One Month After Massachusetts Disaster Declaration Over \$4.8 Million Approved

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FRAMINGHAM, MA –One month after President Joe Biden signed a federal disaster declaration for Massachusetts for the severe storms and flooding that took place Sept. 11-13, 2023, in Bristol and Worcester counties, FEMA has provided **779** households with **\$4,863,642** in federal disaster assistance.

Of the total awarded, FEMA has approved **\$2,973,973** to help homeowners and renters with temporary housing and home repairs, and **\$1,889,668** to help survivors replace personal property and with storm-related necessities like childcare, storage, disaster medical and dental expenses, and other disaster-related items.

"We will continue to work with our state and local partners, making every effort to reach those affected by the September storms," said Federal Coordinating Officer Bob Fogel. "Our goal is to ensure that everyone who is eligible for FEMA assistance receives it."

FEMA home inspectors have completed **963 inspections**, moving applicants through their program eligibility review process. And FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance specialists have reached out to over **2,000** survivors to provide information about registering.

FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) have seen **514** individuals and have taken **175** registrations. DRCs are a great opportunity for individuals to meet with FEMA specialists for in-person one-on-one support. Two DRCs are currently open, one in Attleboro (at Bristol Community College, 11 Field Road) and one at the Leominster City Hall (25 West Street). Hours: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Centers are accessible to people with disabilities or who may not speak English well or need American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation services. The facilities are equipped with assistive technology equipment, including, Video Remote



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Interpreting, large print or braille material and amplified listening systems.

If you need a reasonable accommodation, sign language interpreter, or translation or interpreter assistance, please let a FEMA specialist at the center know. If a disaster survivor cannot travel to the DRC, FEMA will arrange a home visit.

Other ways to apply for FEMA assistance before the **July 15 deadline include:** visiting <u>DisasterAssistance.gov</u>, downloading the <u>FEMA App</u> or calling **1-800-621-3362**. Help is available in most languages. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or another relay service, give FEMA your number for that service when you call. Phone lines operate from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.

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