

**DECLARATION PROCESS:**

The State of New York requested an Expedited Major Declaration. This request was done because it was the quickest way to immediately try and get federal assistance for disaster survivors and local affected governments.

By FEMA granting this request, only a few counties (of the original 26 that Gov. Cuomo requested) were declared a disaster area. However, the State Office of Emergency Management is working to add additional counties to the declaration. This is done by doing Preliminary Damage Assessments. These assessments are done by local, state and federal officials actually touring the disaster areas (county-by-county) to calculate damage estimates.

Depending upon the actual damage estimates from each county, the state will be able to ask FEMA to add a county (or counties) onto the disaster declaration. State OEM is working quickly with county governments to schedule these assessments and get accurate estimates in to FEMA. All damages should be reported to the county emergency management office to ensure all damage areas are seen.

Types of assistance that are available through a declaration:

**INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE:**

Counties declared for Individual Assistance, or IA, are the counties where grants will be made available to disaster survivors. It includes grants to homeowners to help repair or rebuild their damaged structure. IA grants are limited to about \$30,000 per family and IA assistance is only available to help cover UNINSURED damage costs. So if a homeowner has insurance (homeowners/flood), they may not be eligible for IA. IA grants are also available to help cover such costs as funerals for disaster victims, medical costs, etc. These grants are not intended to make disaster survivors whole, but to help them on the road to recovery.

Families in these counties are also able to receive low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration to help with repair costs.

Families may register for FEMA assistance by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362), or TTY 800-462-7585. Families can also apply online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov), or on their smartphone at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov). Disaster Recovery Centers will also be opened in affected counties to assist disaster survivors if they have questions about the registration process. The opening of these centers will be announced in the media.

**PUBLIC ASSISTANCE:**

Counties declared for Public Assistance are eligible to receive grants to help cover such costs as debris

removal, emergency protective measures, the repair of publicly-owned facilities such as schools, fire departments, city halls, etc.

To begin this process, the State Office of Emergency Management will conduct Applicant Briefings in all the declared counties. This process will walk local government officials through how they apply for FEMA reimbursement and what costs they may be eligible to receive.

These local governments may have their eligible costs reimbursed at 75 percent. Grants are only available to cover uninsured losses by governments. Traditionally, New York State and local governments have split the 25 percent non-federal cost share.

**WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON THESE PROGRAMS:**

[www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

<http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=15533>

State OEM Public Assistance: 518-292-2293

You can view the actual federal declaration at the above address. As counties are added to the declaration, it will be posted on FEMA's website.