



FEMA

FEMA Congressional and
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DR-4547-MI STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

July 24, 2020

On July 9, 2020, President Donald J. Trump granted a Major Disaster Declaration for the state of Michigan triggering the release of federal funds to help people and communities recover from severe storms and flooding that occurred May 16-22, 2020. Below is an update of FEMA activities to date, as well as additional information on several hot issues. Please continue to reach out if your office has questions or needs additional information.

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Disaster Assistance to Date

Daily updates to this information are available at: www.fema.gov/disaster/4547

IA Daily Snapshot as of COB 7-23-2020	
Approved Registrations	1,148
Indiv. Assistance Approved	\$13,322,961

How to Register

The first step to accessing assistance from the federal government is by registering. Please help us by sharing this information with your constituents/stakeholders.

- **To register for federal disaster assistance**, individuals in Arenac, Gladwin, Iosco, Midland, and Saginaw counties, including those who use 711 relay or VRS, are encouraged to call **800-621-3362** (TTY: **800-462-7585**). The toll-free numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET seven days a week until further notice.
- Individuals also may register online at DisasterAssistance.gov or through the [FEMA App](#).
- The **deadline to register is Sept. 8, 2020**.

Remote Inspections

More information is available at: www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/23/individual-and-households-program-remote-inspections.

Due to the COVID-19 nationwide emergency and the need to protect the safety and health of all Americans, FEMA will conduct remote home inspections for disaster survivors until further notice.

- A remote inspection will be the primary form of inspection for applicants who are still pending an inspection.
- Applicants who self-reported during registration that they received minimal damage and can live in their homes will not automatically be scheduled for a home inspection. Instead, they will receive a letter from FEMA explaining that they may call the FEMA Helpline to request an inspection if they find significant disaster-caused damage to their home after they applied.
- Remote inspections have no impact on eligibility for the types of Other Needs Assistance available that do not require an inspection. This includes childcare, transportation, medical and dental, funeral expenses, moving and storage, and Group Flood Insurance Policy Assistance.
- FEMA inspectors will call applicants by phone. Applicants will answer questions about the type and extent of damage sustained.
- The inspector will ask the applicant to verify the last four digits of their FEMA registration ID; an 8-digit number generated at the completion of the application. The inspector will complete the verification process by providing the applicant with the first 4-digits of the registration ID.
- Reasonable accommodations, including translation and ASL interpreters via Video Relay Service, will be available to ensure effective communication with applicants with limited English proficiency, applicants with disabilities, and other individuals with access and functional needs.
- Based on responses from the applicant and existing eligibility criteria, awards will be generated for Rental Assistance, Home Repair Assistance, Replacement Assistance, Other Needs Assistance (ONA) for Personal Property Assistance, and Assistance for Miscellaneous Items based on existing line items.
- Home Repair Assistance will be provided based on type of residence and the applicant's responses during the remote inspection to determine level of damage sustained.

Update on Wells

Michigan residents who lost access to water through their private wells due to the May disaster could be considered for financial assistance under FEMA's Individuals and Households Program.

- The cost of drilling a new well may be considered for federal funding if the private well is the sole source of water for the primary residence and is unusable, even if it is not damaged.

Steps to take to be considered for assistance with your private well:

- Those who have not yet registered with FEMA should call 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585). The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET seven days a week until further notice. Or register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or through the [FEMA App](#).
- Residents who have registered for FEMA assistance and have not had a home inspection should let the FEMA inspector know if they have a private well. If an applicant has

already had an inspection and the well wasn't reported, they may send FEMA a dated and signed letter, along with a contractor's estimate, indicating they are appealing for the well.

In situations where an applicant receives FEMA assistance for their private well, but additional help for these costs is necessary, the applicant may submit an appeal:

- The applicant should provide to FEMA a verifiable estimate/receipt indicating the well was physically damaged, collapsed, and/or is no longer producing potable water as a direct result of the disaster. They will need to include a dated and signed written letter, along with the contractor's estimate, indicating they are appealing for the well.
- If the submitted estimates/receipts do not specifically include this information, FEMA will call the contractor to confirm the information.
- Note: Upon appeal, FEMA may pay the actual cost for drilling (not to exceed 400 linear feet, on the first appeal) when a verified contractor's estimate is on file. If the contractor reaches 400 linear feet and needs to continue to drill further, FEMA will accept a verbal confirmation from the contractor, and process an additional appeal award at actual cost.

Individuals may always contact the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585) if they have any questions about their disaster assistance options.

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

English: www.fema.gov/disaster/4547

Spanish: <https://www.fema.gov/es/disaster/4547>

<https://twitter.com/femaregion5>