

## 1.0 An Introduction to Disaster Financial Assistance (for local authorities)

- When a natural disaster occurs that exceeds the ability of a local authority to respond or recover, Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) may be requested from the Manitoba government.
- Requests for DFA from local authorities must include:
  - A resolution from the municipality requesting DFA.
  - A completed [Community Impact Assessment](#) (available from Manitoba EMO).
- When a DFA request is received, Manitoba evaluates the request to determine if the event and its related impacts are eligible for the DFA program. A DFA program is established on an event specific basis and only when approved by the Manitoba government. Approved DFA programs have defined event beginning and end dates and include specific geographical areas.
- If a DFA program is established, the local authority will receive **written** confirmation that they have been accepted into the program.
- DFA will provide financial assistance only for **uninsurable eligible expenses**. In general, eligible expenses are those required to respond to the disaster, expenses to restore essential services and expenses to repair damaged infrastructure to the immediate pre-disaster condition. Expenses must be over and above what the local authority typically spends as part of its regular operating and maintenance budget.
- Should the local authority receive questions from residents, farms, businesses or non-profit organizations, information can be found on Manitoba EMO's website for [DFA](#).
- DFA is a cost-shared program, meaning that both local authorities and the Manitoba government share in the costs of the disaster. The local authority's share depends on its population and the DFA claim and can be determined using the [online calculator](#). Eligible local authorities are now able to invest an amount equal to their DFA deductible into a disaster mitigation and preparedness project with the [Mitigation and Preparedness Program \(MPP\)](#). Manitoba would then reimburse municipalities for 100% of their eligible DFA claim. Projects must be approved by the Manitoba government.
- Items that can be insured are not eligible for DFA. DFA will only assist with costs that cannot be recovered through insurance, legal actions and financial assistance received from other sources. Uninsured deductibles may be considered for DFA eligibility — a copy of the insurance proof of loss and supporting paid invoices must be included with the submission.