
From: Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance <kelly@vermontoutdoorbusinessalliance.org>
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 8:49 AM
Subject: Take the Survey: Outdoor Sector Flood Impact



Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance

TAKE THE FLOOD IMPACT SURVEY

The Vermont Flood has had a tremendous impact on the state's outdoor industry, affecting recreation businesses, organizations, and communities across the state. The Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance (VOBA) is working to summarize the impact on outdoor businesses, navigate available

resources, and advocate to government and relief organizations.

If your business has experienced any flood impacts at all, take the brief [survey](#) by Friday, August 4 so VOBA can present a complete snapshot of the sector and support recovery efforts.

In addition to providing your information to VOBA, individuals and businesses should submit damage data through [Vermont 211](#) so the state accesses as much federal funding as possible.

[Take the Survey](#)

FLOOD RECOVERY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WEBINAR

VOBA and [Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility](#) co-hosted a virtual forum on June 24 on public and private business financial assistance. Panelists included Linda Rossi, State Director for the Vermont Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC), Debra Boudrieau, Business Advisor for VtSBDC, Patti Komline, Board Director for the Vermont Main Street Flood Recovery Fund, Weiwei Wang, Director of Operations and Development for the Vermont Professionals of Color Network, and Melissa Bounty, Executive Director for the Central Vermont Regional Development Corporation.

Key takeaways:

- It is important to pause, consider the options and prepare to move forward before acting. Make use of the opportunity.
- Use bridge grant funding for business costs and have employees apply for unemployment insurance and disaster unemployment assistance.
- A supportive force is needed for BIPOC - identifying business owners to access information and get help in applying for assistance.

- Business counseling can help answer questions and navigate resources from financing options to relocation, legal, and mental health services.
- Financial impacts includes physical and economic injury losses. SBA loans are an option but many small businesses are not in a position to take on debt.

Listen to the [recording](#) and find webinar resource links on [VOBA'S Flood Recovery webpage](#).

BUSINESS EMERGENCY GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Vermont Department of Economic Development (DED) will launch the [Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program](#) next week to administer \$20 million in state grants to Vermont businesses and nonprofits that suffered physical losses in the flood.

Businesses will be eligible for a grant of 20% of the net documented uncovered damage to their physical property up to a maximum of \$20,000. For properties that sustained more than a million dollars of damage, grant amounts may exceed the \$20,000 cap. Those grants will be 20% of net documented uncovered physical damage up to \$500,000 based on the number of employees and total damage sustained.

Physical losses and damage can include physical space and/or replacements of inventory, machinery, equipment, and supplies. Business should collect photographs, insurance adjuster damage assessments, estimates for repairs to physical structures, tax returns, equipment, inventory, or supply purchases, actual paid expenses, and other related documents.

[Read](#) more about it in VTDigger. Agency details are expected to be released on July 31 followed by the application portal within the week.

Find [resources](#) on ACCD's Flood Resources webpage.

SAVE THE DATE!

Think Differently:

VOBA's Fifth Annual Member Meeting and Vermont Outdoor Economy Summit

Thursday, November 2 from 12:00 - 5:00 pm at HULA

Mark your calendars to join outdoor businesses, organizations, and policymakers at the **Vermont Outdoor Economy Summit on Thursday, November 2 from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm** in Burlington.

More details are forthcoming. [Read](#) about last year's event.

Thanks to the 2023 sponsors below - contact [VOBA](#) to discuss sponsor options.



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[Read](#) about last year's summit attended by over 100 outdoor stakeholders to network and have strategic discussions related to entrepreneurship, workforce, marketing, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, and recreation infrastructure.

FLOOD SUPPORT FOR VERMONT BUSINESSES

Many Vermont outdoor businesses have been helping relief efforts by hosting fundraisers or donating products including Bolton Valley Resort, Gordini, Hula, Kaden Apparel, Lake Morey Resort, [Outdoor Gear Exchange](#), [Ranch Camp](#), Trapp Family Lodge, [Turtle Fur](#), and [Your Yuckies!](#)

Support has also come from visitors to regions with accessible recreation and by shopping at businesses that are open or have reopened. Help get the word out that destinations like Burlington, Stowe, Killington, Brattleboro, Manchester, the Mad River Valley, and the Champlain Islands are welcoming guests.

Encourage customers to support their favorite flood-affected businesses by purchasing gift cards, making future reservations, or donating to crowd funding sites like those by [Lamoille Valley Bike](#)

[Tours](#), [Onion River Outdoors](#), [Vermont Bicycle Shop](#), [Alpenglow Fitness](#), and the [Montpelier Parks/Montpelier Youth Conservation Corps](#).

[Let VOBA know](#) about your fundraisers and donations.

VOBA MEMBER - NON-PROFIT



Create Community through People, Parks and Programs

The [Vermont Recreation & Parks Association](#) (VRPA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, development, and improvement of all recreation and park services within Vermont.

VRPA is hosting the 80th Annual VT Conference on Recreation & Trails Symposium on September 27-28 in Killington. [Register](#) to hear keynote speaker Mirna Valerio or attend workshops with professional trail builders and recreation managers from [Apex Trailworks](#), [Kingdom Trail Association](#), [Ridgeline Outdoor Collective](#), [Stowe Trails Partnership](#), [Timber & Stone, LLC.](#), [Sinuosity LLC.](#), [Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports](#), [Vermont Mountain Bike Association](#), and the [Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative](#).

VOBA MEMBER - INDUSTRY



[Kingdom Games](#) offers over 50 days of running, biking, open water swimming, and winter swimming in the heart of the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont from January through December. Events are challenging for the very best endurance athletes, with options accessible to all levels of ability and all ages. A policy of inclusion welcomes the widest possible diversity of thought, politics, race, religious beliefs, background, and sexual orientation of athletes.

Register for upcoming events such as the [Kingdom Swim on July 29](#), a celebration of open water swimming on Lake Memphremagog, and the [NEK Swim Week from August 5 – August 13](#), swims in 8 lakes over the course of 9 days.

VOBA FY24 MEMBERSHIP

We recognize this is a challenging time for Vermont's outdoor industry and prioritize giving to our communities and neighbors. We are grateful to the following businesses, organizations, and individuals for donating to VOBA for our annual membership cycle which began on July 1.

If you are in a position to renew or become a new member at this time, we appreciate your support of VOBA's work in the recovery and in strengthening Vermont's outdoor economy for the future.

Click here to learn more and join.









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