

Iowa – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Denial

Denied on July 7, 2015

On June 17, 2015, Governor Terry E. Branstad requested a major disaster declaration due to highly pathogenic influenza beginning on April 13, 2015, and continuing. The Governor requested the Crisis Counseling Program, Disaster Case Management, Disaster Legal Services, and Disaster Unemployment Assistance for four counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide. FEMA verified the methodology utilized by the state to derive at the cost estimates for the requested programs. PDAs estimate damages immediately after an event and are considered, along with several other factors, in determining whether a disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is necessary.¹

On July 7, 2015, the Governor’s request for a major disaster declaration was denied based on the determination that the situation is not of such severity and magnitude to be beyond the combined capabilities of the state, affected local governments, voluntary agencies, and other responding federal agencies.²

Summary of Damage Assessment Information Used in Determining Whether to Declare a Major Disaster

Individual Assistance

- Individual Assistance Cost Estimates:³ -
 - Disaster Case Management - \$ 28,571
 - Crisis Counseling Program - \$ 220,000
 - Disaster Legal Services - \$ 0
 - Disaster Unemployment Assistance - \$2,784,600
 - Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: \$3,033,171

Public Assistance – (Not requested)

- Primary Impact: -
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: -
- Statewide per capita impact:⁴ -
- Statewide per capita impact indicator:⁵ \$1.41
- Countywide per capita impact: -
- Countywide per capita impact indicator:⁶ \$3.56

¹ The Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and resulting needs of individuals, businesses, public sector, and community as a whole. Information

collected is used by the State as a basis for the Governor's request for a major disaster or emergency declaration, and by the President in determining a response to the Governor's request (44 CFR § 206.33).

² When a Governor's request for major disaster assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (Stafford Act) is under review, a number of primary factors are considered to determine whether assistance is warranted. These factors are outlined in FEMA's regulations (44 CFR § 206.48). The President has ultimate discretion and decision making authority to declare major disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5170 and § 5191).

³ Degree of damage to impacted residences:

- Destroyed – total loss of structure, structure is not economically feasible to repair, or complete failure to major structural components (e.g., collapse of basement walls/foundation, walls or roof);
- Major Damage – substantial failure to structural elements of residence (e.g., walls, floors, foundation), or damage that will take more than 30 days to repair;
- Minor Damage – home is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in short period of time with repairs; and
- Affected – some damage to the structure and contents, but still habitable.

⁴ Based on State population in the 2010 Census.

⁵ Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY15, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2014.

⁶ Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY15, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2014.