



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA FLOOD RESPONSE



As Nebraska recovers from the devastating floods in March, the University of Nebraska is committed to providing support and expertise however we can in the weeks, months and years ahead. We've taken a number of steps to ensure our students' success in these difficult times, to assist University community members who have been impacted, and to be a good partner to the people of Nebraska as we begin the long road to recovery.

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

Our highest priority is making certain this natural disaster does not impede any student's ability to be successful. Under the leadership of the chief academic officers, each campus will provide leniency for current and incoming students whose families, homes, communities or financial situation have been impacted so they can continue on the path to a University degree. Steps include flexible coursework and admissions, enrollment and scholarship deferrals.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYEES TO ASSIST NEBRASKANS IN NEED

- We created a new five-day Civil Leave allowance under which employees can receive up to 40 hours of civil leave to volunteer in flood recovery efforts.
- We have created a catastrophic leave program that allows employees to receive up to two work weeks of leave if they or an immediate family member has been impacted by the flooding and need to attend to personal matters but have exhausted vacation leave.
- Employees have the opportunity to donate to a catastrophic leave "bank" that can be an additional lifeline for colleagues in crisis.
- A new University of Nebraska Foundation Emergency Assistance Fund also is accepting donations to support students and employees who face sudden financial hardship resulting from natural disasters, home displacement, or other crises.

SUPPORTING NEBRASKANS >>>

Building off a successful model with the Rural Futures Institute, we are funding 50 Flood Recovery Serviceships for University of Nebraska students this summer. This program will place 50 students in impacted communities across Nebraska, with a focus on:

1. Engaging local leaders active in flood recovery efforts and contributing in ways that add value.
2. Identifying service projects (immediate or longer-term) that could be addressed by teams of students, staff or faculty, and facilitating projects to be conducted this summer.
3. Representing the University of Nebraska and connecting our resources with local needs.

Recovery will be a marathon, not a sprint. We have an opportunity to be thoughtful and coordinated about putting our expertise – in mental health, infrastructure, business development, agriculture, law and other areas – to work as we help our neighbors and communities rebuild.

We are fortunate that Chuck Hibberd, dean and director of Nebraska Extension, has agreed to lead this coordinated effort on behalf of the University. Dean Hibberd has assembled a University-wide Disaster Recovery Coordinating Committee that will facilitate volunteer activities and pursue partnerships where our expertise is needed. Additionally, Nebraska Extension offers extensive information and resources for individuals and families, businesses, homeowners, and farmers and ranchers whose livelihoods have been impacted by natural disaster.

There can be significant public health issues in responding to flooding of this magnitude. The University of Nebraska Medical Center has a variety of resources available to help ensure the safety of those responding to the impacts of the flood.

Nebraska has been the University's home for 150 years. Particularly in times of need, we take seriously our role to serve our state. We will be a partner as Nebraska rebuilds, however long it takes, and we will continue to update you on how you can help.



To learn more about the University's flood response, visit:
nebraska.edu/flood-assistance