

Daily Fact Sheet

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

April 3, 2019

On March 21, 2019 President Donald J. Trump granted a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Nebraska triggering the release of federal funds to help people and communities recover from the severe winter storm, straight-line winds, and flooding that began March 9, 2019, and continuing. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are coordinating the recovery operation. A disaster website has been created at fema.gov/disaster/4420. The website is updated daily. Currently, FEMA has deployed **398** staff supporting disaster recovery efforts.

Debris Removal a Priority for Communities after Nebraska Flooding

One of the first steps to recovery after a disaster is cleaning up debris.

As local communities coordinate their debris removal process, the NEMA, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and FEMA advise residents not to wait to clean up. Document damage with photos or videos. Separate debris into categories and place at the curb. Debris should not block the roadway.

For more information, go online to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality at deq.state.ne.us/.

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 2:

- **3,429** applicants in designated counties have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance.
- FEMA has approved **\$9,675,033**, including **\$9,002,998** for housing assistance and **\$672,034** for disaster-caused other needs.

Disaster Recovery Centers are Open at the Following Locations

- **Douglas County:** 111 East Front St., Valley, NE 68064. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.
- **Sarpy County:** 3802 Raynor Parkway, Suite 201, Bellevue, NE 68123. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.
- **Cass County:** Plattsmouth Community/Senior Center (Gymnasium), 308 S. 18th St., Plattsmouth, NE 68048. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

- **Dodge County:** Christensen Field House (Community Room), 1710 Christensen Field Road, Fremont, NE 68025. Open April 3, April 4 and April 5 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Survivors may visit any DRC for assistance. Additional locations will be made available as required. To find a DRC, visit [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC).

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](https://www.fema.gov/DRC).
- Applicants for disaster assistance should have the following information on hand:
 - Social Security number
 - Address of the damaged primary residence
 - Description of the damage
 - Information about insurance coverage
 - A current contact telephone number
 - An address where they can receive mail
 - Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

SBA has already approved its first home loan and is working to process and approve loan applications for businesses and residents as quickly as possible.

Business owners, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters may be eligible for low-interest disaster loans from the SBA to help recover from losses not covered by insurance, grants or other sources. Businesses and residents can visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.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 at **Bellevue University, John Muller Administrative Services Building, 812 Bruin Blvd., Bellevue,**

NE 68005. Open Monday to 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 Butler, Cass, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Nemaha, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington counties. They have visited more than 3,559 homes.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

To date, NFIP has received 976 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued \$3,249,610 in advance payments to policyholders.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Available

Workers who became unemployed as a direct result of flooding in Nebraska may qualify for unemployment assistance. People who live in or worked in 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 \(USDA\)](#).

D-SNAP eligible households in the affected areas will receive one month of benefits, equivalent to the maximum amount of benefits normally issued to a SNAP household of their size, to meet their food needs. To be eligible for D-SNAP, a household must live in an identified disaster area, have been affected by the disaster, and meet certain D-SNAP eligibility criteria. Nebraska will share information about D-SNAP operating dates and locations through the 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. The Emergency Watershed Protection Program helps protect lives and property threatened by floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires.

USDA announced April 2 that producers who suffered livestock losses due to a combination of extended cold and above-normal precipitation during the months of January, February and March may be eligible for assistance under the [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#). The deadline to submit a LIP Notice of Loss due to these weather circumstances is April 29, 2019. 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 [federal 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.

Information about 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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