

Missouri River Flood Response



Information and resources for residents of affected areas

Business Assistance

Douglas County, Sarpy County

The Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce is working with businesses in the area that have been affected by the floods. If your business is searching for a temporary location or storage space, please contact Larry Gomez (402) 978-7925 or Mike Bruening (402) 978-7935.

Pottawattamie County

The Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce is working with businesses in the affected areas. If your business is searching for a temporary location, please see the website. Please do not call the office.
http://www.councilbluffsia.com/economic_development/sites_buildings.asp

Cass County (IA), Fremont County, Harrison County, Mills County, Page County, Pottawattamie County

The Iowa Western Community College Small Business Development Center is part of a state wide system providing free services for small businesses and startups in Iowa. As with all of their consulting services, there is no charge for the confidential assistance provided to prepare for disasters as well as assistance in the aftermath of a disaster. Call (712) 325-3350 or (712) 256-6552.

Nebraska

The University of Nebraska at Omaha is offering resources and consulting to small businesses affected by flooding through its Nebraska Business Development Center. Small businesses in danger of flood damage can go to <http://nbdc.unomaha.edu/about/floods.cfm>, for more information.

Iowa

Small, non-farm businesses in 14 Iowa counties are eligible to apply for low interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Eligible primary counties are Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury; eligible neighboring counties are Cass, Cherokee, Crawford, Ida, Montgomery, Page, Plymouth and Shelby.

SBA eligibility covers both the flood-related economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers businesses directly impacted by the disaster. Non-farm businesses, agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private, non-profit organizations may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs). Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. These enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

The deadline to apply for these loans is March 8, 2012. Applicants may apply online via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at 800-659-2955, e-mailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

Consumer Protection

Homeowners and businesses that have experienced flooding are asked to remain vigilant when it comes to hiring services or purchasing goods. For tips on avoiding home repair scams, please visit the Nebraska Better Business Bureau's website at www.nebraska.bbb.org or the Attorney General's website at www.ago.ne.gov. If you feel you have been a victim of a clean-up or home improvement scam, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (800) 727-6432.

Donations

Donations of items such as clothing, furniture, etc, are NOT needed at this time. Unsolicited donations cause additional staffing and storage problems that local officials do not have the resources to manage.

Mills County

The Mills County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Omaha Community Foundation, has established the Mills County Flood Fund. All that's needed is cash or a check of any amount made out to the Mills County Flood Fund, your name and address. Drop off your donation at one of the bank locations below:

- First National Bank - Glenwood
- Great Western Bank - Glenwood
- Glenwood State Bank – Glenwood and Pacific Junction State Bank – Emerson
- Malvern Trust & Savings Bank - Malvern

Or mail to: Mills County Flood Fund, 302 South 36th Street, Suite 100, Omaha, NE 68131.

If you wish to make an online donation, go to <http://omahafoundation.org/givenow> and select "Mills County Flood Fund" from the dropdown list

Pottawattamie County

Pottawattamie County Community Foundation is accepting monetary donations to their Disaster Relief Fund. Visit www.ourpccf.org or call (712) 256-7007 for information.

Financial Assistance

Federal Individual Assistance in Iowa is still available until January 3, 2012. Call 1-800-621-3362 or visit www.disasterassistance.gov.

Southwest Iowa Recovery Network

The Southwest Iowa Recovery Network (SWIRN) is taking applications from families affected by flooding this summer. Eligible families affected by the flood may receive as much as \$1,000 to assist with their recovery, although actual amounts will vary according to need. In addition, applicants may receive valuable information and referral to other agencies and programs that may be able to assist in their family recovery plan.

Requests for financial assistance should fall into one of the following categories:

1. Housing repairs due to flood damage
2. Temporary housing for relocation after the flood
3. Childcare during the immediate time after the flood due to relocation
4. Personal items lost due to flooding, including transportation replacement or repairs due to flooding
5. Mental Health Services
6. Items needed to fight household flooding
7. Specified other category

Call SWIRN at 712-435-5661 to schedule a phone or face-to-face meeting. Leave your name, phone number where you can be reached and a short message. Your call will be returned and an appointment with a casework representative scheduled. Application, photo id and proof of disaster address (example: utility bill)

and FEMA number will be required. FEMA registration is required prior to granting financial assistance, 1-800-621-3362 or www.disasterassistance.gov.

We expect to dispense available funds promptly and to deplete our limited resources quickly, certainly before the end of the calendar year. This program is funded by the Iowa West Foundation and administered by the American Red Cross (fiduciary) on behalf of SWIRN, and supported by local long term recovery committees in the affected counties.

Legal Assistance

Nebraska

Nebraska flood survivors in the nine declared individual assistance counties adjacent to the Missouri River may request disaster-related advice from a lawyer using a toll-free legal aid line operated by Volunteer Lawyers of Nebraska through the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association.

The number is 1-800-742-3005, which is staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Callers may leave a message after hours and on weekends.

The service is for legal issues arising from flooding during the period May 24 through August 1, in the counties of Boyd, Burt, Cass, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Knox, Sarpy and Washington.

Legal services available to qualifying individuals include:

- Assistance with insurance claims (life, medical, property, etc.)
- Counseling on landlord/tenant problems
- Assistance with home repair contracts
- Assisting in consumer protection issues
- Counseling on mortgage-foreclosure problems
- Replacement of wills and other legal documents destroyed in the major disaster
- Drafting of power of attorney
- Preparation of guardianship documents
- Referring individuals to local and state agencies that may provide further assistance.

There are some limitations on disaster legal services. Those will be explained on an individual basis when required.

Mental Health Counseling

Nebraska

The Rural Response Hotline, (800) 464-0258, is available to farmers, ranchers, and ag-related businesses experiencing stress from recent floods. No-cost vouchers and information on confidential mental health issues for persons affected by the crisis are available.

Resources can also be found on the DHHS Network of Care site at <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/NetworkofCare>.

Iowa

Iowa Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT) is a trained team of volunteers who will respond to the mental health needs of Iowa residents following disasters and critical incidents. The team provides services for community providers based on local area needs and may be delivered at a disaster site in an affected community or statewide. For more information go to <http://www.iowadbhrt.org/>.

All flood-affected individuals are still encouraged to contact the Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985. Callers can request assistance from this program and request an individual home visit with a counselor. Hotline operators are available 24/7.

Mold Information

Iowa

The Iowa Department of Public Health flood website has several resources to help guide you in preventing mold growth after a flood or how to clean up mold if it is already present by the time you can reenter your home or business. <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx> or http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/healthy_homes_mold.asp

Nebraska

Questions can be directed to a local health department (<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/puh/oph/lhd.htm>), county extension agent (<http://www.extension.unl.edu/officeslist>), or the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Indoor Air Quality Program, at (402) 471-8320. A good website with information about mold is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's at <http://epa.gov/mold/>.

Mortgage Assistance

Iowa

Disaster-impacted homeowners that feel they may begin to struggle with their mortgage payment are encouraged to call Iowa Mortgage Help at 877-622-4866 or (515) 331-8081 or visit www.IowaMortgageHelp.com. Iowa Mortgage Help offers free, confidential mortgage counseling for Iowa homeowners. Iowa Mortgage Help does not offer direct financial assistance.

National Flood Insurance

Flood insurance is a financial decision you and your family need to discuss with an insurance agent. Details about this program can be found at www.fema.gov/business/nfip/. Please be aware that in most cases there is a 30 day waiting period before a new policy becomes effective.

Public Health Information

Information on Tetanus, mosquitoes, West Nile, wells, sewer/septic issues, drinking water, flood clean up, etc. may be found at local public health departments:

Cass County - Sarpy/Cass County Department of Health and Wellness – (402) 339-4334

Douglas County - Douglas County Health Department – (402) 444-7476

Fremont County - Southwest Iowa Home Health Services – (712) 374-2685

Harrison County - Harrison County Home & Public Health – (712) 644-2220

Mills County - Mills County Public Health – (712) 527-9699

Pottawattamie County - Council Bluffs Public Health Department – (712) 328-4666 (inside city limits) or Visiting Nurse Association of Pottawattamie County – (712) 328-3990 (outside Council Bluffs)

Sarpy County - Sarpy/Cass County Department of Health and Wellness – (402) 339-4334

Washington County - Three Rivers Public Health Department – (402) 727-5396

Call 2-1-1 for contact information in other areas.

Sandbag Disposal

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has posted information on their website concerning disposal of sand and sandbags. The DNR provides guidance for cities, counties, residences and businesses. Visit <http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/SocialMediaPressRoom/DisasterAssistance.aspx> scroll down the page and choose the "Sand and Sandbag Disposal" link. The DNR has a variety of useful information at this site.

Well Water Testing

The University of Nebraska Medical Center is offering free domestic well water tests to home owners and renters in six Nebraska counties. Graduate students from the College of Public Health will test the water in the Dakota, Douglas, Washington, Thurston, Burt and Sarpy counties that may have been contaminated by Missouri River flooding.

The tests will evaluate potential bacterial and chemical contamination. They're taking place in conjunction with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District.

Landowners should schedule an appointment by Nov. 18. The contacts for appointments are Sonya Carlson with the Papio-Missouri River NRD at 402-444-6222, and Erica Colbert with the College of Public Health at 402-552-7261.