



FEMA

Sept. 6, 2007

FEMA-1719-DR-WI-NR07

Contact:

WEM Public Information 608-242-3292

FEMA News Desk 608-787-1129

SBA Michael Lampton 404-347-3771

Disaster News

MORE FLOOD AID APPROVED FOR WISCONSIN RECOVERY

LA CROSSE, Wis. – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that nine additional counties are now eligible for disaster assistance for individuals and five counties are eligible for assistance to help communities rebuild infrastructure.

Columbia, Dane, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Racine, and Rock counties have been added to the August 26, 2007, major disaster declaration to help homeowners, renters and business owners recover from the effects of severe storms and flooding that occurred Aug. 18 to Aug. 31. Crawford, La Crosse, Richland, Sauk and Vernon counties were included in the original declaration.

In addition, local governments in Crawford, La Crosse, Richland, Sauk and Vernon counties are eligible to apply for federal funds to pay 75 percent of the approved cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster, and repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings and utilities. The state of Wisconsin provides 12.5 percent of eligible costs. A series of applicant briefings will be held for local officials to explain the application process.

"Ensuring that vital community services are restored as quickly as possible is part of FEMA's continuing commitment to help Wisconsin achieve a full and lasting recovery," said Michael Bolch, FEMA's federal coordinating officer. "We are already working with Wisconsin Emergency Management in other flood-affected counties and the inclusion of these new areas will be a smooth process."

Residents who suffered damages in any of the 14 counties designated for individual assistance should register with FEMA online at www.fema.gov or call **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing or speech-impaired. The toll-free numbers are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

"These nine counties were added to the list of the original five counties designated for assistance in Wisconsin after a review of damage data gathered by state and federal disaster recovery officials," said Diane Kleiboer, state coordinating officer. "Our communities and residents will now have additional resources to aid in recovery."

Disaster assistance for individuals may include:

- Grants to help pay for temporary housing and home repairs to make a home habitable
- Grants for serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance
- Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for homeowners, renters and business owners to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

For more information on Wisconsin disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov, www.floodsmart.gov, www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance or <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>.

###