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News Release

Houses of Worship May Apply for FEMA Public Assistance Grants

LINCOLN, Neb. – 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. Among these are faith-based organizations that provide essential social services to the public.

To be eligible, the house of worship must be owned or operated by a private nonprofit organization. It must have sustained damage caused by the severe storm, straight-line winds and flooding March 9-April 1, 2019 in Nebraska. The facility must be open to the public. It must provide U.S. Internal Revenue Service documentation of tax-exempt status, pre-disaster charter and other documentation.

Organizations that provide services of a non-critical, essential social-type services must apply for a low-interest disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in order to be considered for PA grants. Grants may be available to these organizations for repair or replacement costs that SBA loans do not cover. The organizations can apply to FEMA while they are waiting for response from SBA.

Only organizations with state or IRS tax-exempt status may be considered. 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](#).

Organizations must submit a Request for Public Assistance to the state by May 20. 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/.

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has faced discrimination, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585 (TTY).

The U.S. Small Business Administration is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955. TTY users may also call 800-877-8339. Applicants may also email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or visit SBA at www.SBA.gov/disaster.