



Disaster Assistance in Minnesota

ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA
EMERGENCY MANAGERS

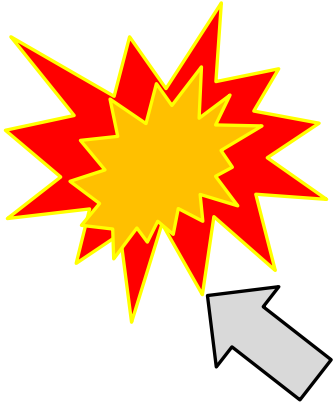
Important Considerations in Disaster Assistance

- Disaster response and recovery is based at the local level.
- Disaster assistance programs exist at the State and Federal levels.
- In Minnesota, State Assistance is determined using Federal processes.
- Requesting governments must show full commitment of resources.
- Activation of emergency plans/declaration of emergency required.
- State/Federal disaster assistance is the relief of last resort.

Important Considerations in Disaster Assistance

- Not all disaster costs are eligible for disaster assistance.
- Federal assistance can provide two main types of assistance.
 - Public Assistance (PA) - for governments/eligible non-profits.
 - Individual Assistance (IA) – for individuals/households.
- Federal assistance usually does not include Individual Assistance (IA).
- Minnesota disaster assistance only provides Public Assistance (PA).

Disaster Initial Response



An incident strikes one or more local jurisdictions...

Local jurisdiction resources respond.

If resources are inadequate, jurisdiction(s) invokes mutual aid (12.27; 12.33; 12.331; 12.37) and activates its emergency plans.

If resources are still inadequate, jurisdiction(s) declare local emergency (12.29)

The Governor may elect to provide fast emergency aid (12.36)

Disaster Assistance Process – Initial Triggers

The incident is beyond the capability of the local jurisdictions for adequate response and recovery .

The Governor may consider declaration of peacetime emergency (12.31)

County emergency managers estimate response costs and damage totals, and along with State emergency management determine if the costs exceed key thresholds.

Federal Stafford Act Indicator Values (2020) – Public Assistance

County Cost Multiplier \$3.84 per capita

Hennepin (1,152,425 = \$4,425,312)

Clearwater (8,695 = \$33,389)

State Cost Multiplier \$1.53 per capita (5,303,925 = \$8,115,005)

Disaster Assistance Process – Request to Feds

If costs exceed thresholds of at least one county AND the state...

The Governor may request that the President declare a major disaster.

County and State emergency managers provide response costs and damage totals to FEMA in preparation for a formal Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA).

FEMA then makes a recommendation to the President regarding a Presidential declaration.

The Governor must have activated the State's emergency plan.

The Governor must have made a formal emergency declaration.

Disaster Assistance Process – Federal Scope

Stafford Act. Title 1, Section 102, (2): “Major disaster” means...

...any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought), or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion...

Disaster Assistance Process – Federal Approval

If the President declares a major disaster under the Stafford Act for one or more Minnesota counties...

Unless the President determines that a catastrophe is particularly severe, the Federal share of eligible costs is 75%.

The State/local share is 25%.

In Minnesota, the state has committed to fully funding the State/local share of Federal disaster assistance under 12.221 and 12A.

Disaster Assistance Process – Feds Decline

If the President declines to declare a major disaster or if jurisdictions do not meet their Federal Indicator value...

Minnesota has a safety-net assistance program – Chapter 12B

Chapter 12B is designed with local Indicator Values exactly half (50%) of Federal Stafford Act thresholds.

Chapter 12B County Thresholds

Hennepin (\$2,212,656)

Clearwater (\$16,694.50)

Disaster Assistance Process – State 12B

The scope of 12B is identical to the Stafford Act (verbatim)...natural catastrophes along with fires, floods and explosions from all causes.

Under 12B, the state pays 75% of eligible costs in a State version of the Stafford formula, and the local jurisdiction is left with the remaining 25%.



Destruction of downtown Madelia destroyed by fire (2016)

Summary

Minnesota is fortunate to have an effective and intertwined system of Federal and State disaster assistance to help local jurisdictions in their response and recovery to disaster.

The system is an established, predictable and transparent process that ensures that jurisdictions receive a reliable amount of relief.

The system is also efficient for Minnesota by using the Stafford formula it sets eligibility criteria and requires shares that economize and allow more jurisdictions to utilize the program.



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