

Preliminary Damage Assessment Report

Oglala Sioux Tribe – Severe Winter Storms and Snowstorm FEMA-4688-DR

Declared February 20, 2023

On January 19, 2023, President Frank Star Comes Out requested a major disaster declaration due to severe winter storms and snowstorm during the period of December 12-25, 2022. President Star Comes Out requested a declaration for Public Assistance Categories B-G, including snow assistance and Hazard Mitigation for the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. During the period of December 27, 2022 to January 13, 2023, joint federal, tribal, and local government Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted in the requested areas and are summarized below. 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 tribe and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is necessary.¹

On February 20, 2023, President Biden declared that a major disaster exists for the Oglala Sioux Tribe. This declaration made Public Assistance available to the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. This declaration also made snow assistance available for a period of 48 hours for the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Finally, this declaration made Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance available for hazard mitigation measures for the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.²

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

Individual Assistance – (Not Requested)

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:³ -
 - Destroyed - -
 - Major Damage - -
 - Minor Damage - -
 - Affected - -

- Percentage of insured residences:⁴ -
- Percentage of poverty households:⁵ -
- Percentage of ownership households:⁶ -
- Population receiving other government assistance such as SSI and SNAP: -
- Pre-Disaster Unemployment: -
- Age 65 and older: -

- Age 18 and under: -
- Disability: -
- IHP Cost to Capacity (ICC) Ratio: -
- Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: N/A

Public Assistance

- Primary Impact: Emergency protective measures
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: \$346,161
- Per capita impact:⁷ \$18.07
- Per capita impact indicator:⁸ \$1.77

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 By law, Federal disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance coverage. 42 U.S.C. § 5155 and 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(5).

⁵ Special populations, such as low-income, the elderly, or the unemployed may indicate a greater need for assistance. 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(3).

⁶ Ibid. 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(3).

⁷ Based on State population in the 2020 Census.

⁸ Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY23, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2022.