



**County
Administrator**

Bonnie Johnson

February 5, 2010

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

On Thursday, February 4, Cass County Government received notification from the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services of a FEMA funding allocation change. A copy of the FEMA advisory is attached.

The result of this advisory may delay Cass County's efforts to purchase approximately \$11 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) flood home buyouts. However, Cass County officials remain optimistic the grant will be approved.

While the State of North Dakota and Cass County remain eligible for the funds, the timeline is now uncertain until additional Federal appropriations become available to FEMA.

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FEMA

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CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORY FEMA ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION OF IMMEDIATE NEEDS FUNDING

February 4, 2010

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), has implemented proactive, immediate needs funding guidance in order to extend the remaining balance of the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF).

Immediate needs funding is intended to meet the urgent needs of the agency and will prioritize funding until further notice pending a supplemental appropriation. The President has requested \$3.6 Billion in supplemental funds to cover disaster-related expenses. FEMA is working with OMB and Congress to ensure that supplemental funding is appropriated, as expeditiously as possible, to cover all remaining, anticipated FY 2010 expenditures. Previously, during several fiscal periods (2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006) the Agency found it necessary to issue DRF allocation funding guidance, which, as a precautionary measure, imposed certain DRF funding restrictions due to concerns over the DRF balance while awaiting passage of appropriations legislation.

Immediate needs funding does allow for the allocation of funds for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance Categories A and B (debris removal and emergency protective measures), technical assistance contract support for Public Assistance Categories A and B activities, technical assistance contract support for Individual Assistance manufactured housing support, state management costs, mission assignments, and essential joint field office (JFO) operations.

The limitation applies to specific disaster funding (e.g. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Public Assistance Categories C-G), as well as DRF surge and disaster support activities. Funding is not being eliminated for projects in these categories, but merely delayed until additional appropriation is available.

It is critical that we adhere to these guidelines to ensure that we are able to continue our ongoing and future response and recovery efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA's Legislative Affairs Division at (202) 646-4500 or FAX (202) 646-3600.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.