

Recovery Update

Tuesday May 21, 2019

Moving forward we have updated the Fact Sheet to focus on recovery and the resources available to individuals and communities in Nebraska. Please feel free to share this information.

Individual Assistance Available Until June 19 for Nebraskans

At the request of Governor Pete Ricketts, homeowners, renters and business owners in Nebraska designated counties have until June 19 to register for federal assistance. See [News Release](#).

US Small Business Administration (SBA) loan deadline has also been extended to June 19, 2019. Business owners and residents can visit SBA.gov/disaster, call SBA Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. TTY users may call **800-877-8339**.

All Nebraska Disaster Recovery Centers Closed

Effective Friday, May 17, all the State of Nebraska and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) closed. See [News Release](#).

Help remains after Disaster Recovery Centers close

Now that the DRCs have closed, help is just a mouse click, phone call or a tap on the FEMA app away. Individuals and businesses in counties included in the disaster declaration can still get help by:

- Logging into their account at DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Calling the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362** (voice, **711/VRS**-Video Relay Service) (TTY: **800-462-7585**). Multilingual operators are available (press **2** for Spanish).
- Downloading the **FEMA app**, available for **Apple** and **Android** mobile devices. To download visit: fema.gov/mobile-app.

For more information on Nebraska's disaster recovery, visit <http://nema.nebraska.gov>

To *apply for assistance* on-line:

1. Go to <http://Disasterassistance.gov>
2. Click on [Find Assistance](#) on the **Home** page (disasterassistance.gov) or under the **Get Assistance** menu and answer the anonymous questionnaire. You will get a list of assistance you may

apply for based on your answers. (This *does not* guarantee eligibility or assistance.) You can then either apply online with FEMA and learn how you can apply for other assistance. To apply for assistance that FEMA doesn't manage, you will need to follow the instructions provided for each program. This may require going to another agency's website.

Federal Disaster Assistance Is for Nebraska Renters, Too

Renters in counties and tribal areas whose homes and property were damaged in this disaster may be eligible for federal disaster assistance. For information on assistance available, [click here](#).

Housing Resources for Disaster Survivors

The State of Nebraska is leading a Housing Task Force to address housing shortages and unmet needs in communities affected by flooding. A [fact sheet listing resources](#) is posted on FEMA's disaster web page: fema.gov/disaster/4420.

Check Permit Requirements Before Rebuilding

It is important for Nebraskans to **check with local building authorities about local or state permits** before starting reconstruction. These may include building permits, floodplain development permits, permits for repair of septic systems, and others. See NEMA guidelines [here](#). To find out what state permits may be required, please visit dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain.

Understanding Your FEMA Letter

If you applied for assistance from FEMA, you will receive a letter in the mail or via email that explains the status of your application and how to respond. It is important to read the letter carefully. Your letter will include the amount of any assistance FEMA may provide and information on the appropriate use of disaster assistance funds.

- **If you have questions about the letter**, you may go online to DisasterAssistance.gov; call the disaster assistance helpline at **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585** (TTY).

FEMA Hiring Nebraskans to Work on Disaster Recovery

FEMA is hiring Nebraskans to help with recovery efforts, go to www.USAJobs.gov. The website is updated regularly. Type "FEMA Local Hire" in the search box and "Nebraska" in the location box.

Keep your recovery options open with U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest loans

SBA loans provide the largest source of long-term federal disaster recovery funds for survivors in a major disaster declaration. By submitting an initial application with SBA, you will keep the option open to obtain recovery funds that you may need. Don't wait for insurance claims to be settled; it is not necessary to know how much money you may need. There is no cost to apply, or any obligation to accept funds if approved.

If SBA is unable to offer you a loan, you may be referred back to FEMA for potential additional grant assistance. Survivors who've been referred for low-interest loans with SBA and don't apply, will not be considered for these "other needs" grants from FEMA.

SBA has approved over **\$34.3 million in low-interest recovery loans for Nebraskans**. \$29.1 million for homeowners and renters and \$5.2 million for businesses and private nonprofits, so far. SBA is also operating two Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to help homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofits with face-to-face assistance to apply and to close their approved loans. The centers are in the **Fremont City Auditorium, Community Room at 925 N Broad St, Fremont, NE 68025** in Dodge County, and at **3802 Raynor Parkway, Suite 201, Bellevue, NE 68123** in Sarpy County. Both centers are open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays – Fridays. No appointment necessary.

To apply online or for any questions, residents and businesses 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**.

Free Safety and Health Consultations Available to Flood-Impacted Businesses

The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) is offering free safety and health consultations to businesses in flood-impacted areas. Trained NDOL consultants are available to assist with mold remediation plans, provide safety and health assessments, identify electrical hazards, and perform overall risk assessment. The free consultations are available through the On-Site Safety and Health Consultation program. For more information go online to dol.nebraska.gov.

Crisis Counseling Services Available

The NEMA was awarded a grant for more than \$400,000 from FEMA for **disaster-related crisis counseling services**. Outreach workers will be available to support emotional and psychological recoveries of Nebraskans impacted by the floods. Survivors may call the Rural Response Hotline at 800-464-0258. Callers can get tips on how to handle disaster-related distress, along with referrals to local treatment centers, support groups and community-based organizations. **For more information see nema.nebraska.gov.**

BEWARE of FRAUD *when Seeking* **DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams and home inspectors are often sent to rural areas to help disaster survivors, but not all individuals offering assistance are who they say they are.

Don't take a financial hit from scams during your recovery process!

BEFORE YOU ENGAGE, FOLLOW THESE TIPS:

-  FEMA representatives and inspectors from other agencies will always have identification.
-  Do NOT give cash. Government workers never ask for a fee or payment.
-  Do NOT give personally identifiable information over the phone.

If you believe you are the victim of fraud, contact the Disaster Fraud Hotline to report scams or fraud in your area.



disaster.leo.gov



National Center for Disaster Fraud
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909



(866) 720-5721



National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

As of May 17, NFIP has received 1,029 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued \$5,129,287 in advance payments to policyholders. Total paid on all claims: \$31,794,806.

NFIP Increased Cost of Compliance Can Help with Rebuilding in Nebraska

If you have a policy with the NFIP and your home was damaged extensively by March storms, you may qualify for additional coverage under your policy, under the provisions of Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC). ICC funds can help defray the costs of elevating, floodproofing, demolishing or relocating a residence. For more information contact your local floodplain administrator, NFIP at **800-427-4661**, or your insurance agent.

Debris Removal a Priority for Communities

NEMA, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and FEMA are coordinating cleanup efforts in Nebraska. Debris needs to be separated into categories and placed at the curb. Debris should not block the roadway. For information, go online to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality at deq.state.ne.us/.

Houses of Worship May Apply for FEMA Public Assistance Grants

Houses of worship that sustained damage from the flooding in Nebraska may apply for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). If you have not received an email for the Grants Portal, please call (402) 429-3389. The deadline to apply is June 20, 2019.

Agriculture News: Grants, Loans and other Programs

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture(USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cover Crops for Disaster Assistance Initiative** (soil erosion, water quality, etc.) announced a **new application deadline of August 1, 2019** to accommodate farms facing delayed planting.
- **NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program** has processed 31 applications totaling \$50,000 to date. NRCS funding is available at the local level to assist with disaster recovery either through special EQIP signups or annual EQIP funding.
- **USDA announced higher limits now are available for borrowers** interested in USDA's farm loans. For more information, visit [USDA Farm Service Agency](#).
- **USDA Rural Development (RD) Business and Co-op Programs** have a funding opportunity for a Rural Cooperative Development Grant. Applications are due June 3, 2019. Total funding will be \$5,800,000.
- **USDA RD** delivered its [Multi-Family Housing Vacancy Report](#) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). There are 227 vacant units available across Nebraska.

27 Counties and One Tribe Eligible for FEMA Individual Assistance

Homeowners and renters in Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming,

Custer, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Howard, Knox, Madison, Nance, Nemaha, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Stanton, Thurston and Washington counties and the Santee Sioux Nation are eligible for Individual Assistance.

Individuals & Households Program (IHP)

As of May 20 **5,863 applicants in designated counties have applied for Individual Assistance.**

- FEMA has approved **\$22,276,101.**
- This includes **\$19,799,380** for housing assistance and **\$2,476,721** for disaster-related other needs.
- **Deadline to register for Individual Assistance is June 19.**

FEMA Public Assistance Deadline Extended to June 20

Under FEMA's Public Assistance grant program, applicants may be eligible for reimbursement for debris removal and emergency protective measures as well as the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations such as houses of worship at a federal cost share of 75 percent.

Government entities are encouraged to submit a request for public assistance to FEMA. RPAs must be submitted in Grants Portal. If you have not received an email for the Grants Portal, please call (402) 429-3389.

For a listing of counties in Nebraska eligible for these programs, visit online <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4420>.

Announcement of Initial Public Notice

FEMA is required by law to provide public notice of its intent to provide federal assistance and grant opportunities via the Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA), or Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) programs.

The public notice for the Nebraska recovery mission is posted on the following websites:

- <https://nema.nebraska.gov/sites/nema.nebraska.gov/files/doc/fema-ipn4420.pdf>
- <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/notices/initial-public-notice-dr-4420-ne>

Survivors unmet needs resources include:

- A **Disaster Relief Fund** at the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation provides emergency aid to Nebraska rural communities affected by recent storms and flooding. The Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit and any donations made are tax-deductible. 100% of the donations will be distributed to Nebraska farmers, ranchers, and rural communities affected by the disasters. **Contact: www.nefb.org**
- For property clean up contact the **Crisis Clean Up Hotline: 833-556-2476**
- For all other needs of assistance call **Nebraska 211.**
- To volunteer to help, please contact **United Way of the Midlands. [Click here](#)** to view, sign up and make someone's day brighter! In state, call 2-1-1 for questions (press option 6). Or
- **Contact the Fremont Volunteer Reception Center.** Volunteer opportunities are available online at <http://signup.com/go/xynaaxZ>. The Volunteer Center is at Fremont Area United Way, 445 East 1st Street, Suite 1, Fremont. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. -5 p.m., or go online to fremontnebraskavrc@gmail.com.

Information Links:

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency: nema.nebraska.gov/
- Nebraska Impact (Volunteering): www.nebraskaimpact.com/flood
- 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.