

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: February 9, 2024 **CONTACT:** Ryan Wilkinson rwilkinson@eatoncounty.org

Eaton County included in Presidential Disaster Declaration

Federal assistance available for individuals & businesses

EATON COUNTY, MI – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced this week that federal disaster assistance is now available to the State of Michigan for supplementing recovery efforts in the areas affected by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that occurred from Aug. 24-26, 2023.

On August 24, areas in lower Michigan experienced several storm fronts that brought heavy rain, strong winds, and seven tornadoes. Governor Gretchen Whitmer made the request for a Major Disaster Declaration as communities across the state experienced road and bridge closures, downed trees and power lines, damage to building structures, embankments, and road surfaces, overwhelmed stormwater and sewer systems, and deposits of silt and debris. Hundreds of homeowners also reported residential flooding.

FEMA makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Eaton, Ingham, Iona, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, and Wayne counties. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-interest loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the disaster. Federal funding also is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in Eaton County can begin applying for assistance by registering online at <u>www.DisasterAssistance.gov</u>, by calling 1-800-621-3362, or by using the FEMA App. If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service, or others, provide FEMA the number for that service.

Eaton County Emergency Management is the local coordinating agency, ensuring ongoing communication with fellow local, state, and federal partners throughout this process.

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Founded in 1837 as a pioneering community, Eaton County now boasts a diverse socioeconomic base that includes agriculture, business, automotive, manufacturing, health care, education, and insurance. Residents enjoy all the best of rural and suburban living ideally situated near the greater Lansing region.





