



Severe Winter Weather Event Recovery FAQ

March 4, 2021

What FEMA assistance is available to Texas?

Individual Assistance (IA)

FEMA's direct assistance to individuals and households. There are currently 126 counties eligible for IA. These counties can be viewed on the FEMA map found at this link:

[Texas Severe Winter Storms \(DR-4586-TX\) declarations page](#)

Public Assistance (PA)

FEMA grant program for eligible state, local, tribal governments and certain non-profit organizations. This assistance is limited to FEMA's Category B Emergency Protective Measures. Eligible applicants in all 254 Texas counties are eligible for this grant program.

How does a Texan apply for FEMA IA?

Individuals in one of the 126 declared counties for IA can register online at:

www.DisasterAssistance.gov

Or call:

[1-800-621-3362](tel:1-800-621-3362) or [1-800-462-7585](tel:1-800-462-7585)

How can my county be included for IA?

Counties can be added as they provide enough data through the [Self Reporting Damage Survey](#). This survey is for individuals to submit information about damages to their households. Decisions on adding counties are made by FEMA after being provided enough data to show the local jurisdiction (and the state) are unable to recover without federal assistance.

How do governments and non-profit organizations become eligible for additional categories of PA?

Federal regulation requires that both the state and each county surpass their FEMA threshold in order to be eligible for additional categories of PA. Jurisdictions must show they have uninsured damages that exceed this threshold. Remember that all counties currently have access to Emergency Protective Measures under the PA program, so damages should include information on damages outside of this category. A jurisdiction must do the following:

1. Submit a [Disaster Summary Outline](#) (paper versions are available through your TDEM District Coordinator) where they can report the damages sustained for emergency and permanent work.
2. Continue to update DSOs as new damages are identified.
3. Work with state emergency management officials to schedule joint preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) to validate and certify damages. Due to COVID-19, PDAs are being managed virtually.

Jurisdictions should ensure they are identifying and reporting all damages, including those for schools and eligible electric cooperatives.

How can an eligible government or non-profit organization start the PA process?

1. Submit an official [Request for Public Assistance \(RPA\)](#)
2. Attend an applicant briefing (There will be multiple opportunities. The first will be held Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 0900. Meeting invitations will be sent out through TDEM regional staff and the State Operations Center).

How does an eligible government or non-profit organization track costs?

Applicants are required to track costs in accordance with [FEMA's Public Assistance Category B \(emergency protective measures\) policies](#).

Please find additional cost tracking guidance on the [TDEM Website](#).

Other Information

Additional recovery programs have also been made available to aid Texans in recovering from this disaster.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Through the U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, and businesses in Individual Assistance designated counties. Visit [Disasterloanassistance.sba.gov](https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov) or contact 800-659-2955 for more information.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) received federal approval to SNAP recipients to use their food benefits to [purchase hot foods and ready-to-eat meals](#) and for the [replacement benefits for food lost or destroyed](#) due to impacts from the severe winter storm. Contact 2-1-1 for more information.

Disaster Unemployment

The Texas Workforce Commission is accepting applications for Disaster Unemployment Assistance through March 26, 2021, for Texans in Individual Assistance designated counties who lost their jobs, along with self-employed individuals who have been unable to work. Visit twc.texas.gov or contact 800-558-8321 for more information.

Disaster Legal Services

The State Bar of Texas, American Bar Association, and legal aid providers across the state have produced a toll-free legal assistance hotline available to low-income individuals affected by the storm. Contact 800-504-7030 for more information.

USDA Programs

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) continues to work with local, state, federal, and non-governmental partners to address the severe winter weather effects on Texas livestock and poultry and is working with the [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) to deliver programs](#) that provide assistance to rural communities, farmers and ranchers, families and small businesses affected by the recent winter storms.

If you have any questions, please contact your [TDEM District Coordinator](#).

Full Website Links

FEMA Disaster Map for Texas Severe Winter Storms (DR-4586)

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4586>

Self-Reporting Damage Survey

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/eb1ab4928205490182896d86783447d3>

Disaster Summary Outline

<https://dso.soc.texas.gov>

Request for Public Assistance

<https://grantee.fema.gov>

FEMA's Public Assistance Policy Guide

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/fema_public-assistance-program-and-policy-guide_v4_6-1-2020.pdf

TDEM Cost Tracking Information

<https://tdem.texas.gov/local-officials-resources/>

Governor Abbott's SNAP Press Release

<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-hhsc-announce-federal-approval-allowing-snap-clients-to-purchase-hot-foods>

TDEM District Coordinators

<https://tdem.texas.gov/field-response/>