

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Cover photo credit: John Lazenby