

Daily Fact Sheet

DR-4420-NE/Severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding

April 2, 2019

State, Federal Agencies Coordinating Recovery Efforts

President Donald J. Trump issued a major disaster declaration for the State of Nebraska on March 21. The declaration authorized federal assistance to eligible survivors of the winter storm and subsequent flooding that began March 9. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are coordinating the recovery operation.

Earl Imler is State Coordinating Officer. Constance Johnson-Cage is Federal Coordinating Officer.

To date, 379 FEMA employees have deployed to Nebraska; deployments continue to be issued.

A disaster website has been created at fema.gov/disaster/4420. The website is updated daily.

Individual & Households Program (IHP)

The disaster declaration makes federal funding available to eligible individuals in **Boone, Buffalo, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Custer, Dodge, Douglas, Knox, Nemaha, Richardson, Sarpy, Saunders, Thurston and Washington counties and the Santee Sioux Nation**. Additional counties may be designated as damage assessments are completed.

As of April 1:

- **3,254** applicants have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance.
- FEMA has approved **\$8,047,615**, including **\$7,578,749** for housing assistance and **\$468,865** for disaster-caused other needs.

Three Disaster Recovery Centers are Open

NEMA and FEMA opened the first Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) March 29 in Douglas County. The location is **111 East Front St., Valley, NE 68064**. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

A second DRC opened March 30 in Sarpy County. The location is **3802 Raynor Parkway, Suite 201, Bellevue, NE 68123**. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

A third DRC opened April 2 in Cass County. It is located at the **Plattsmouth Community/Senior Center (Gymnasium), 308 S. 18th St., Plattsmouth, NE 68048**. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

First Steps to Recovery

If you have a homeowner's or flood insurance policy, file your insurance claim as quickly as possible. Document your damage with photos or video. Make a list of damaged items. Register with FEMA.

Although **FEMA assistance cannot make you whole**, it may help your recovery by providing grants for basic repairs to make your home safe, accessible and secure. FEMA assistance may also provide grants for a temporary place for you and your family to stay while you build your recovery plan.

How to Register with FEMA:

- Online, visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov.
- On a smart phone, download the **FEMA app** and click on “disaster resources,” then “apply for assistance online.”
- By phone, call FEMA's toll-free registration line at **800-621-3362 or (TTY) 800-462-7585**. Telephone registration is available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Central Daylight Time seven days a week.
- Visit a **Disaster Recovery Center** and speak to a FEMA specialist one-on-one. To find the nearest DRC, go online to FEMA.gov/DRC.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Business owners, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters may be eligible for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration to help recover from losses not covered by insurance, grants or other sources. Businesses and residents can visit SBA.gov/disaster call SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. TTY users may call **800-877-8339**.

SBA opened its first Business Recovery Center March 27 in Sarpy County. The location is **Bellevue University, John Muller Administrative Services Building, 812 Bruin Blvd., Bellevue, NE 68005**. Hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. No appointment necessary. The center provides a one-stop location for businesses to access a variety of specialized help. SBA customer service representatives will meet with each business owner to explain how an SBA disaster loan can help finance their recovery. They will answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each business owner complete their electronic loan application

FEMA Teams Going Door to Door

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams are working in impacted neighborhoods to help survivors register for assistance and to identify immediate and emerging needs. Teams are operating in Boone, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Nemaha, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington counties. They have visited more than 2,900 homes.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

To date, NFIP has received 955 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued \$2,605,460 in advance payments to policyholders.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Available

Nebraska Labor Commissioner John H. Albin announced that workers who became unemployed as a direct result of flooding in the state may qualify for unemployment assistance. People who live in or worked in the counties designated for FEMA Individual Assistance, and whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted due to the flooding, may be eligible for assistance.

Individuals can generally receive up to 26 weeks of DUA benefits as long as unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster. Eligibility for DUA benefits will be determined on a week-to-week basis. **The filing deadline is April 26, 2019.** General information about DUA can be found at dol.nebraska.gov/UIBenefits/Programs/DUA.

Food Benefits Available for Nebraska Survivors

Low-income Nebraskans recovering from recent flooding could be eligible for food benefits through the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) approved March 28 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Households that may not normally be eligible under regular SNAP rules may qualify for D-SNAP if they meet the disaster-income limits and have qualifying disaster-related expenses and meet certain D-SNAP eligibility criteria. The State of Nebraska will share information about D-SNAP operating dates and locations through local media.

Assistance for Landowners, Farmers, Ranchers and Producers

USDA offers many programs that can provide assistance to landowners, farmers, ranchers and producers during disasters. The Emergency Conservation Program provides funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind erosion, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought. The Emergency Watershed Protection Program helps protect lives and property threatened by floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires.

Programs also are available for orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters. For those livestock owners with

honeybees or farm-raised fish, assistance is available through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish program.

Emergency grazing has been authorized on Conservation Reserve Program acres for all counties in Nebraska until April 30.

For information on these programs, contact your local [USDA Farm Services Agency](#) prior to conducting any repairs.

Tax Relief for Nebraska Survivors

Individuals who reside or have a business in counties designated for FEMA Individual Assistance may qualify for tax relief. For instance, taxpayers with certain deadlines falling on or after March 9, 2019 and before July 31, 2019, are granted additional time to file through July 31, 2019. This includes 2018 individual income tax returns and payments normally due on April 15, 2019. It also includes the quarterly estimated income tax payments due on April 15, 2019, and June 17, 2019. Eligible taxpayers will also have until July 31, 2019 to make 2018 IRA contributions.

In addition, penalties on payroll and excise tax deposits due on or after March 9, 2019, and before March 25, 2019, will be abated as long as the deposits were made by March 25, 2019.

HUD Assistance for Nebraska Survivors

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing support to homeowners and low-income renters forced from their homes due to the recent winter storm and flooding in Nebraska. The disaster declaration allows HUD to offer foreclosure relief and other assistance to eligible families in counties designated for FEMA Individual Assistance.

HUD is:

Granting immediate foreclosure relief – a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures and forbearance on foreclosures of Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured home mortgages

- Offering forbearance and loan modification options for FHA borrowers affected by the disaster. Borrowers having trouble making regular payments should contact their loan servicer as soon as possible for more information;
- Making mortgage insurance available to disaster survivors who have lost their homes and are facing the task of rebuilding or buying another home. Borrowers from participating FHA-approved lenders are eligible for 100 percent financing, including closing costs.
- Making insurance available for both mortgages and home rehabilitation, enabling those who have lost their homes to finance the purchase or refinancing of a house along with its repair through a single mortgage. It also allows homeowners who have damaged houses to finance the rehabilitation of their existing single-family home.

Information about these and other HUD programs designed to assist disaster victims is available on HUD's website at hud.gov.

FEMA Public Assistance Program

Public Assistance (PA) is FEMA's largest grant program, providing funds to assist communities responding to and recovering from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. The program provides emergency assistance to save lives and protect property and assists with permanently restoring community infrastructure affected by a federally declared incident.

Currently, 65 counties are designated for Public Assistance: **Adams, Antelope, Blaine, Boone, Box Butte, Boyd, Brown, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Cherry, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Fillmore, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Harlan, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Keya Paha, Knox, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Madison, Merrick, Morrill, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Rock, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Scotts Bluff, Seward, Sherman, Stanton, Thayer, Thurston, Valley, Washington, Wayne, Wheeler and York.**

Five Tribal Nations are designated for Public Assistance: **Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Sac and Fox, Santee Sioux Nation and Winnebago Tribe.**

The counties and Tribal Nations are eligible for reimbursement for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct assistance, at a federal cost share of at least 75 percent.

NEMA has set a briefing schedule for Public Assistance grant candidates. The briefings are for state businesses, counties, cities, sanitary enhancement districts, public energy districts, natural assets districts and other public entities that experienced injury from the March flooding.

Information Links:

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency: nema.nebraska.gov/
- Twitter: twitter.com/nematweets
- Facebook: facebook.com/nema.page
- YouTube: youtube.com/user/TheNEMAtube
- Flickr: flickr.com/photos/nemapics/
- FEMA: FEMA.gov
- Facebook: facebook.com/FEMA
- Twitter: twitter.com/femaregion7
- National Flood Insurance Program: Floodsmart.gov
- FEMA blog: fema.gov/blog
- SBA Office of Disaster Assistance: sba.gov/disaster

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