

BUSINESS SUPPORT & RESILIENCE RESEARCH

VERMONT

Support Received

Money:

- SBA loans
- BEGAP grant
- Smaller grants - VT Professionals of Color Network, NOFA Farmer Emergency Fund, Intervale Recovery Fund, etc.
- Flood Recovery Rebates - Efficiency Vermont

People:

- Counseling from many organizations - Center for Women and Enterprise, Farm First, Vermont Small Business Law Center.
- Community volunteering - Mutual Aid, Crisis Cleanup

Business Feedback

- FEMA's bureaucracy impacted their capacity to provide businesses with available funding in a timely + helpful manner
- It's difficult to access federal funding when it's rooted through municipalities - relationships must be in place to do so
- Prioritize incentives and grants rather than fines and loans
- Organize proactively rather than reactively

NORTH CAROLINA

Support Received

Money:

- SBA + Golden Leaf loans
- Dept. of Ag grants for farmers
- Lots of strong artist grants
- Smaller grants with upcoming deadlines - tend to have specific eligibilities, many not fully developed/available yet
- IRS administrative disaster tax relief and special tax law provisions

People:

- Army Corps of Engineers has traveled around communities, cleaning up debris piled up by businesses
- Businesses banding together to support one another

Business Feedback

- Loans are not useful with already existing COVID dept. SBA cannot provide money due to government budget freeze
- Larger grants are only eligible to specific regions/industries
- FEMA response far too late, unhelpful
- Lack of support from government in preparedness/future thinking-people rebuilding right on the flood plain.

WORTH CONSIDERATION

Other State Best Practices

Colorado:

Resiliency Office (subdivision of their state govt.) that coordinates and collaborates across State agencies and with local, state, federal, private, and nongovernmental agencies. Their Small Business Development Center Network offers businesses support in applying for loans, long term planning, insurance planning, etc.

Maine:

Business recovery and resilience grant program that will benefit businesses impacted by severe weather storms - to be used for projects that both address past damage and prepare for the future.

Other Than Flooding

Heat:

7 extremely hot days per year to 15-20 by midcentury

Specific Industries:

Agriculture, maple sugaring, tourism, skiing, forestry - how to provide specific support to particularly vulnerable industries without exclusion?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Prioritizing grants over loans**
 - Between businesses and their communities, and between communities and the government
- 2. Building & Strengthening Relationships**
 -
- 3. Increasing awareness of available resources**
 - Both ahead of disasters and following them