



MIKE DEWINE

GOVERNOR OF OHIO



September 2, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Fredric E. Kaehler, Acting Regional Administrator
FEMA Region V
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Ohio due to the devastating damage caused by a series of severe storms that moved through the State during the period of August 10, 2026, through August 23, 2026.

This letter and its supporting documentation demonstrate that I took prompt and appropriate action by directing the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan in response to these events. In accordance with section 5502.28 of the Ohio Revised Code, the services, equipment, supplies, and facilities of existing agencies of the state and its political subdivisions were used to the maximum extent practicable in order to respond to the needs of those impacted. However, these storms have resulted in a disaster of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capability of the State of Ohio and affected local governments. Federal assistance is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of the state, local governments, and disaster relief organizations.

Overview of the Incident

Beginning on August 10, 2026, and continuing through August 23, 2026, a volatile weather pattern characterized by multiple rounds of severe weather, including derecho and tornadoes, catastrophic flash flooding and historic river flooding moved through the State. To date, the National Weather Service has confirmed seventeen (17) tornadoes touched down in eleven (11) counties. Further, over these thirteen (13) days, Ohio communities were hit with multiple instances of significant flash flooding. For example, communities in Perry, Morgan and Muskingum counties suffered significant flash flooding on August 10th and into the morning of August 11th. Then again on August 14th

through the 16th these communities were hit with renewed flash flooding. In both instances it is estimated that flooding exceeded the FEMA 1% area and in Perry County it is estimated the flooding exceeded the FEMA .2% flood footprint. On August 13th and 14th, in western Hamilton County several residents suffered home damage due to flooding, estimated to be the highest flooding since 1959. Please Attachment A for more information regarding this historic flooding event.

Two (2) deaths and injuries to four (4) people have been attributed to these storms. Flash flooding in multiple counties resulted in eight (8) state missions for water rescue teams. At the peak of the storms, an estimated 300,000 customers were without power. The power outages impacted 9-1-1 operations in two (2) counties.

State and Local Response

At the start of this event, and in accordance with the State's Emergency Operations Plan (the EOP), the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) engaged regional representatives on the ground in multiple counties to provide needed assistance to impacted counties. The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated on August 11, 2026, to coordinate response efforts and it remained active until August 28th when the State transitioned to recovery operations. During this time frame, I declared a State of Emergency, and six (6) political sub-divisions of the State declared local emergencies (See Attachment B). The State responded to forty-seven (47) mission requests that required coordinating with local government and non-governmental organization efforts to stabilize community lifelines, respond to the needs of disaster survivors, and work with local officials to address long-term recovery needs. Some state missions addressing community lifelines include the following:

Food, hydration, and shelter

- Local law enforcement along with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio National Guard assisted with evacuations.
- The American Red Cross established ten (10) shelters across various counties.
- The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services coordinated emergency mass care to ensure feeding and sheltering needs were met.

Safety and Security

- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources provided four (4) search and rescue teams to Perry County.
- The State Fire Marshal assisted local fire departments in Perry County by providing swift-water rescue teams.

Transportation - Personnel from the Ohio Department of Transportation responded to flooded roadways with road closure signs.

Water Systems

- The State EOC coordinated multiple bottled water distribution missions in the Village of Crooksville and at an apartment complex in Van Wert County.
- The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency provided technical support to the Village of New Lexington when a boil advisory was issued due to high turbidity.
- The State assisted with public messaging and coordinating utility restoration in Clark and Champaign Counties when several mobile home parks experienced depressurization from power loss.
- The State assisted with public health messaging and monitoring when a boil advisory was issued in Ironton due to high turbidity in Ohio River source water.

Debris Operations

- The Ohio National Guard was deployed for an extended period to assist with immediate debris clearance operations to allow public utilities to be restored.
- The Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency continue to assist with debris removal operations.

Additional Response Actions

- In response to complaints received about price gouging at local hotels and bad actors taking advantage of victims through various scams, the Ohio Attorney General developed and issued guidance to assist storm victims in protecting themselves.
- Voluntary organizations and other non-governmental organizations supported the impacted communities with volunteer and donation management.

Impact and Extent of the Disaster

On August 20, 2026, the Executive Director of Ohio EMA requested a Joint FEMA and Small Business Administration (SBA) Preliminary Damage Assessment (Joint PDA) for Individual and Public Assistance in twenty-three (23) counties. From August 24th to August 28th, FEMA, the SBA, and Ohio EMA conducted the Joint PDA for Individual Assistance, and the results are included as Attachment C. The Joint PDA for Public Assistance is ongoing. The following is intended to provide you with a brief overview of the devastation this disaster caused in our state.

Businesses and individuals

- Two (2) deaths are attributable to these storms. One death occurred when first responders were unable to reach a patient due to floodwater, and the other occurred when a tree fell on a pedestrian.
- There were at least four (4) injuries caused by the storms. Two (2) of the injuries resulted from a vehicle accident that occurred when a tornado swept through Upper Arlington Ohio, and at least two (2) people had to be transported to local hospitals after being rescued by a water rescue team.
- The Joint PDA team assessed 2,056 structures across twenty-three (23) counties during the Joint PDA (See Attachment D). The team found there were at least fifty (50) destroyed

structures, eight hundred and six (806) structures with major damage, and four hundred and seventy-five (475) with minor damage spanning across twenty (20) counties.

- At least fifty-nine (59) water rescues occurred between both Green and Preble Counties.
- Evacuations occurred in the Villages of Crooksville, Buckeye Lake and the Cities of Hebron and Heath.
- Ten (10) shelters were opened across five (5) counties. Two of which remain open as of the date of this letter.
- Three mobile home parks suffered water depressurization and boil advisories were issued.
- Boil advisories were issued in New Lexington and Ironton due to high turbidity in the water.
- At peak, 300,000 customers were without power.
- On August 16th there was a major 200-foot water main line break in the Village of Crooksville that was not repressurized until August 20th.
- The City of Upper Arlington was forced to delay the start of the school year by five (5) days.
- Interstate, State Route, and County Road closures spanning a multitude of counties impacted travel
- Numerous businesses closed and cancelled events after sustaining damages including partially torn off roofs, collapsed ceilings and walls, and blown out windows.

Housing

According to a FY 2026 Housing Needs Assessment performed by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) there were significant housing concerns already present in the affected areas (See Attachment E). Adjusted for inflation, the median rental price for a two-bedroom apartment in Ohio increased by 22% from December 2019 to December of 2024. Rent increases are outpacing income growth, and there has been a net loss of affordable rental housing for very low-income Ohioans, with a net loss of over 62,000 affordable units since 2019.

This disaster impacted many low-income individuals and families living in mobile homes. Those disaster survivors that have been displaced from their primary residence are faced with challenges in finding affordable housing within their community, as most affordable housing options were destroyed.

Financial Impacts and Disaster History

According to the most recent analysis from the U.S. Department of Treasury, Ohio's total taxable resources are estimated at 981.6 billion, \$83,020 per capita, and per capita index of 88.8.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Ohio's 2025 Gross Domestic Product was \$966,779,900. The nominal per capita personal income was \$76,393.

The State Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) is the State of Ohio's state funded public assistance program which is administered by Ohio EMA. First implemented in 1985, this Program provided \$120,575,00 in grants to local governments for 105 incidents. During the past 24 months, this program was authorized eight (8) times at an estimated cost of \$36,967,916.00 (See Attachment F). In 2026, I authorized opening the SDRP program for two prior events to assist

recovery efforts from Winter Storm Fern and a severe weather event this past March. Eight (8) of the counties impacted by this current disaster were impacted by these prior 2026 events and are currently receiving state assistance under the SDRP program (See Attachment G).

Type and Amount of assistance needed from the federal government

The Joint PDA estimates that Ohio needs Housing Assistance in the amount of \$14,002,828 and Other Needs Assistance of \$5,015,661, a total of \$19,018,489. The cost share is estimated at \$14,263.867 federal and \$4,754,622 state (See Attachment C).

Neither the State nor local government have the technical skills or personnel to operate a transitional sheltering assistance program, therefore, along with all Individual Assistance programs, I am requesting direct federal assistance from FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance program.

Finally, I am requesting you open the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Historically, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) has been made available as part of disaster declarations in Ohio. As demonstrated in Attachment H, Ohio has a strong record of applying for and using all HMGP funds that are made available within the required application period. Federal HMGP funds have been over-matched with state and local dollars to implement flood mitigation projects that reduce flood risk to people and property. As an Enhanced Plan State, Ohio has a demonstrated capacity to effectively manage mitigation grant projects. Funds made available through HMGP will be awarded to local communities to implement mitigation projects identified in local hazard mitigation plans.

In regard to some of the communities impacted by this disaster. A recently completed study in Reynoldsburg funded with Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding identified a range of storm water solutions combined with acquiring and demolishing repetitive flooded properties that will protect people and property when flooding occurs in the future. Similar studies are near completion for the Village of Hebron and Licking County to address the flooding of Interstates 70 and 79 that were severely flooded in this event.

Hazard mitigation is an investment that pays off in future losses, avoided as demonstrated by the reduced damage from this event in the Village of Corning. Five previously implemented mitigation projects funded by HMGP involving acquiring and demolishing 18 repetitive loss structures, moving utilities from basements to higher levels in the home, and elevating structures above the flood levels helped reduce impacts from this event.

Request for Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

As demonstrated through this letter, its attachments, and OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13, the events of August 10, 2026, through August 23, 2026, have resulted in a disaster of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery is beyond

the capability of the State of Ohio, affected local governments, and voluntary organizations.

Therefore, I respectfully request a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Ohio and activation of the below listed programs. In making this request I certify that the State will comply with the applicable cost sharing requirements associated with these programs.

- Individual Assistance Grant Program, to include the Crisis Counseling Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Case Management, Disaster Legal Services, for Adams, Athens, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Darke, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Licking, Logan, Madison, Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, Preble, Richland, Shelby, and Washington counties in the State of Ohio
- Direct Federal Assistance in the form of FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.
- The SBA Physical Damage Loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans program

I am also requesting technical assistance from FEMA in implementing the Individual Assistance program to ensure the impacted counties recover as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Very respectfully yours,



Mike DeWine
Governor

Enclosures

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

A: NWS Report Ohio August 2026 Flooding

B: Emergency Proclamations

C: Joint PDA Results

D: Joint PDA Map

E: OHFA Information

F: Disaster History

G: 2026 Multiple Disasters

H: Mitigation History