Bennington County REMC Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

6 PM – 7:30 PM

Location

Pownal Fire Department
253 Vermont 346
Pownal, VT 05251

In-Person Attendees: Todd Lawrence, Edwin Pascucci, Paul Dansereau, Paul Doucette, Kim Hall, Robert Briggs, Sheila Lawrence, Wayne Tifft, Craig O'Dell, Bill Jones, Dara Zink

Virtual Attendees: Vince Thompson, Linda Schmidt, Patricio Battani, Lois Bink

Guest Speakers:

- Neil Glassman, VT Membership Coordinator, Team Rubicon
- Allissa Vigil, VT Deputy Planning Coordinator, Team Rubicon

Agenda:

- Welcome from Dara Zink
- Group Introductions
- Call for any business items to add to agenda
- Speaker: Neil Glassman & Allissa Vigil presented on Team Rubicon and how they operate in the state of VT and how EMDs can contact them if they are interested in utilizing their team for recovery projects
    - The presentation is attached to the minutes
    - Link to video: Built to Serve | Team Rubicon
    - Allissa Vigil • VT Deputy Planning Coordinator
        - Requests for assistance • Service projects
        - allissa.vigil@teamrubiconusa.org • (616) 550-5077
    - Neil Glassman • VT Membership Coordinator
        - Joining Team Rubicon • Workshops
        - neil.glassman@teamrubiconusa.org • (917) 971-3061
- New Business:
    - Integrated Preparedness Workshop
        - Discussion of possible exercises including the North Bennington Dam Tabletop (2026), Bennington Plane Crash at the Airport (2026/2027), Regionwide Mutual Aid Exercise in Arlington for a MCI (late Summer/early Fall 2025), Possible Search & Rescue exercise
        - Dara asked for members to send any requests for trainings, equipment, planning, or organization by mid-June to be included in the IPPW with the VEM
- Old Business:
    - Discussion of REMC officers: A quorum was not met, however interim chair and vice chair were voted in by members present
        - Todd Lawrence – Interim Chair
        - Vince Thompson – Interim Vice Chair

- Updates:
    - Dee Myrvang spoke about the PulsePoint app to gather AED location information: https://www.pulsepoint.org/download
    - A conversation about AED and purchasing followed with Todd Lawrence expressing interest in obtaining some for Sunderland and Vinnie Thompson offering to speak with Arlington FD about working with Sunderland to supply those
    - Bill Jones, Regional Coordinator, VEM
        - Reminder that LEMPs are due June 1 and can be sent directly to him for review and input into WebEOC
    - Dara – Update from Bennington County Regional Commission
        - Reminder about upcoming training:
            - Effective Facilitation:
                - **LOCATION:** DPS Headquarters, Waterbury, VT
                  DATE/TIME: May 28-29, 2025, 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. May 30, 2025, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**: via State Learning Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/event/81faaf15-6521-433a-814d-89c5a58b5010
                  *Must attend **all three** days to receive credit.*
                - **LOCATION:** , Brattleboro, VT
                  DATE/TIME: June 10-11, 2025, 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. June 12, 2025, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**: via State Learning Management System: https://vermont.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/event/81faaf15-6521-433a-814d-89c5a58b5010
                  *Must attend **all three** days to receive credit.*
        - AOE Guidance from Rosie Krueger at AOE (See attached)
        - ARC Reminder that EMDs, Fire Departments, etc can reach out directly to the Red Cross whenever necessary.
        - Local Liaison Exercise set for 6/25 & 6/26- Dara asked for volunteers to be given information that day to feed back to the Local Liaison when contacted. Nick Zaiac has already volunteered and Bob Briggs, Wayne Tifft, Craig O'Dell and Linda Schmidt all agreed to assist.
        - ***Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference*** is happening on 9/4 & 9/5 @ Killington
            - There is one free room for a member of the REMC for the night of 9/4. Please let Dara know if you are interested. We have to claim the room by 7/30.
- Next REMC Meeting: Tuesday, August 12th at 6:00 pm – Location - *To be confirmed*
    - refer to the REMC webpage at Regional Emergency Management Committee - BCRC (bcrcvt.org) for updates and links to past presentations.
- Thank you for attending!

Thank you Bennington County REMC for inviting TR!

Your VT Leadership Team

Peter Tousley • VT Administrator

Allissa Vigil • Deputy VT Planning Coordinator

Neil Glassman • VT Membership Coordinator

Mark Audy • VT Logistics Coordinator
Nick Nunez • VT Deputy Logistics Coordinator

Miriam Greenfield • VT Communications Coordinator

OUR MISSION //

Team Rubicon is a veteran-led humanitarian organization that serves global communities before, during and after disasters and crises.

TEAM RUBICON

01

DISASTER RESPONSE

02

REBUILD

03

INTERNATIONAL

OUR VISION //

Support humanity and build resiliency for vulnerable communities across the globe.

TEAM RUBICON

Resilient Community Strategy

- Every disaster starts and ends locally
- Team Rubicon wants to be represented in all 14 Vermont counties

Over 15 years of service & grit

1200+ operations completed

200,000+ Greyshirt volunteer hours

700+ communities served

1.6 million vaccines distributed at Team Rubicon supported sites

Disaster Response

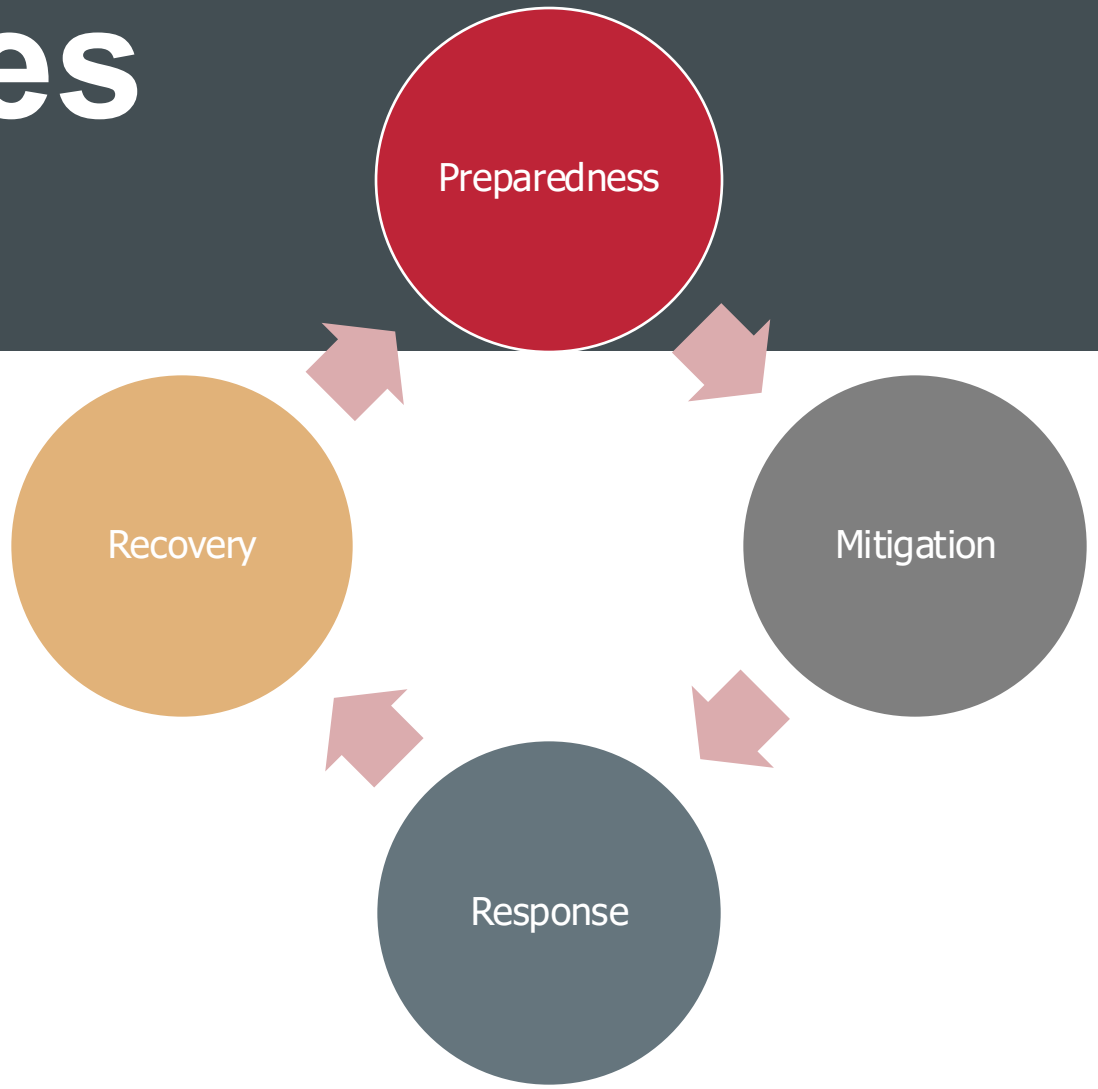
Team Rubicon bridges the gap between community needs and federal or state assistance

Disaster Response

Team Rubicon bridges the gap between community needs and federal or state assistance

Disaster Services

We operate within four areas of disaster services: preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery



What we do

Team Rubicon provides a variety of capabilities and services **at no cost** to at-risk homeowners affected by disasters.

CORE OPS &
DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

ROUTE
CLEARANCE

REBUILD

EMERGENCY
MEDICAL TEAM

WATER, SANITATION &
HYGIENE

FIRE
MITIGATION

FLOOD
MITIGATION

STAFF
AUGMENTATION

COVID-19 MOBILE
VACCINATIONS

EMERGENCY
FOOD ASSISANCE

TR in VT

Operation Crying Onion

- July 17 - 30, 2023
- Barre & Cabot
- 85 TR volunteers deployed
- 403 total volunteer hours
- 31 work orders completed
- 28,000 cubic yards debris moved

Operation Beryl Roll Vermont

- July 16 - 22, 2024
- Barnet, Hardwick, Lyndonville, St. Johnsbury & Waterford
- 31 TR volunteers deployed
- 576 total volunteer hours
- 24 work orders completed
- 12,000 cubic yards debris moved

Operation Whirligig

- August 5 - 12, 2024
- Barnet, Lyndonville, Peacham, Sheffield & St. Johnsbury
- 46 TR volunteers deployed
- 640 total volunteer hours
- 14 work orders completed
- 13,000 cubic yards debris moved

CORE OPERATIONS
TEAM RUBICON

Unit 2
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Unit 3
SAFETY PLAN AND COMMUNICATION

Unit 4
WORKSITE WALKTHROUGH

Unit 5
DEBRIS MANAGMENT

Unit 6
MUCK-OUT OPERATIONS

Unit 7
EXPEDIENT HOME REPAIR

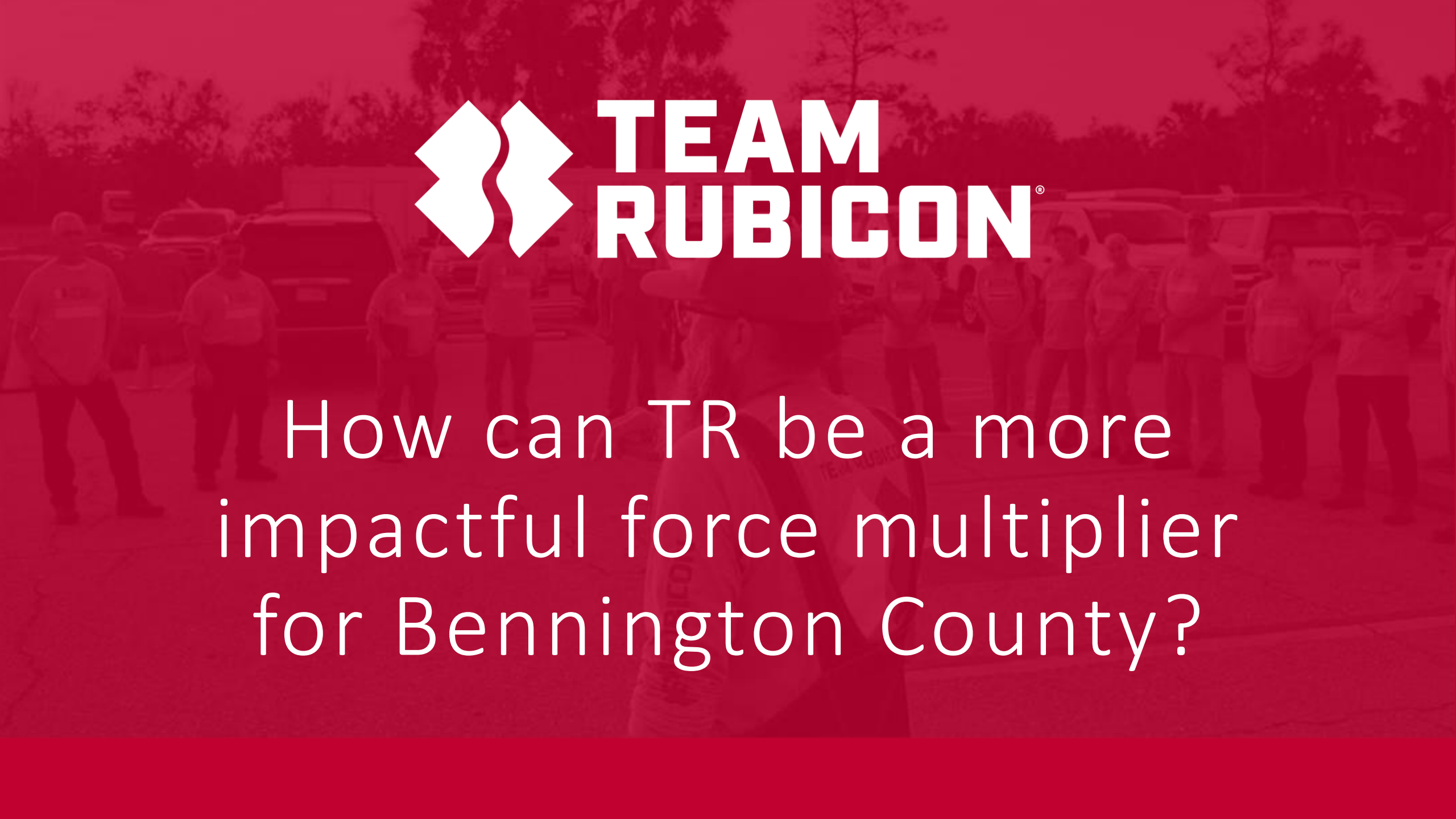
Disaster Recovery

Team Rubicon has a base of volunteers in Vermont and across New England eager to help all year long

Recent & upcoming events: Barre, Cambridge, Hinesburg, Richmond, and Plainfield

Quick Reaction Force

Getting Team Rubicon Greyshirts to disaster zones with more impact



How can TR be a more impactful force multiplier for Bennington County?

TEAM RUBICON

Thank you Bennington County REMC!

VT Leadership Contacts

Allissa Vigil • VT Deputy Planning Coordinator
Requests for assistance • Service projects
allissa.vigil@teamrubiconusa.org • (616) 550-5077

Neil Glassman • VT Membership Coordinator
Joining Team Rubicon • Workshops
neil.glassman@teamrubiconusa.org • (917) 971-3061

From Rosie Krueger regarding use of school food during a mass sheltering situation:

When school is closed unexpectedly, the school may implement the summer food service program (SFSP) to provide 2 meals a day to all children 18 and under in any area-eligible location. We can also operate the SFSP during the summer months – also for children 18 and under. This new area-eligibility mapper shows what parts of the state are area-eligible to operate SFSP programs for all kids 18 and under (no paperwork needed) – most, but not all, of your region is "area-eligible" for this. In the locations that aren't area-eligible, we can only provide meals based on student status. As you are remembering, SFSP was what we used during COVID. However, during COVID, USDA waived area-eligibility requirements, so this option was available statewide then – it's not quite state-wide now.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) can also be used to feed children 18 and under 3 meals per day in an emergency shelter using federal funding. This is typically only worth setting up if the School Food Authority is already a CACFP sponsor and the shelter will run for a while. SVSU is a CACFP sponsor already, so you could talk to them about whether it might make sense to do some planning for that, if you're planning shelters. CACFP is typically a lot more paperwork than SFSP though.

During an emergency situation, the state can authorize the use of USDA Foods (food purchased by the federal government for the school meals programs) to feed people impacted by the disaster, including adults. Because of this, USDA Foods can be used to bring down the cost of making meals for adults. Beyond USDA Foods, some entity would need to cover the cost of the adult meals and then apply for FEMA reimbursement after (and incur the cost if FEMA reimbursement was not available). Meals produced by schools are typically very economical, so if you are looking at ways to feed adults in a shelter, buying meals from the school can be a very good option.

If you want to do that, we do recommend entering into some kind of agreement ahead of time that would cover what the rate would be and who would be responsible for what. If they incorporate USDA Foods into the meals, they can sell you the meals, less the value of USDA Foods – you could include that in the agreement.

We would probably recommend writing the MOU between the school supervisory union (since they are the fiscal agent and manage the food service program) and the town. The SVSU would then use their existing contract with the Abbey Group (or whoever they were contracted with at the time) to provide the meals to you, per your MOU. Bennington-Rutland SU does not use a management company, so they would just produce the meals themselves without relying on the management company.

I don't have a sample MOU for this purpose, but I'd be happy to take a look at anything you come up with. I am attaching a sample vended meals agreement that we use for when child nutrition programs sell meals to each other – this is probably much more extensive than you need, but could be a good starting place.

The other thing to think about entering into an MOU about would be if you were using the school as a shelter, and you wanted to take over the kitchen to produce meals yourself. In that case, you should have an MOU that says who will be in charge, how disposable supplies and on-hand food will be tracked and charged, etc.

I did a training on this topic at the VEM conference a few years ago. Here are the planning questions I suggested considering when you talk to your school food service program:

- What vulnerabilities might impact their program operations? Can you help mitigate any of these potential issues?
- Are there any supplies, equipment, or non-perishable items that they could keep on hand to help in the event of an emergency?
- What sites in your community qualify as area-eligible for open summer meal sites? Does the program plan to use any of these sites if school is closed unexpectedly?
- What is the program's capacity to make additional meals for the community in an emergency/disaster?
- What is their delivery capacity?
- What is their per-meal rate for adult meals?
- Is there a food service management company, or is the program self-operated by the school district/supervisory union?
- If a school is a designated shelter, who will manage the kitchen if it is to be used for emergency feeding?
- Does the program operate the CACFP? If so, would they be willing to use the CACFP to feed children in a shelter?
- How does the school district communicate with families? Can this be used to communicate emergency info?
- Is the program interested in entering into an agreement now to be ready in the event of an emergency?
- Obtain after-hours contact information for food service director, head of facilities, business manager, superintendent, and principals and share local emergency management contact information.

I hope that helps – please feel free to reach out with additional questions!
Rosie

Rosie Krueger, State Director of Child Nutrition Programs, Vermont Agency of Education
(pronouns: she/her)
Phone: 802-279-2451
Fax: 802-828-6433
Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive, Davis 5, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501
Email: Mary.Krueger@Vermont.gov
Vermont Child Nutrition Programs Website: http://education.vermont.gov/student-support/nutrition