



Virginia Department of
Emergency Management

Damage Assessment & Recovery Best Practices

Date: June 14, 2021

Leanne VanDerveer, Public Assistance Manager
Michelle Daschner, Public Assistance Team Lead

» vaemergency.gov

f [VAemergency](https://www.facebook.com/VAemergency)

t [@VDEM](https://twitter.com/VDEM)

Agenda

Recovery Toolbox: Crisis Track and EMGrants
Damage Assessments in a Virtual Environment
Navigating the Recovery Process
Lessons Learned
Tips for an Efficient Damage Assessment
How to Increase EM Agency Support



Recovery and Damage Assessment Toolbox

- The primary tools we use to conduct a damage assessments in Virginia include [CrisisTrack](#) and [EMGrants](#).
- Local Officials Guide [Download PDF](#)
- Assistance Programs Factsheet [Download PDF](#)

COVID-19 Disaster Specific Website DR-4512

- <https://www.vaemergency.gov/coronavirus/>

February Winter Storm Event Disaster Specific Website DR-4602

- <https://www.vaemergency.gov/job/2021-02-10-severe-winter-weather/>



Damage Assessments in a Virtual Environment

Initial Damage Assessments (IDA):

- The IDA process is a mechanism used to **ASSESS** the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needs of individuals, businesses, the public sector, and the community as a whole.
- Localities will submit their damages within 72 hours, per the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP).
- Primary systems are Crisis Track and vdem.EMGrants.com
- UAS flyovers when possible



Damage Assessments in a Virtual Environment

- Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)
 - The PDA process is a mechanism used to **VALIDATE** the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needs of individuals, businesses, the public sector, and the community as a whole.
 - FEMA will help validate the damages the local and state levels have initially submitted and reviewed.
 - Before 2020, Virginia PDAs were typically in-person.
 - The COVID-19 Pandemic changed the way PDAs were conducted.



Damage Assessments in a Virtual Environment

- DR-4512-VA for COVID-19 (2020 – 2021)
 - Virtual damage assessments were implemented and conducted during the pandemic becoming a new recovery practice. Because of this new method, FEMA published a [Virtual Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment Preparation Checklist](#).
 - Virtual PDAs utilize desktop photo and data analysis, aerial imagery, high resolution aerial imagery (2D and 3D) and artificial intelligence (AI), geospatial analysis, parcel-enriched building footprints, enhanced windshield surveys, hybrid damage assessments, and Survey 123.
- UAS flyovers when possible



Damage Assessments in a Virtual Environment

DR-4602-VA Severe Winter Weather Event (February 2021)

- Physical Damages – Heavy Debris, Power outages
- Worked with Regional Support
- Surveyed localities to gauge level of support needed
- Survey responses helped guide actions for damage assessments
- Contractor support and VDEM - 2 days in person



Survey Questions Example:

Locality Damage Assessment Support Survey:

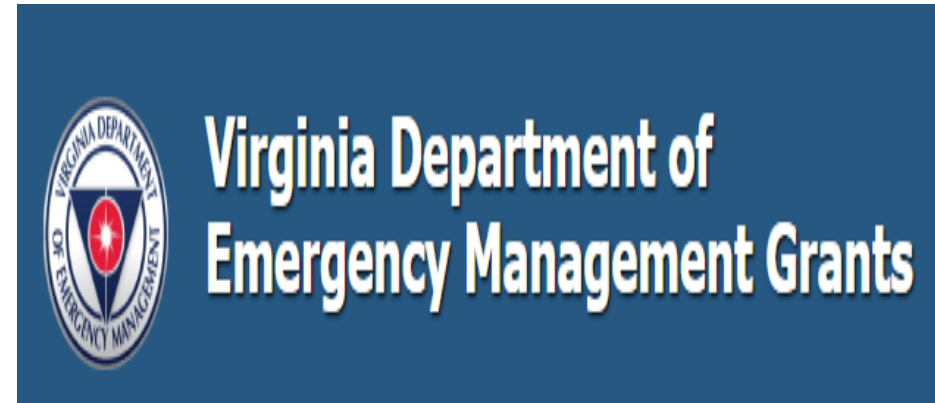
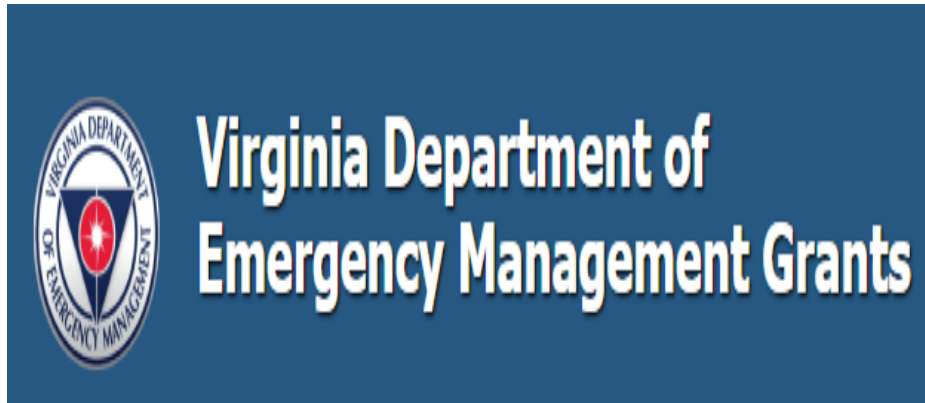
1. Do you have damage to report as a result of the 2021-02-10 Severe Winter Weather event?
2. If yes to #1, have you submitted your Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) in EmGrants?
3. Do you currently have or do you foresee a potential need for damage assessment support as a result of the 2021-02-10 Severe Winter Weather event?
4. If yes to #3 above, do you have a local official that will be able to accompany technical damage assessment teams to show them the hardest hit areas with damages in your locality?
5. For debris damage, do you need technical assistance to survey debris on the ground (i.e. estimate debris piles calculating the cubic yardage and costs)? If no, do you need virtual technical support?
6. For all damaged buildings and/or infrastructure, do you have the means to gather estimates or quotes for the cost of repairs? If not, what type of technical assistance is needed?
7. What type of other damage assessment or technical support do you need/foresee? For example, do you need assistance documenting or calculating your force-account labor and/or equipment use?
8. Do you have questions or concerns about the damage assessment process?

Attached References:

- Damage Assessment Documentation Requirements Quick Reference
- 2021-02-10 Severe Winter Weather Webinar: What Happens Next?



A Tale of Two Portals: Damage Assessment Submission and Evaluation



Local IDA Submission

IDA/PDA Review/Validation



CrisisTrack

- CrisisTrack is an online GIS platform used to better support governments during a disaster with an option to utilize the application online or offline.
- Multiple abilities:
 - Conducting simple damage assessments photos, and GPS locations efficiently through a mobile app using GIS or tax data infrastructure locations
 - Estimate debris removal costs and self-monitor your debris removal operations
 - Capture incident action plans, manage resources, and provide situation reporting on all incidents.



CrisisTrack

- CrisisTrack resources:
 - Damage Assessment standard operation procedure (SOP)
 - Provides step-by-step instruction on how to complete a damage assessment using CrisisTrack and contains highlighted areas intended for an organization's personalization.
 - Online Tutorials:
 - Conducting a Damage Assessment, Tracking Road Closures, Planning for a Damage Assessment, Bulk Uploading Employees and Equipment, Preparing Device for Offline Editing, Citizen Self-Reporting Form, Bulk Editing Task Entries, Footprints and Areas of Concern, Documentation



CrisisTrack

- CrisisTrack is intended for:
 - Public safety representatives who serve in an operational capacity during large scale events or disasters
 - Emergency management personnel
 - Utility or critical infrastructure operational directors
 - Homeland security and emergency management personnel
 - Federal, state, and local personal who are required to conduct a damage assessment, estimate debris removal costs, or capture essential information

Crisis Track



EMGrants

- EMGrants is an online application and management system for the Public Assistance (PA) and Mitigation grant programs.
- EMGrants, formerly known as “VirginiaPA”, assists State and local governments in returning a disaster area to pre-disaster conditions through the PA federal grant program.
- Initial and preliminary damage assessments can be found in EMGrants in conjunction with CrisisTrack.



EMGrants

- EMGrants is intended for:
 - State and local governments or any other political subdivision of the State, Native American tribes and Alaska Native Villages. Additionally, EMGrants can be utilized by certain PNPs.
 - PNPs may include educational, utility, irrigation, emergency, medical rehabilitation and temporary or permanent custodial care facilities.

vdem.emgrants.com



EMGrants and Public Assistance

- PA is available to public entities and funds the removal of debris and emergency protective measures along with the repair, restoration, reconstruction or replacement of public facilities or infrastructure in the declared area.
- Local and tribal governments as well as certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations can use EMGrants with the State as a liaison.



Damage Assessments

- Make a plan and write it down
- Map it out
 - What is the goal?
 - What is the timeline?
- Communication and transparency
- Built in flexibility
- Provide just-in-time training to all participants
- Roles and responsibilities, organizational charts
- **WHAT IS THE CRITERIA?** (Isaias SBA example)

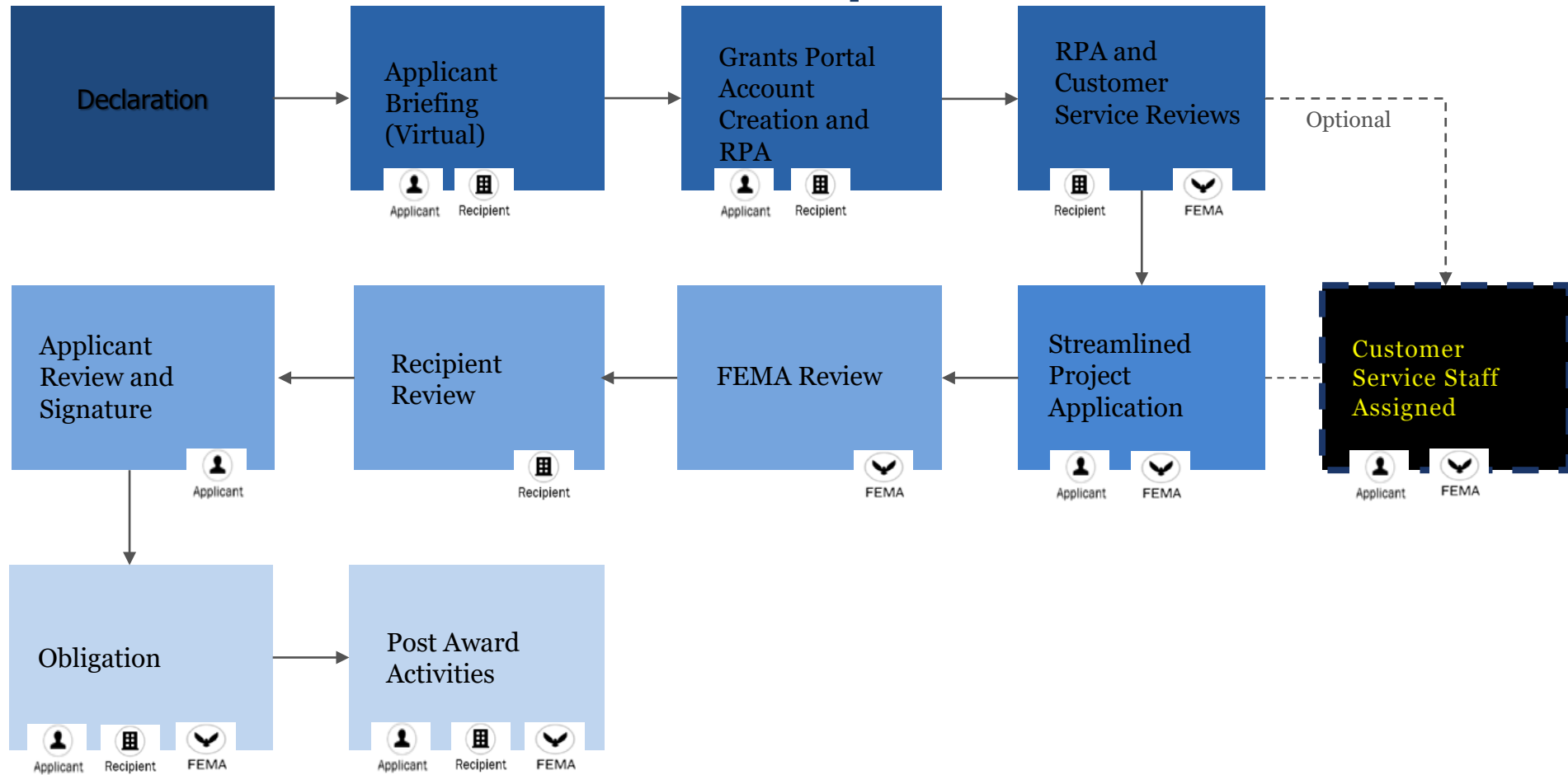


Roles and Responsibilities Example: Public Assistance/Recovery

Applicant	Recipient (VDEM)	FEMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates/Maintains Organization Profile in Grants Portal (GP) Attends Applicant Briefing Submits Request for Public Assistance (RPA) in GP Completes COVID-19 Streamlined Project Application and Uploads in GP Provides supporting documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activates Organization Profiles in GP Conducts Applicant Briefing(s) Reviews RPA and makes recommendation Administers Grant Awards Grant management including reimbursement requests, scope of work changes, time extensions, and closeout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve RPAs Determine Eligibility Issue Determination Memos



Streamlined Project Application Example: Roles and Responsibilities



2021-02-10 Severe Winter Weather

Damage Assessment Timeline

Purpose →

This is a visual timeline of the damage assessment process. It allows the viewer to see critical details leading up to a potential federal declaration request.

DISASTER	2021-02-10 Severe Winter Weather Event
Incident Period	February 10-20, 2021

LOCATION	Commonwealth of Virginia
LAST UPDATE	as of 02/26/2021

Dates below include all Calendar days.

STEPS	OBJECTIVES	TASK LEAD	# DAYS	COMPLETE Y/N	February							March																																			
					21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
1	VA Initial Damage Assessments Submitted	Michelle	7 Days	N	█																																										
2	VDEM Data/Damage Validation	Michelle/Leanne	10 Days	N								█																																			
3	Offically Send Request JPDA to FEMA	Robbie	1 Day	N																		█																									
4	Begin VDEM/FEMA JPDA Planning	Leanne	4 Days	N								█																																			
5	Conduct JPDA Virtual Validation	Michelle	14 Days	N								█																																			
6	Federal Disaster Declaration Letter Draft	Leanne	3 Days	N																			█																								
7	Governor's Request to FEMA sent to Secretary's Office	Robbie	4 Days	N																			█																								
8	Governor's Request Submitted to FEMA	Robbie	2 Days	N																			█																								
04/07/2021	Governor's Office Sends the letter to FEMA	Robbie																																													



Lessons Learned

- (DR-4401-VA) Hurricane Florence and (DR-4411-VA) Tropical Storm Michael
Leveraging VDEM Regional Support (DRRO)
State Specific Public Assistance Training for all VDEM Regional Staff
Recovery Coordination Calls
- (DR-4512-VA) COVID-19
Plan for the long-term
Leveraging staff and resources
Prioritizing daily, weekly, monthly goals, follow-up
Information Sharing
- (DR-4602-VA) Sever Winter Storms
Seeking feedback to prioritize and plan resources for damage assessments
Sharing information
- State Public Assistance Events (10)
Prioritizing daily, weekly, monthly goals, follow-up
Communicating with localities, state agencies and VDEM Regional Staff/Grant Administrators





Virginia Department of
Emergency Management

COVID-19 Recovery Updates



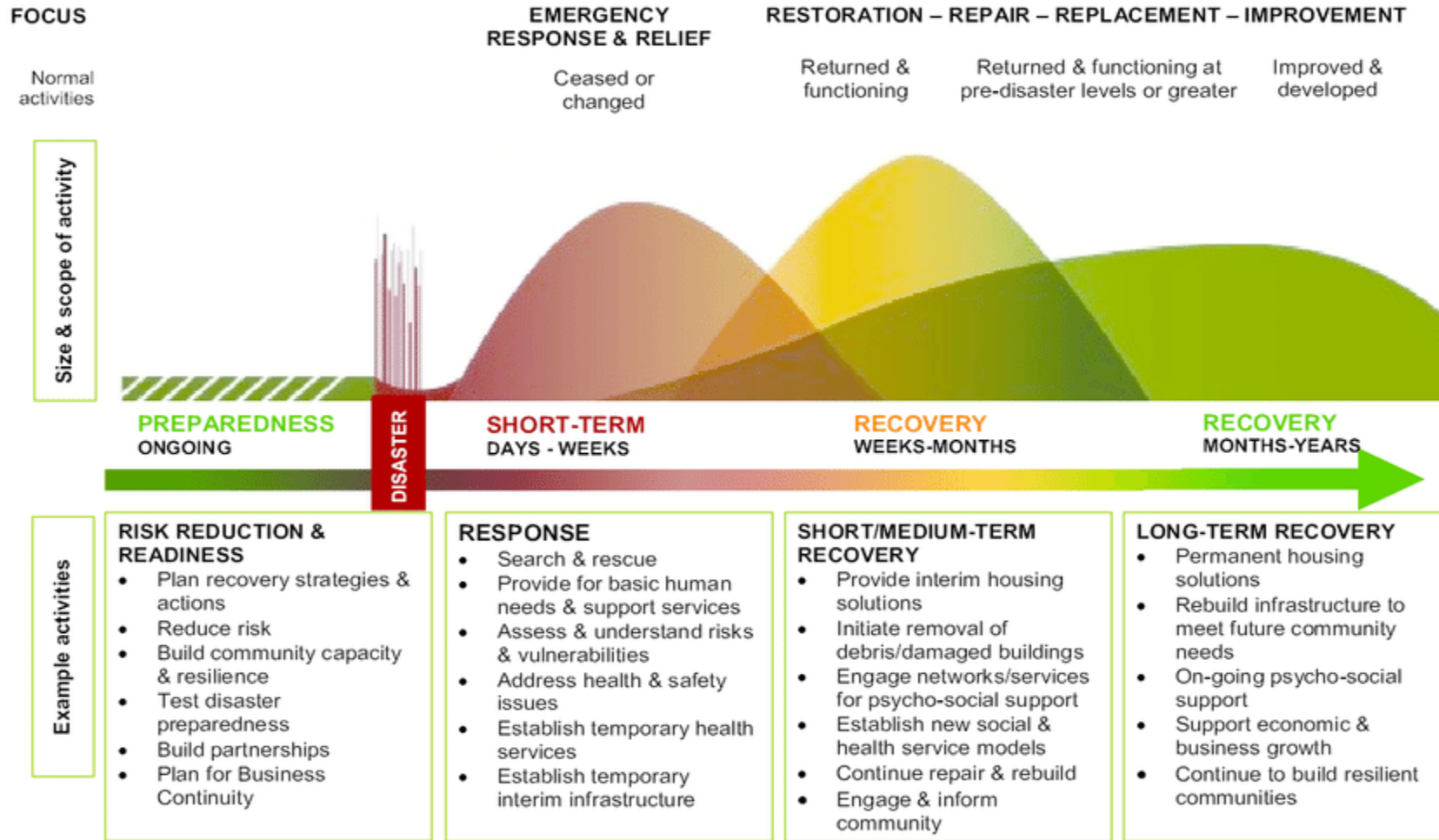
COVID-19 Long-term Recovery

RESPONSE EFFORTS FOR COVID-19 AS COMPARED TO RECENT DISASTERS

The graphic below shows that the COVID-19 response, as compared to four of Virginia's most recent disasters, is nothing like Virginia has ever experienced.¹ The Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) remains in response mode, and the length of the recovery phase is unable to be determined at this time.



Navigating the Recovery Process



Agency Buy-In

- Weekly Meetings
- VDEM has the “Forum”
- Transparency
- Importance of the Mission
- Who is this benefiting?

“We need more staff” and “Here’s How”
With the abundance of grant funding, potential management costs funding for Public Assistance Applicants, EM programs have the opportunity to expand EM/recovery staffing.



Stay Updated

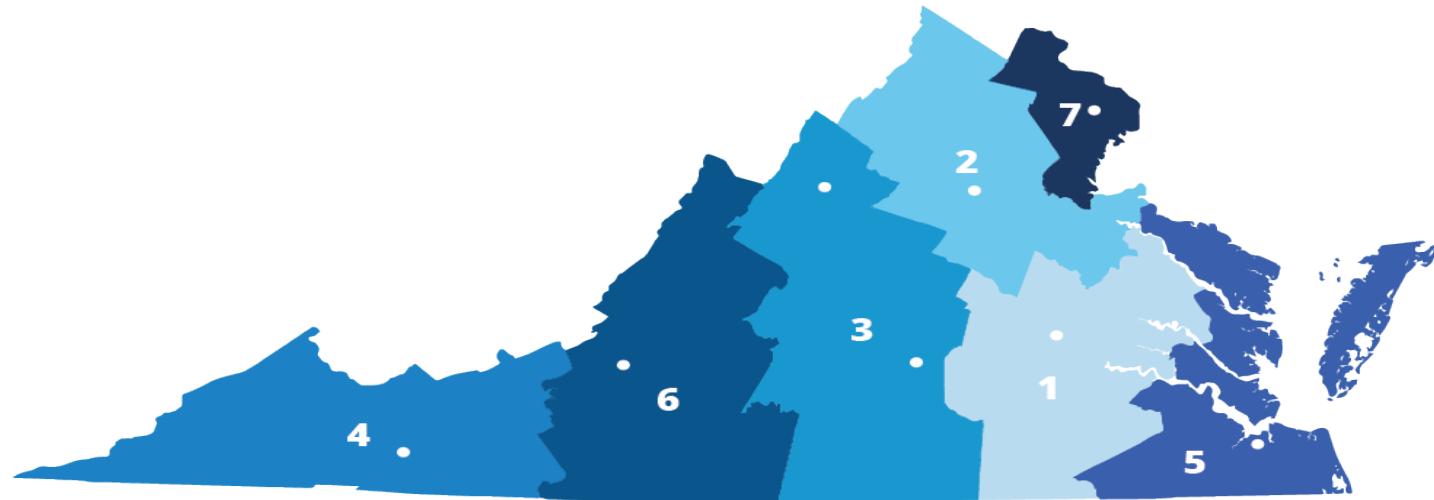
[Register for Grant Updates](#)



VDEM Technical Support

For Technical Assistance please note the following contacts:

ALL	Recovery	Recovery@vdem.virginia.gov
-----	----------	----------------------------



Questions?



Leanne VanDerveer
Public Assistance Grants Manager
Leanne.VanDerveer@VDEM.virginia.gov

Michelle Daschner
Public Assistance Team Lead
Michelle.Daschner@vdem.Virginia.gov

Recovery Section
Recovery@vdem.Virginia.gov

THANK YOU!

