

Daily Fact Sheet

DR 4420 NE/Severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding
May 9, 2019

- Major Disaster Declaration issued March 21, 2019.
- Incident Period March 9 – April 1
- 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: 461, including 401 FEMA employees

Four Additional Nebraska Counties Now Eligible for PA; Two Counties Receive Additional Assistance

The major disaster declaration for the State of Nebraska was amended on May 6, 2019, to authorize Public Assistance (PA) grants for six additional counties:

- Four counties, **Clay, Dawson, Kearney and Polk**, designated for all PA categories (emergency work and permanent work).
- Two counties, **Seward and York** now designated to receive PA permanent work as well as the emergency work for which they originally qualified.

Through the program, FEMA can reimburse eligible costs for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations. The Public Assistance program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

As a result of the amendment, there are now 76 Nebraska counties designated for all categories of PA assistance. Four counties and five tribes have been designated for emergency work and debris removal assistance.

Disaster Recovery Center Relocates in Boyd County

Beginning on **Thursday, May 9**, the State of Nebraska and FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Boyd county will change location to **American Legion Post 78, 116 S. Thayer Street, Spencer, NE 68777**. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Survivors can visit any open Nebraska DRC. To find locations, go online to FEMA.gov/DRC or call the Disaster Assistance Helpline at 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585 (TTY).

Nebraskans: There's still time to register for help. Do it now!

If you were affected by the severe winter storms, straight line winds and flooding that occurred nearly two months ago and haven't registered for help from FEMA, why wait? Do it now!

Take the first step toward getting federal assistance. Don't miss out! Once you register with FEMA, you may be eligible for a federal grant to help with your recovery.

If you are a homeowner or renter with disaster-related damage in the 27 designated counties and the Santee Sioux Nation, register now before it's too late.

No matter why you did not register, do it now. Here's what to do to get the correct information:

- Go online at DisasterAssistance.gov
- Call the FEMA helpline (voice, 711 or relay service) at 800-621-3362; (call 800-462-7585 TTY). The toll-free lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT seven days a week.
- Visit a Disaster Recovery Center. Find the center closest to you at: www.fema.gov/drc.

Homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes may also qualify for a low-interest disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). If you have questions about an SBA loan call SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or **800-877-8339 (TTY)** or send an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Visit SBA's website at SBA.gov/disaster.

Check Permit Requirements Before Rebuilding

It is important for Nebraskans to **check with local building authorities about local or state permits** that may be necessary before starting reconstruction. These may include building permits, floodplain development permits, permits for repair of septic systems, and others. To find out what state permits may be required, please visit the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources at dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain for a list of local floodplain management contacts.

Housing Resources for Disaster Survivors

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

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 8

- **5,673** applicants in designated counties have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance.
- FEMA has approved **\$21,577,943**.
- This includes **\$19,218,999** for housing assistance and **\$2,358,944** for disaster-related other needs.
- **Deadline to register for Individual Assistance is May 20.**

Don't Wait; Register with FEMA Now

If you experienced losses as a result of the March flooding, don't wait for a Disaster Recovery Center to open. Register with FEMA immediately and file any insurance claims. Disaster Recovery Centers are opening in the areas affected by the disaster, but this will take time. You can register with FEMA in several ways:

- Online, visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). On a smart phone, use the [FEMA app](#). By phone, call **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585 (TTY)** from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Or 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).

FEMA Hiring Nebraskans to Work on Disaster Recovery

FEMA is hiring Nebraskans to help with recovery efforts. Anyone interested in temporary job opportunities should go to www.USAJobs.gov. The website is updated as new postings occur. Type “FEMA Local Hire” in the search box and put “Nebraska” in the location box.

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](https://www.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](https://www.FEMA.gov/DRC) or download the [FEMA mobile app](#).

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 continue to be announced. 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 Centers are closed on Sundays. Disaster Recovery Center locations and hours are:

- **Antelope County:** Neligh Fire Hall, 512 W. 11th St., Neligh, NE 68756.
Open May 9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Boyd County:** **American Legion Post 78, 116 S. Thayer St., Spencer, NE 68777.**
Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. **New location opening May 9.**
- **Cuming County:** Beemer Village Clerk, 317 N. Main St., Beemer, NE 68718.
Open May 9, 10 and 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Custer County:** Broken Bow United Methodist Church, 1000 S. 3rd Ave., Broken Bow, NE 68822. Open May 9, 10 and 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Dodge County:** Fremont Learning Center, 130 E. 9th St., Fremont, NE 68025. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Pierce County:** Pierce Fire Hall, 106 S. 1st St., Pierce, NE 68767
Open May 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Platte County:** Eagles Club Post 1834, 3205 12th St., Columbus, NE 68601.
Open May 9 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Sarpy County:** Twin Creek, 3802 Raynor Parkway, Suite 201, Bellevue, NE 68123.
Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Survivors can visit any open center for help. To find the nearest DRC visit: [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.FEMA.gov/DRC), or text

DRC along with a ZIP code to 43362 or call the Disaster Assistance Helpline at **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585 (TTY)**.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Update

SBA has approved more than \$28.5 million in low-interest disaster loans as of May 8. For homeowners and renters, SBA has approved 498 loans for \$24,973,100; for businesses and private nonprofits, SBA has approved 25 loans for \$3,558,400. For information, 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 two Disaster Loan Outreach Centers, which are permanently closing today, March 9 at 6 p.m., in Cass County in the **Plattsmouth Community/Senior Center at 308 S 18th Street, Plattsmouth, NE 68048** and in Douglas County in the **Valley Veterans Club at 111 E Front Street, Valley, NE 68064**. No appointment necessary.

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.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

As of May 8, NFIP has received 1,028 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued \$4,702,345 in advance payments to policyholders. Total paid on all claims: \$25,338,125.

Debris Removal a Priority for Communities after Nebraska Flooding

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/.

Long-Term Recovery Help Grows for Nebraska Storm Survivors

As the focus turns toward long-term recovery from the March severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding, survivors have many resources available from local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations to assist with unmet needs.

Nebraska survivors with unmet needs may contact:

- 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.

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). The deadline to apply is May 20, 2019.

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program provides grants to certain kinds of nonprofit organizations. More information about eligible essential and critical service providers can be found on FEMA.gov by viewing the table on page 13 of FEMA's [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is conducting briefings for applicants. Organizations can find the schedule of briefings and information on how to apply by going online to the NEMA website: nema.nebraska.gov/.

Nebraska Joint Information Center

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency was awarded a grant for more than \$400,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make disaster-related crisis counseling services available. The crisis counseling program funds outreach workers who will be available to support emotional and psychological recoveries of Nebraskans impacted by the floods

Survivors who live in Butler, Cass, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Nemaha, Sarpy, Saunders, and Washington counties may call the Rural Response Hotline at 1-800-464-0258. 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.**

NFIP Increased Cost of Compliance Can Help with Rebuilding in Nebraska

If you have a policy with the National Flood Insurance Program (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 residential structure. For more information on general flood insurance questions, contact your local floodplain administrator, NFIP at **800-427-4661**, or your insurance agent.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available

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

Assistance for Landowners, Farmers, Ranchers and Producers

The USDA says higher limits now are available for borrowers interested in USDA's farm loans. For more information, visit [USDA Farm Service Agency](#).

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

- To help manage cropland damaged by Nebraska's severe spring weather, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing **funds to plant cover crops**.
- Producers are encouraged to apply at their local USDA Service Center by May 17, 2019. After that deadline, there is a second opportunity to apply, ending June 21, 2019.
- This funding is available statewide to assist recovery work on cropland acres directly impacted by the severe weather in March. The highest priority cropland includes **land that is unable to be planted with a cash crop and/or harvested in 2019**.

Tax Relief for Nebraska Survivors

Individuals may qualify for [federal tax relief](#) following a disaster.

HUD Assistance for Nebraska Survivors

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing support to homeowners and low-income renters. Find information at [hud.gov](#).

FEMA Public Assistance Program

FEMA's Public Assistance grant program provides federal assistance to state and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations following a presidential disaster declaration.

Through the program, FEMA can reimburse eligible costs for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations. The Public Assistance program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

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

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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