



# Grant County Emergency Management

Steve Braun, Director  
steve@grantcountiem.com

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Dear Grant County Resident:

We are sending this letter to all residents who reported damage resulting from the June 5-12 flooding events in our county. As you may have already heard, on Friday, Grant County was officially included in a federal disaster declaration for Individual and Business Assistance. Homeowners, renters, and businesses in Grant County that sustained flood and/or tornado damage from the recent storms can now contact FEMA to register for federal disaster assistance. You can register by calling **1-800-621-FEMA**, or online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Before calling, you will want to have some basic information ready for the operator. This includes your current phone number, your social security number, a general list of the damages you suffered, good directions to the property that was damaged, and if applicable, your insurance policy number, or the agency and company name.

The Individual Assistance program includes a wide range of aid, including emergency home repair, temporary disaster housing, replacement grants for serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or assistance programs. FEMA disaster assistance covers basic needs only and will not normally compensate you for your entire loss. If you have insurance, the government may help pay for basic needs not covered under your insurance policy. Some of the available aid is in the form of grants that do not have to be paid back, and some of the aid is in the form of low-interest loans.

Aid that is available includes:

- **Individuals and Households Program:** Through this program, FEMA can provide grant funding for necessary repairs to make a home safe, sanitary, and functional. The program can also provide temporary housing (rental assistance) for families that were displaced by the disaster. In the event a home is not economically repairable, FEMA can provide some funding towards the purchase of a replacement home. Funding through the Individuals and Households program is offered as grant funding and does not have to be paid back. This assistance is generally for home repair and cleanup, rather than lost personal property. **The maximum benefit to any household through this program is currently \$28,800.**
- **Disaster Recovery Loans:** Homeowners and businesses affected by the flooding can apply to the U.S. Small Business Administration for a federally subsidized loan. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) can make federally subsidized loans to repair or replace homes, personal property, or businesses that sustained damages not covered by insurance. The SBA can provide loans to homeowners and renters to repair or replace disaster-related damages to homes or personal property; business loans to repair or replace disaster-damaged property including inventory and supplies; and economic injury disaster loans, which provide capital to small businesses and to small agricultural cooperative to assist them through the disaster recovery period. For many individuals, the SBA disaster loan program is the primary form of disaster assistance.
- **Other Needs Assistance:** FEMA is able to provide additional grant funding for necessary expenses and serious needs caused by the disaster, in the event these needs are not met through other disaster assistance programs, and the SBA determines that the household is not economically able to repay an SBA disaster loan. This could include disaster-related medical and dental costs, clothing and household items, furnishings, tools, necessary educational materials, damaged vehicles, and other necessary expenses or serious needs.



During the registration process, FEMA representatives will explain the details of each of these programs and answer questions for affected residents.

Plans are underway to open a **DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER** in Grant County next week. The Disaster Recovery Center is a location where residents and business owners who have already registered for disaster aid can go to meet face-to-face with federal and state officials. Affected residents can go to the recovery center to ask questions and receive information on the various disaster assistance programs that are available. The location and hours of the disaster recovery center will be announced early next week when details are finalized. Please stay tuned to local radio stations and media outlets for more information. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to call and register for disaster assistance prior to coming to the disaster recovery center.

A few other tips:

- Once you register for federal assistance, you will receive a packet in the mail. The packet includes an application for a disaster loan from the Small Business Administration. **Even if you are not interested in a loan, it is still important for you to fill out the loan application and return it to the SBA.** By completing the loan application, you are not under any obligation to take loan money. However, if you fail to complete the loan application, you may miss out on opportunities for additional grant funding for home repairs and personal property losses.
- Make sure to document everything. This means that you should take pictures of all damages before repairs are made. You should also be sure to save all receipts for items or services, such as replacement of water heaters or other housing components or structural repairs to the home. It is often helpful if you have these pictures, receipts, and quotations for work available when FEMA damage inspectors come to visit your home.

As we learn more about any assistance that may be available, we will continue to provide information to you. Always feel free to call our office if you have any questions. Our number is 723-7171. Due to the ongoing recovery efforts, we spend quite a bit of time out of the office, working directly with the affected cities, villages, businesses, and homeowners. Because of this, we may not always be in the office to answer the phone. Please leave a message for us, and we will return your call promptly. If you need urgent help with an emergency situation, we can be reached 24 hours a day through the Grant County Sheriff's Department Communications Center, at (608) 723-2157.

Sincerely,



Steve Braun, Director  
Grant County Emergency Management



Julie G. Loeffelholz, EM Planner/Deputy Director  
Grant County Emergency Management