

May 7, 2019
DR 4420 NE
FS-013

FACT SHEET

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

Lincoln, NE – 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.

Did you not register because:

- You simply didn't know that FEMA offers help to homeowners and renters whose homes were damaged?
 - ✓ Register with FEMA before the May 20th deadline to learn about the help that may be available to you.
- You kept putting off registering because you were too busy and didn't remember to register until the evening, and thought everything would be closed?
 - ✓ Registering is a very important first step to getting help. The FEMA helpline is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (CT) every day of the week.
 - ✓ Go online anytime to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov).
- You are confused about the process of registering with FEMA?
 - ✓ FEMA is there to help you. Make the phone call (800-621-3362) or go online to the website ([DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov)). Ask questions and you will get answers.
- You thought talking with your county officials or the American Red Cross would automatically make you eligible for FEMA aid?
 - ✓ The only way for you to be eligible for federal help is for you, the homeowner, renter or as the business owner, to register with FEMA.
- You thought the damage to your property would not be eligible for federal help?
 - ✓ Let FEMA make the decision to determine if you qualify for federal assistance.

- You thought that since you already cleaned up and made repairs you couldn't apply for assistance?
 - ✓ You can register with FEMA even after you make repairs. It is helpful to have photographs of the damage. It also helps if you keep all repair receipts.
- You thought others needed the federal aid more than you?
 - ✓ No one is denied aid because of someone else's need. If you are eligible for assistance, FEMA will provide funds to help you start the recovery process.
- You thought you'd have to repay FEMA?
 - ✓ FEMA assistance is a grant, not a loan. It does not have to be repaid.
- You thought that getting disaster assistance from FEMA would affect your government benefits, such as Social Security, Medicaid or SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)?
 - ✓ You will not have to pay additional income taxes or see any reduction in your Social Security checks or any other federal benefits.
- You didn't think you were eligible for FEMA help because you are not a U.S. citizen?
 - ✓ To register for FEMA's assistance, you must be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident to qualify for disaster assistance. However, undocumented families only need one family member (including minor children) who is a citizen and has a social security number to apply. FEMA can provide information about obtaining a social security number for a minor child. The minor child must live with the parent/guardian applying on his/her behalf.
 - ✓ Multilingual Operators are available

None of these reasons will prevent you from getting help from FEMA. Here's what to do to get the correct information:

- Go online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.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](https://www.sba.gov/disaster).

Additional information on Nebraska's disaster recovery can be found at [fema.gov/disaster/4420](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4420).

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