

Agenda Summary
October 9, 2024

Agenda Item B-3

Sarah Henshaw - LeARN

Summary: Sarah Henshaw, Lamoille Area Recovery Network (LeARN) Coordinator, has requested time to discuss the work of the LeARN Program. She says, “I’m reaching out as LeARN is trying to present at all Lamoille town selectboards to introduce the group and let folks know what we’ve been able to do over the past year.”

Sarah Henshaw is also a member of the Stowe Housing Task Force.

Her presentation and 2024 Report to Community are enclosed.

Town Plan Impact: N/A

Financial Impact: N/A

Recommendation: No action needed.

Will Fricke

From: Sarah Henshaw (She/Her) <sarah@leavesofchangevt.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Will Fricke
Subject: [EXTERNAL] LeARN present at selectboard?
Attachments: Lamoille Area Recovery Network Report to Community 2024.docx; LeARN Presentation.pptx

Hi Will,

Hoping you enjoyed the weather this weekend!

I'm reaching out as LeARN is trying to present at all Lamoille town selectboards to introduce the group and let folks know what we've been able to do over the past year. I'd be using the attached presentation and presenting the Community Report.

Is there a meeting in October or November that I might have 15 minutes?

Many thanks for considering!

In appreciation,

Sarah

(She/Her) ([why?](#))

Lamoille Area Recovery Network (LeARN) Coordinator

(802) 730-9513

[Flooding Resources](#)

My working day may not be your working day. Please don't feel obligated to respond to my emails outside of your working hours.

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Lamoille Area Recovery Network (LeARN)

2024 Report to Community

What is LeARN?

Founded in response to the July 2023 flooding event, LeARN assists individuals and households impacted by natural disasters in their recovery journey AND supports resilience building in light of almost certain future disasters.

LeARN serves individuals and households living in Lamoille County towns.

Who is LeARN?

LeARN is a collaborative of Lamoille neighbors supported by the following partner organizations:

- United Way of Lamoille County (sponsor)
- Lamoille Health Partners
- Lamoille County Mental Health
- Lamoille Family Center
- VT Dept of Health (VDH), Morrisville
- Capstone Community Action
- ReSOURCE
- Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC)
- Leaves of Change VT

LeARN in Numbers (2024)

- Directly supported over 200 households impacted by July 2023 and 2024 floods.
- Distributed over \$160,000 of financial support to impacted households for repairs, replacement of household goods, rental assistance, and/or financial stabilization.
- Connected flood impacted households to over \$200,000 in state and/or federal assistance.
- Facilitated over 3,200 volunteer hours to over 300 homes with support from Team Rubicon, ReSOURCE Youth Build, and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) of VT.
- Supported 34 households in the buyout process.
- Co-sponsored 2 Q&A sessions and 2 community legislative listening sessions on recovery issues.
- Outreach and community education via radio, email listserv, town communication, and social media.

LeARN Services & Supports

Financial support to income eligible individuals with unmet disaster recovery needs:

- Short-term rental assistance
- Replacement of household items lost in the disaster
- Materials and supplies for repairs
- Food or gas cards

Non-financial support to all disaster impacted Lamoille County residents:

- Lending library of fans, dehumidifiers, and clean up tools
- Volunteer coordination for disaster clean up
- Linkage to federal and/or state disaster recovery supports
- Linkage to contractors and engineers for assessments and estimates
- Support with assistance application processes (eg. FEMA, State)
- Periodic newsletter with recovery resources

Generous Donors

Vermont Community Foundation
Craftsbury Presbyterian Church

Catholic Charities
Alchemist Foundation

Capstone Community Action
Union Bank

And....community members like you!

To donate: <https://uwlamoille.org/how-to-help/donate.html>



More Information:
Phone: 802-730-9513

Sarah Henshaw, Coordinator
Email: learn@uwlamoille.org

Lamoille
Area
Recovery
Network



Who we are

Founded in response to the July 2023 flooding event, the mission of the Lamoille Area Recovery Network (LEARN) is to assist individuals and families impacted by flooding and other natural disasters and support resilience building in light of almost certain future disasters.

LEARN will serve individuals and families impacted by disasters in the towns of the Morrisville Agency of Human Services District.



What we do

- Manage a Disaster Recovery Fund to provide flood survivors with financial assistance.
- Link flood survivors to state and local resources through our Case Managers and Advocates.
- Provide outreach and information on individual flood recovery services and assistance to all flood survivors through webinars, newsletters, emails, and in-person outreach.



Lamoille County: 2023 floods

- 413 households applied for FEMA assistance, of which 49% were primary homeowners, 45% were renters, and 3% were secondary homeowners
- Of the 203 homeowners, 17% have moved away, 8% within Lamoille, 9% out of Lamoille
- 28 households approved by towns for buyouts, with 4 of these representing 18 rental units.
- 20 households (that we know of) still have complex recovery needs, majority in Johnson and Cambridge
- 73% of homes that reported to 211 or FEMA had habitability issues (significant damage)



Lamoille County: 2024 floods


- 112 households reported damage to 211 from Lamoille County
- 5 of these households have houses that are uninhabitable (Stowe, Elmore, and Hyde Park)
- Majority of damage is to culverts, driveways, yards/gardens, and basements.
- Lamoille County part of FEMA declaration for Individual Assistance (IA), applications due Oct 21st.





Non-financial support

- Support to households interested in buyouts and elevations (2 Q&A sessions) with VT State Mitigation team and LCPC.
- Co-sponsored two Legislative Listening session with LCPC for survivors to update legislators on the current needs and situation.
- Held 2 resource fairs for survivors in Johnson and 3 Flood Anniversary & Resource Events (Johnson, Cambridge, Wolcott).
- Flood Resource Lending Library (dehumidifiers, fans, tools) and resources to fill out forms (*efficiency VT, VDRF, CVOEO, USDA, etc*)
- Partnerships with Team Rubicon, Mormon Church of Johnson, reSOURCE/ Youth Build, RPCVs for volunteer support.
- LeARN resource emails to approx. 300 households across Lamoille on a regular basis.



Our work to date ***(March 16 – June 20,*** ***2024)***

- 20 households received repair or structural assessments and have been matched with support for priority projects.
- 40 households received support to replace household items lost in the flooding, 10 households received rental assistance.
- 16 households received support from YouthBuild or Team Rubicon volunteers for repair work.
- Approved over \$150,000 of financial support for 52 households in recovery from United Way funds.
- Supported 6 families receive approx. \$25,000 from the Vermont Disaster Recovery Fund (total of \$148,000). Distributed \$1,000 of ReSOURCE vouchers for replacement goods.
- Supported 14 families receive state support for: oil tank removal, mobile home repairs/ replacements, and replacement household items.
- Provided 28 dumpsters to families for clean up.
- Provided 20 families with heating support before winter 2023 and 3 families with new mattresses.

Our advocacy work....

- Represented LTRGs at House Governance and Military Affairs testimony on resilience and recovery legislation.
- Participated on VCRD panels on flood recovery and resilience across VT.
- Partner with LCPC in mitigation and recovery planning for Lamoille County.
- Active member of LTRG coordination group to share and collaborate across recovery communities and the state.



DON'T
GIVE UP

YOU ARE
NOT ALONE

YOU
MATTER

Thank you

