

Manitoba's new Disaster Financial Assistance Program (old vs new) for Local Authorities

OLD Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) Program	NEW Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) Program
<p><b>Cost-Share</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calculated based on municipal populations.</li> <li>• Cost-sharing indexed to inflation.</li> <li>• Municipalities can receive their deductible back if they invest the amount into a local disaster risk reduction project through the Mitigation and Preparedness Program (MPP). This option is available when disasters are cost-shareable with Canada.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cost-Share</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost-sharing will continue to be calculated based on municipal populations.</li> <li>• Cost-sharing will continue to be indexed to inflation.</li> <li>• Municipalities can still receive their deductible back if they invest the amount into a local disaster risk reduction project through the MPP. This option is available when disasters are cost-shareable with Canada.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pre-Impact Preparations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must advise Manitoba EMO.</li> <li>• Eligible only based on a warning or forecast from a credible authority.</li> <li>• May be considered eligible even if a disaster event does not occur.</li> <li>• Regular seasonal preparedness is ineligible.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Impact Preparations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local authorities must undertake the actions they deem necessary in order to prepare for an impending disaster.</li> <li>• Eligible only based on a warning or forecast from the Government of Manitoba or Canada.</li> <li>• Is only eligible if a Disaster Assistance program is established</li> <li>• Regular seasonal preparedness is ineligible.</li> </ul>

*\*Note: In general, eligibility of expenses is limited to uninsurable losses, basic and essential needs, and the lesser of the cost to restore function, replace or the assessed value (for land/structures).*

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<p><b>Disaster Response Costs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible for 6 months.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Disaster Response Costs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible for 12 months.</li> <li>• Expanded eligibility for volunteer coordination and deployment; evacuation assistance.</li> <li>• Support for people (mental health, psychosocial support).</li> <li>• Supports for basic needs, including clothing and basic necessities.</li> <li>• Expenses incurred for protecting livestock or pets.</li> <li>• Expenses incurred for clearing and re-establishing safe access to enable the movement of first responders, response equipment and essential goods and services.</li> <li>• Timeline extended for temporary housing solutions.</li> <li>• Expanded eligibility for case management.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recovery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on the built environment.</li> <li>• Restoration to pre-disaster condition (except where allowed by updated codes/standards).</li> <li>• Relocations permitted under specific circumstances only.</li> <li>• One-year timeframe for recovery (with possible extensions).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Restoring Resilient Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding provided in the recovery phase to restore to a more resilient level (15%).</li> <li>• Expanded eligibility to include protective natural assets/green infrastructure (not just built infrastructure) as part of mitigation.</li> <li>• Relocation and replacement with other types of assets are eligible.</li> <li>• Expanded eligibility to include recovery planning, recovery data tracking and post-disaster lessons learned reports.</li> <li>• Relocation of infrastructure is permitted if it is a cost-effective solution to reduce the high-risk over the life cycle of the asset.</li> <li>• The recovery phase is extended to two-years (with possible extensions).</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Support for Local Authorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced payments at the request of local authorities.</li> <li>• Salaries and wages of permanent employees are ineligible.</li> <li>• Local authorities encouraged to administer their DFA claim internally; contracting out claims administration was permitted.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support for Local Authorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local authorities to be contacted about an advance payment once inspections are complete.</li> <li>• Clear explanations about assistance amounts and any amounts deferred with each payment, including dedicated support at EMO for your payment questions.</li> <li>• Tools, training and templates to assist local authorities in managing their claim (will be coming after engagement with program users).</li> <li>• Salaries and wages of permanent employees continue to be ineligible (only overtime costs are eligible).</li> <li>• Local authorities are encouraged to administer their DFA claim internally. However, it is recognized that local authority capacity may be limited and claims administration may be contracted out.</li> <li>• Recovery project management is an eligible expense.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Watershed Districts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are eligible claimants, treated as Local Authority except that deductible is 20% of claim amount.</li> <li>• Could not access the Mitigation and Preparedness Program (MPP).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Watershed Districts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are eligible claimants (considered a local authority).</li> <li>• Cost-sharing requirements are waived.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Inspections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspections of municipal infrastructure are completed by Manitoba EMO's third-party engineering services provider.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inspections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspections required to quickly re-open infrastructure, complete temporary repairs for access, or put into place a temporary solution are eligible expenses.</li> <li>• Inspections of municipal infrastructure to determine full scope of damage and permanent repairs will continue to be completed by Manitoba EMO's third-party engineering services provider.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Insurance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An expense is not eligible if adequate insurance was available.</li> <li>• In limited cases, municipal deductibles were considered for DFA.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Insurance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An expense is not eligible if adequate insurance is available.</li> <li>• DFA will not be provided where a local authority has decided to self-insure an asset instead of purchasing insurance.</li> <li>• Deductibles are not eligible for DFA.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Community Recovery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relief and recovery support beyond financial assistance was largely absent from DFA.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Recovery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance may be paid to a local authority for expenses incurred for community level relief and recovery supports, if it makes sense to deliver this at the local level. These types of supports may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mental health and psychosocial supports</li> <li>○ Financial counselling</li> <li>○ Reducing barriers for access to disaster assistance (community meetings, community recovery navigators, etc.)</li> <li>○ Transition planning prior to disaster assistance ending</li> <li>○ Temporary housing for longer-term displacement</li> <li>○ Community recovery and resilience planning.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>*Manitoba EMO is developing policies and guidance that will assist local authorities with setting up or accessing these types of supports after a disaster. This work will proceed over the summer of 2025.</p>
<p><b>Appeals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeals to the Disaster Assistance Appeal Board must be filed within 30 days.</li> <li>• The entire claim must be closed to proceed to appeal.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Appeals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeals to the Disaster Assistance Appeal Board must be filed within 60 days.</li> <li>• Portions of the claim can be closed in order to proceed to appeal on a specific site or portion of the claim.</li> </ul>

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