

Summary of Changes to the Virginia Disaster Assistance Fund (VDAF) Program Guidelines

In 2026, DHCD updated the Virginia Disaster Assistance Fund (VDAF) Program Guidelines to reflect new state budget authority and expanded disaster mitigation funding caps. The information below summarizes the major changes to the VDAF Program Guidelines. The table below summarizes the updated funding caps for Bridge & Slope Stabilization Assistance.

Provision	Guidelines Based on 2025 Acts of Assembly (Item 102.Q, HB 1600)	Guidelines Based on 2026 Acts of Assembly (Item 102.P, HB 30)
Disaster Mitigation Grant Prioritization	Priority given to projects in areas affected by a flood event or in flood-prone areas, and areas with aging infrastructure. Bridge design and construction must be permitted by the local government and meet the standards for a 500-year flood, where applicable.	Must prioritize applications consistent with state floodplain management standards for state-owned buildings, or local floodplain standards

All internal cross-references throughout the Guidelines have been updated from “Item 102.Q” to “Item 102.P” to reflect this continued authority.

Funding Caps Increased: Bridge & Slope Stabilization Assistance

Per-unit funding caps for Access Bridges and Retaining Walls for Slope Stabilization have been increased, along with the maximum combined assistance available to a single applicant or property:

Activity	Previous Maximum	Updated Maximum
Access Bridges (per bridge)	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00
Retaining Walls for Slope Stabilization (per wall)	\$29,000.00	\$69,500.00
Maximum Combined Bridge & Slope Stabilization Assistance (per applicant/property)	\$79,000.00	\$115,000.00

These increases apply to individual bridge and retaining wall awards, as well as the combined ceiling per applicant or property. The aggregate program-wide funding levels for Access Bridges (\$1,000,000.00) and Retaining Walls (\$350,000.00) were removed.

New At-a-Glance Funding Cap Table

The Guidelines now include a new Appendix A, an at-a-glance table consolidating all per-applicant and aggregate funding caps across Part 1 (Disaster Recovery) and Part 2 (Disaster Mitigation), to serve as a quick reference for applicants and Qualified Communities.