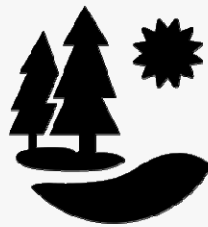

From: Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance <kelly@vermontoutdoorbusinessalliance.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 1:37 PM
Subject: Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program Accepting Applications



Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance

BUSINESS EMERGENCY GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The application portal for the state's [Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program](#) is open. The Vermont Department of Economic Development (DED) is administering \$20 million in grants to Vermont businesses and nonprofits that suffered physical losses from the flood dating back to July 7.

Funds are intended to assist in restoring, reopening, and bringing employees back to work. Physical damages can be to real estate, leasehold improvements, inventory, machinery, and equipment. Economic injury (revenue loss) is ineligible.

Find [guidelines](#) and necessary documentation or listen to a [webinar](#). Applications will be approved on a rolling basis until funds are expended.

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 will be 20% of net documented uncovered physical damage up to \$500,000 based on the number of employees and total damage.

More [resources](#) are available on ACCD's flood recovery webpage or sign up for the [Severe Storm Recovery Newsletter](#).



Darkside Snowboards' flooded shop in Ludlow, Umiak Outfitters, and VOBA were featured in a national industry [story](#) by The Daily at Outdoor Retailer. Customers can support Darkside by shopping [online](#) or at the Killington location.

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. 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 4:00 pm on 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 are encouraged to submit damage data through [Vermont 211](#) so Vermont accesses as much federal funding as possible.

[Take the Survey](#)

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.

Details are forthcoming. [Read](#) about the 2022 event attended by 100 outdoor stakeholders for networking and strategic discussions on entrepreneurship, workforce, marketing, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, and recreation infrastructure.

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



OUTDOOR MARKETING AND TRADE SHOWS

The Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing (VDTM) is producing content to highlight regions that weren't affected by the storm, promote events like [Open Farm Week](#) August 6 - 13 (with nature farm walks), and encourage support of Vermont by keeping travel plans. Post-flood visitation campaigns will deploy ads, social media messaging, and videos. [Submit](#) information to be listed in the [VermontVacation.com](#) Stay to Play travel-planning [directory](#). Encourage customers to check the status of outdoor recreation from the [list](#) compiled by the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative.

[The Big E](#) in West Springfield, MA is New England's Great State Fair September

15 - October 1. In exchange for helping to staff the Vermont Tourism Booth in the [Vermont Building](#), VDTM will distribute business print collateral during the 17 days of the fair. [Email](#) for information.

Planning to attend a trade show or expo this fall or in 2024? [Email](#) VOBA if you are exhibiting or interested in the [Snowbound Expo](#) in Boston, [Good Trade Makers Market](#) in Burlington, [Outdoor Adventure Show](#) in Toronto, [Sea Otter Classic](#) in Monterey, [OutDoor](#) by ISPO in Munich, [The Big Gear Show](#) in Denver, or [Outdoor Retailer](#) in Salt Lake City.



The [Vermont State Trade Expansion Program \(STEP\)](#) will open financial assistance on September 30 to eligible small business exporters to support entry into foreign markets or expand international export activity through trade shows, trade missions, market research, e-commerce, and export education. [Email](#) for information.

OUTDOOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Earl B. Hunter, founder of [Black Folks Camp Too](#), presented at [Outdoor Gear Exchange](#) and the BIPOC Outdoor Festival in Craftsbury this past week, talking about the [Unity Blaze program](#) and education at state parks.

[Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports](#) is expanded access to the outdoors. [Read](#) about their programs in today's VTDigger.

The Kelly Brush Foundation is gearing up for the [Kelly Brush Ride](#) on September 9 in Middlebury to raise funds to help people with spinal cord injuries purchase adaptive sports equipment and enjoy an active lifestyle. [Email](#) for information.



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](#).

VOBA FY24 MEMBERSHIP

We recognize this is a challenging time for Vermont's outdoor industry and VOBA prioritizes any 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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