



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Federal government approves flood relief for Cook County; impacted residents eligible to apply for grants and low-interest loans

Federal funding is available for residents of Cook County who sustained damage due to flooding that occurred between April 6 and May 5, 2013.

On May 10, President Barack Obama approved Governor Pat Quinn's request for federal assistance to help people and businesses recover from the historic flooding. Other area counties on the disaster list include DeKalb, DuPage, Fulton, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, McHenry and Will counties. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, administers the disaster assistance program.

More than 3,500 homes in these 11 counties were surveyed. At least 41 homes were destroyed and 761 suffered major damage. Thousands of additional homes were also affected by the floods.

"I thank President Obama for his fast and responsive approval of our request for federal assistance to help families across Illinois recover from this devastating flood," Governor Quinn said. "This quick action will help speed relief to the people of Illinois who suffered flood damages and help them begin rebuilding their lives."

The federal disaster declaration makes assistance available to flood victims, including grants to individuals and households to help with temporary housing, home repairs or replacement and other disaster-related expenses, as well as low-interest Small Business Administration loans to residents and businesses.

"Flooding can be an extremely traumatic experience," said MWRD President Kathleen Therese Meany. "The MWRD does as much as we can to effectively manage stormwater, but this storm produced five inches of rain over 880 square miles which is equal to 75 billions gallons of water or about four feet of snow. For anyone who has sustained losses or damage from the severe storms, we encourage them to apply for assistance from FEMA."

To apply for assistance from FEMA, call their toll-free number at 800-621-FEMA (3362) or 800-462-7585 (TTY for hearing and speech impaired). Registration can also be done online at www.disasterassistance.gov. You can also apply on your smartphone at m.fema.org.

You can apply for FEMA and IEMA disaster aid by phone or online.

- Call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
- The TTY # is 1-800-462-7585
- www.DisasterAssistance.gov
- m.fema.gov

Have the following information available when you apply for aid:

- Social Security Number
- Insurance information
- Address of damaged property
- Daytime phone number
- Directions to damaged property
- Address where you can receive mail