



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

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Federal, State Disaster Aid for Individuals Tops \$9 Million

PIERRE, S.D. - State and federal disaster aid for individuals and households affected by South Dakota's floods this year has topped \$9 million, disaster officials said today.

The figure includes \$3.9 million in grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) targeted to households, and almost \$5.4 million in low-interest disaster loans for households and businesses from the Small Business Administration. More than 1,700 households and businesses have registered for FEMA's "Individual Assistance" program since it was made available on August 23.

The deadline to register with FEMA, and to return loan applications to the Small Business Administration, is Monday, October 24.

Here is a summary of activities of state and federal disaster recovery efforts for individuals and households so far:

- \$3.9 million has been approved in Individual Assistance grants from FEMA for 1,048 South Dakota households in five South Dakota counties. The funds are for renting emergency housing for residents displaced by the floods, for basic housing repairs to make owner-occupied homes livable again, and other serious disaster-related needs.
- The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved almost \$5.4 million in low-interest disaster loans to help residents and businesses recover from disaster losses.
- Homeowners, renters and businesses in Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley, Union and Yankton counties may be eligible for the assistance. They can register for it by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 800-462-7585, or by going online at www.disasterassistance.gov, or through a Web-enabled mobile device or Smartphone by going to m.fema.gov.
- A toll-free legal services hotline is also available for South Dakota residents affected by flooding. The hotline allows callers to request pro bono assistance from a lawyer on issues they may be facing because of the flood, such as replacing legal documents, filing insurance claims, or counseling on foreclosure or tenant issues.

Affected residents may call 1-888-870-3176 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CDT Monday through Friday. Messages can be left at any time. Callers should identify that they are seeking flood-related legal assistance. Resources are also available online at the State Bar of South Dakota's Web site, www.sdbar.org.

- FEMA continues to work with state and local officials to reimburse government agencies and some nonprofits for flood-fighting costs and the cost of repairs to public infrastructure damaged by the floods.