

Daily Fact Sheet

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

April 10, 2019

- Major Disaster Declaration issued March 21, 2019
- The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are coordinating the recovery operation.
- Disaster website: fema.gov/disaster/4420.
- Current federal staffing: 498, including 411 FEMA employees

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.

You may need to submit additional information for FEMA to continue to process your application.

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); or visit a disaster recovery center. To find center locations and hours, go online to FEMA.gov/DRC or download the [FEMA mobile app](#).

If you disagree with FEMA's decision, or the amount of assistance, you may submit an appeal letter and any documents needed to support your claim, such as a contractor's estimate for home repairs. Appeal letters and supporting documents may be submitted to FEMA by fax or mail, in person at a Disaster Recovery Center, or online if you have a FEMA online account. To set up a FEMA online account, visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov, click on "Check Status" and follow the directions.

You must file your appeal in writing to FEMA. In a **signed and dated letter**, you must explain the reason(s) for your appeal. Your appeal letter should also include:

- Your full name
- Disaster number
- Address of the pre-disaster primary residence
- Your current phone number and address
- Your FEMA registration number on all documents

By mail: FEMA National Processing Service Center, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055. **By fax:** 800-827-8112, Attention: FEMA.

Disaster Recovery Centers Assist Survivors

Disaster Recovery Centers are operating, or are scheduled to begin operation, in areas affected by the winter storm and flooding. More centers will be announced soon. Recovery specialists from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will provide information on available services, explain assistance programs and help survivors complete or check the status of their applications.

Disaster Recovery Center locations and hours are:

- **Boone County:** St. Edward Fire Hall, 1302 State Highway 39, St. Edward, NE 68660. Open April 8 through April 12, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Buffalo County:** Gibbon Baptist Church, 705 Court St., Gibbon, NE 68840. Open April 15 through April 19, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Cass County:** Plattsmouth Community/Senior Center (Gymnasium), 308 S. 18th St., Plattsmouth, NE 68048. Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.
- **Colfax County:** Colfax County Court (Community Room), 411 E. 11th St., Schuyler, NE 68661. Open April 16 through April 20, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Dodge County:** Fremont Learning Center, 130 E. 9th St., Fremont, NE 68025. Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.
- **Douglas County:** Valley Veterans Club, 111 E. Front St., Valley, NE 68064. Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.
- **Knox County:** Center Community Center, 207 Main St., Center, NE 68724. Open April 9 through April 13, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Sarpy County:** Twin Creek, 3802 Raynor Parkway, Suite 201, Bellevue, NE 68123. Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.
- **Saunders County:** VFW Hall, 102 S. 24th St., Ashland, NE 68003. Open April 6 through April 10, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Thurston County:** Pender Community Center, 614 Main St., Pender, NE 68047. Open April 15 through April 19, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Washington County:** Arlington City Auditorium, 410 W. Elm St., Arlington, NE 68002. Open April 9 through April 13, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Survivors can visit any open DRC for help. To find the nearest center, go online to [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC) or call the Disaster Assistance Helpline at **800-621-3362** or **(TTY) 800-462-7585**.

Individuals & Households Program (IHP)

Federal funding is 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 9

- **4,144** applicants in designated counties have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance.
- FEMA has approved **\$13,857,667**.
- This includes **\$12,530,785** for housing assistance and **\$1,326,882** for disaster-related other needs.

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.

Debris Removal a Priority for Communities after Nebraska Flooding

As local communities coordinate debris removal, NEMA, the 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/.

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**; or use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS). Telephone registration is available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT 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. Online, visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov.
- 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 approved \$1,469,800 in low-interest disaster loans for residents and businesses as of April 8 and is continuing to process and approve loan applications for businesses and residents as quickly as possible. 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 is operating a Business Recovery Center 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. to assist businesses with their unique application and disaster recovery needs. No appointment necessary.

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, Buffalo, Custer, Knox and Thurston counties. They have visited more than 8,344 homes.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

To date, NFIP has received 997 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued \$3,997,010 in advance payments to policyholders. Total paid on all claims: \$6,474,738.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available to Nebraskans in 15 Counties and Santee Sioux Nation

Employees or self-employed survivors in 15 counties and the Santee Sioux Nation who lost their jobs temporarily or permanently as a direct result of the flooding March 9 - April 1 may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). Disaster Unemployment Assistance is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and administered by the State of Nebraska.

- Workers in Butler, Cass, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Nemaha, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington counties have **until April 26** to apply.
- Workers in Boone, Buffalo, Custer, Knox, Richardson and Thurston counties and the Santee Sioux Nation have **until May 3** to apply.

Information about DUA can be found at dol.nebraska.gov/UIBenefits/Programs/DUA.

To apply for benefits:

- File online at NEworks or call 402-458-2500 from Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Provide a Social Security Number. A representative will determine eligibility and assist in filing the DUA claim.
- Provide proof of income. Proof of income from the most recent complete tax year must be provided within 21 days of filing the initial DUA claim.

Assistance for Landowners, Farmers, Ranchers and Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture offers many programs that provide assistance to landowners, farmers, ranchers and producers following disasters. For information, contact your local USDA Farm Services Agency.

College Students May Be Eligible for Disaster Assistance

Students who attend Nebraska colleges or universities in areas impacted by the March winter storm and flooding may be eligible for federal disaster assistance. Their permanent residence does not need to be in any of the 15 designated counties to be eligible for assistance. However, property damages or losses must have occurred in the impacted areas. Property damages or losses that may be eligible for repair or replacement include personal vehicles, clothing, text books and school supplies.

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](#). This may include additional time to file yearly individual tax returns or quarterly payments. Eligible taxpayers will also have until July 31, 2019, to make 2018 IRA contributions.

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 March winter storm and flooding in Nebraska. For information, visit the HUD 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. NEMA is conducting briefings for Public Assistance grant candidates.

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.**

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

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