

Vermont Emergency Eats (VEE) partnership provides flood relief

In response to the summer 2023 flooding that impacted numerous communities in Vermont, a short-term emergency program "Vermont Emergency Eats" was born from a collaborative effort between the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) and SEVCA.

Emergency Eats engaged local restaurants to provide prepared meals to Vermonters whose access to food was compromised in the aftermath of the floods. The program distributed over 49,000 meals made by local restaurants to flood-impacted Vermonters between August 7 and November 4, 2023. Participating restaurants purchased an average of 25% local ingredients even though there was no local ingredient mandate. This passed the benefit of the program along to 68+ Vermont farmers and food producers.

"We think of Vermont Emergency Eats as being about feeding people, which is true," said Elizabeth Schuster, Sustainable Economies Consulting. "But equally important is the benefit to participating restaurants, which reported \$703,500 in flood damages. These restaurants were able to use the cash flow from the meals to start repairing their businesses."

Vermont Emergency Eats was administered by SEVCA, in partnership with Capstone Community Action, Center for an Agricultural Economy, Chester Helping Hands, Green Mountain Farm To School, The Giving Fridge, Springfield Family Center, and Vermont Farmers Food Center.



Head Start

Programs in Chester, Springfield, and Windsor promote the language, literacy, and social and emotional development of young children ages birth to five while supporting low-income parents in their role as their child's first and most important teachers.

- 71 children were served in Head Start by 32 staff.
- 45% of staff are former Head Start Parents.
- 20% of the enrolled children are on an Individual Education Plan to address learning delays.
- 89% of children are up-to-date on immunizations and 86% have a dental home.
- 56% of the children will be transitioning to kindergarten in the fall.
- 51% of children live in two-parent families.
- 43% of fathers were engaged with our program throughout the year.
- 10 families caring for 10 children experienced homelessness during the program year, and 33% received services to help them maintain their housing.



Emergency home repair and Weatherization

776 people received services that increased the comfort and energy efficiency of their homes with insulation, air sealing, and furnace repairs.

141 people received improvements within their home which improved the health and safety of their environments. Services may have included the reduction or elimination of lead, radon, carbon dioxide and/or fire hazards or electrical issues.



"I just wanted to personally thank you for the delivery tonight to make sure we have heat and power. Oh my gosh, hot water! ...I just wanted to say how much I appreciate you and how you worked hard in the last end of your day on a Friday and make sure that my daughter and I had what we needed. I just really wanted to make sure you knew how grateful we are and how much we appreciate you so thank you so much."

— Emergency Fuel client

Housing Stability

- 343 Households received financial supports to maintain their housing including rental and deposit payments and financial coaching.
- 72% of households receiving supportive services avoided eviction.
- 1612 households were able to keep their homes heated and/or their electricity on.
- 37% of Seniors and 60% of individuals with disabilities maintained an independent living situation.



In FY2023 SEVCA provided services to 3711 individuals- an increase of 27% or 785 more people from FY22.

- 33% were over age 55
- 27% were children 0-17
- 35% had a disabling condition
- 14% of adults had not finished high school
- 48% of adults highest education level was HS diploma or a GED
- 35% of adults had some college or a college degree
- 28% were employed, 17% are retired, 49% were not in the labor force.

Of 2058 households we served

- 540 households (26%) were caring for 994 children under 18
 - 35% were employed
 - 25% received disability income
 - 62% were single people living alone
 - 51% of households were renting.
 - 72% of households had incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$49,720 for a family of three)
 - 36% had incomes below 100% of FPL (\$24,860 for a family of three)
- There was an increase of 167% of households with incomes over 250% FPL that received SEVCA services.

Service access

SEVCA worked with more than 4000 individuals to determine their eligibility for programs including 3SquaresVT.



VITA- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

During the 2023 tax season trained volunteers prepared income tax returns for 329 households for free. 84% of filers received tax credits due and/or a tax refund.

Workforce education

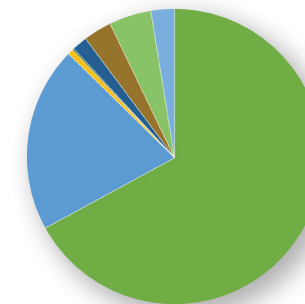
45 people interested in improving their financial knowledge took Financial Literacy classes. 45 people learned to improve their money management skills and worked to repair their credit, establish savings, and receive ongoing financial coaching. 44 received small business startup support and 32 took self-employment skills training.

"After the death of my husband who always handled our taxes, I was lost and without funds to get my taxes done and I'm so grateful for the help SEVCA has given me. SEVCA volunteers were professional, friendly and helpful. I am very appreciative of their assistance."

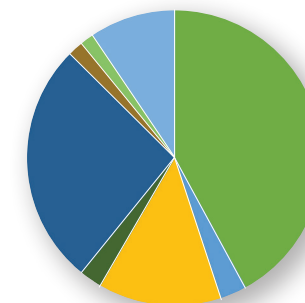
— VITA client

Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Statement as 9/30/2023

Income	Amount	Percentage
Federal Grants	\$9,002,723	67.08%
State Grants	\$2,715,951	20.24%
Town Appropriations	\$81,832	0.61%
United Way	\$24,163	0.18%
Foundations/Private Organizations	\$222,046	1.65%
Donations	\$413,372	3.08%
Program Income/Fees/Other	\$617,234	4.60%
Contributions-In-Kind	\$342,861	2.55%
TOTAL	\$13,420,182	100.00%



Expenditures	Amount	Percentage
Family & Community Services	\$5,790,276	42.03%
Crisis Fuel	\$401,870	2.92%
Head Start	\$1,852,399	13.45%
Economic Development	\$336,396	2.44%
Weatherization	\$3,666,867	26.61%
Thrift Stores	\$227,392	1.65%
Other Programs	\$202,902	1.47%
General and Administrative	\$1,299,465	9.43%
TOTAL	\$13,777,567	100.00%



*Unaudited

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