

The DFA Program

When disaster strikes and creates an unreasonable financial burden, disaster financial assistance (DFA) may be made available for eligible costs.

Assistance is generally provided to help local governments, individuals, full-time farmers, small businesses and some non-profit organizations.

The Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) administers these programs offered under the DFA Policy.

This page is intended to provide you with the basic information necessary to make a DFA claim.

Qualifying for Assistance

Eligible Costs

Assistance is generally available for:

- **Pre-emptive costs**
 - Costs incurred for the construction of temporary dikes (berms or sandbags)
 - Costs of operation and/or removal of water pumps
- **Evacuation costs**
 - Where evacuation is necessary, reasonable expenses are eligible.
- **Restoration to a pre-disaster condition**
 - **Loss or repair of essential items**
 - Loss of uninsurable harvested or stored crops
 - Livestock fencing
 - Farm machinery and trapping equipment
 - **Structural damage**
 - Principal residences
 - Farmland restoration (erosion) but not loss of market value of land
 - Farm buildings or buildings essential to the operation of a farm
 - Buildings essential to the operation of a small business
 - **Clean-up and debris removal**
 - Includes allowances for applicants undertaking their own clean-up

Ineligible Costs

Assistance is *not* available for:

- **Insurable losses**

Items that are, or could have been insured at a reasonable and available rate are not eligible.
- **Costs recoverable through an existing government program**
- **Losses recoverable at law**
- **Non-essential items**
 - Luxury items
 - Recreational property and private roads
 - Lawn and garden damage
 - Fences (non-farm)
- **Loss of income and opportunity or inconveniences**
- **Normal operating costs**
- **Upgrading of existing facilities**
- **Damages that are a normal risk of trade, occupation, or enterprise**

The Process

Before, during and after the disaster, keep track of your expenses and costs caused by the disaster. It may also be useful to document activities or damages with a camera or video recorder.

Before you are eligible to apply for assistance, it is necessary for your municipality to pass and forward a resolution (within 30 days following the disaster) to EMO requesting DFA.

Once a program is in place, you have 90 days to apply for assistance.

Applying for assistance

- Obtain a DFA application form from your local municipal office.
- Complete your application form.
- Return the application to the municipal office, where it will be collected and forwarded to EMO.

Inspection of damages

If your application indicates you have eligible costs, a EMO Recovery Advisor will contact you to examine and report on damages.

When you claim for private assistance, it is important to keep receipts, time sheets and invoices for all repair work or replacement of eligible costs.

Following inspection, your claim will be evaluated and an amount determined based on eligible costs.

Appeals

If you have not received all the assistance to which you feel entitled, an appeal process is available. For information on this process, please contact the Recording Secretary to the Disaster Assistance Appeal Board at 945-3050.

Limitations

The maximum assistance on private claims is 80 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$100,000.

Claims are based on net costs. Recovered costs must be reported to EMO and will be deducted from the overall claim.

No claim should exceed the estimated cost of repair or replacement.

Additional Information

For more information, please contact us at:

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- Toll Free: 1-888-267-8298
- Fax: (204) 945-4929
- Email: emo@gov.mb.ca
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