

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>Cost-Share</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculated based on municipal populations. • Cost-sharing indexed to inflation. • 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. 	<p>Cost-Share</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost-sharing will continue to be calculated based on municipal populations. • Cost-sharing will continue to be indexed to inflation. • 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.
<p>Pre-Impact Preparations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must advise Manitoba EMO. • Eligible only based on a warning or forecast from a credible authority. • May be considered eligible even if a disaster event does not occur. • Regular seasonal preparedness is ineligible. 	<p>Pre-Impact Preparations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities must undertake the actions they deem necessary in order to prepare for an impending disaster. • Eligible only based on a warning or forecast from the Government of Manitoba or Canada. • Is only eligible if a Disaster Assistance program is established • Regular seasonal preparedness is ineligible.

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

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	<p>Restoring Resilient Infrastructure cont.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of infrastructure is permitted if it is a cost-effective solution to reduce the high-risk over the life cycle of the asset. • The recovery phase is extended to two-years (with possible extensions).
<p>High-Risk Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure recovery in high-risk areas – defined as having a 1 in 100 year flood risk – required appropriate mitigation in the re-building phase. 	<p>High-Risk Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure recovery in high-risk areas now defined as areas having a 1 in 200 year flood risk. • Sites that experience “major damage” must be appropriately mitigated to a 1 in 200 FPL to qualify for future DFA. • Manitoba EMO is developing funding options for additional strategic mitigation to assist local authorities with this requirement. • New development and assets (after April 1, 2025) will not be eligible for DFA unless mitigated to a 1-in-200 FPL. • Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation will be working with municipalities this spring/summer to understand local flood risks.

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

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

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<p>Community Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relief and recovery support beyond financial assistance was largely absent from DFA. 	<p>Community Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Mental health and psychosocial supports Financial counselling Reducing barriers for access to disaster assistance (community meetings, community recovery navigators, etc.) Transition planning prior to disaster assistance ending Temporary housing for longer-term displacement Community recovery and resilience planning. <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>Appeals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appeals to the Disaster Assistance Appeal Board must be filed within 30 days. The entire claim must be closed to proceed to appeal. 	<p>Appeals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appeals to the Disaster Assistance Appeal Board must be filed within 60 days. Portions of the claim can be closed in order to proceed to appeal on a specific site or portion of the claim.

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