



Private Sector Advisory

DR 4420 NE/Severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding
PS 002 April 26, 2019

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 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.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available

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

Don't Wait; Register with FEMA Now

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.

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. 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, visit: FEMA.gov/DRC, or text **DRC** along with a ZIP code to 43362.

Private Nonprofits, Including Faith-Based Organizations, May Apply for FEMA Public Assistance Grants

Nebraska private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, may be eligible for grants from FEMA to help them recover from the severe winter storm and flooding March 9-April 1. The deadline for application is May 20, 2019.

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program provides grants to certain kinds of nonprofits, including **houses of worship** owned or operated by a private nonprofit organization. These organizations must have damage caused by the severe winter storm and must provide a non-critical but essential service open to the public. They must provide U.S. Internal Revenue Service documentation of tax-exempt status, pre-disaster charter and other documentation.

FEMA announced Jan. 2, 2018, that private nonprofit **houses of worship** are eligible for disaster assistance as community centers, without regard to their secular or religious nature. This change is

reflected in the third edition of the Public Assistance Program Policy Guide, which is available online at fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/111781.

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/.

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** on cropland acres.

- 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**.

Check Permit Requirements Before Rebuilding

Local Officials Determine Whether Home Sustained "Substantial Damage"

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. If a lagoon was breached or a septic system became inundated, repairs may need to be permitted by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Local officials in Nebraska are inspecting homes damaged by the flooding to determine whether a structure was damaged to the extent that it will have to meet current codes when it is repaired. A determination of "substantial damage" applies to a severely damaged home or other structure in a Special Flood Hazard Area, or flood zone, where the community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These determinations are made by communities. FEMA does not make substantial damage determinations.

[Click here to read more](#)

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.

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](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](#).
- 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.

[Click here to read more](#)

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. Survivors can visit any open center for help.

To find the nearest DRC and hours of operation, 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)**.

Tax Relief for Nebraska Survivors

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

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Update

SBA has approved \$19,169,400 in low-interest disaster loans as of April 24. For homeowners and renters, SBA has approved 318 loans for \$16,973,100; for businesses and private nonprofits, SBA has approved 16 loans for \$2,196,300. For information, 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 is operating a Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Cass County in the **Plattsmouth Community/Senior Center at 308 S. 18th Street, Plattsmouth, NE 68048**.

Hours are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; SBA continues operating a Business Recovery Center in Sarpy County at **Bellevue University, John Muller Administrative Services Building, 812 Bruin Blvd., Bellevue, NE 68005**. It is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. No appointment necessary.

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](https://www.hud.gov).

Information Links:

- Nebraska Preparedness Partnership: neprep.org/
- Nebraska Preparedness Partnership Twitter: twitter.com/nepreppartner
- Nebraska Preparedness Partnership Facebook: facebook.com/NEPreparednessPartnership/
- Nebraska Preparedness Partnership LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/nebraska-preparedness-partnership/
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA): nema.nebraska.gov/
- NEMA Twitter: twitter.com/nematweets
- NEMA Facebook: facebook.com/nema.page
- NEMA YouTube: youtube.com/user/TheNEMAtube
- NEMA Flickr: flickr.com/photos/nemapics/
- Nebraska Impact (Volunteering): nebraskaimpact.com/flood
- FEMA Region 7 Twitter: twitter.com/femaregion7
- National Flood Insurance Program: FloodSmart.gov
- FEMA blog: fema.gov/blog

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DisasterAssistance.gov
ACCESS TO DISASTER HELP AND RESOURCES

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). Multilingual operators are available

Disaster Recovery Center Locator: <https://egateway.fema.gov/ESF6/DRCLocator>

Weather the Storm: Download the FEMA App today



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.

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<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4420>