



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

July 22, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Through: Mr. Andrew Velasquez III, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region V
536 S. Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. President:

This letter revises my previous letter of July 6, 2010 and appeals the denial of Individual and Public Assistance and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the June 5-6, 2010 tornadoes in Northwest Ohio.

In early June, the people of three counties in northwest Ohio were subjected to tornadoes and severe storms that battered their homes and shattered their lives. The denial of my request for federal disaster assistance was deeply disappointing news to me, and more particularly, to those already struggling in difficult economic times to rebuild their community. Set forth below is detailed information in support of my appeal of the earlier denial of federal assistance, which particularly addressed the suggestions that adequate state and local resources are available to cover the uninsured damage suffered. No such resources exist and I earnestly request that you grant this appeal as soon as possible.

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 § 206.46, I am appealing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) June 24, 2010 decision to deny my June 9, 2010 request for a major disaster declaration for the State of Ohio as a result of tornadoes, severe storms and high winds beginning June 5, 2010 and ending June 6, 2010. Federal disaster assistance was requested for Fulton, Ottawa and Wood counties.

In response to the situation, I took appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on Sunday June 6, 2010 in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. Under my authority as Governor, a State declaration was issued on June 6 for Fulton and Wood Counties and on June 7 for Ottawa County.

Additionally, on June 7th, I requested a joint Federal, State and local survey of the damaged areas. The survey was performed on June 8th and I submitted a major disaster request on June 9th.

I continue to specifically request: Individual Assistance to include the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance (ONA), Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Small Business Administration (SBA) Home, Personal Property, Business and Economic Injury Loan Program and Disaster Legal Services for Fulton, Ottawa and Wood counties; and all categories of Public Assistance for Fulton, Ottawa and Wood counties, appropriate USDA Agricultural assistance programs and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for all counties within the state.

The current State Hazard Mitigation Plan is a Standard Plan and is effective as of May 16, 2008.

As required by federal law and as specifically enumerated in this appeal letter, I have determined that this incident 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 to supplement state and local resources and compensation by insurance. The Impact Section below represents new or updated information as it pertains to Individual and Public Assistance.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosures A and B. Estimated requirements for assistance from certain Federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure C.

EVENT SUMMARY

The National Weather Service confirmed an EF2 tornado touched down in Fulton County at 10:38 pm on June 5. The tornado had a path one half mile wide at its widest point and seven and a half miles in length. It traveled through the Maumee State Forest before ending in Lucas County. A second tornado, rated an EF3, first touched down at 11:20 pm on the south side of Moline in Wood County with a path seven and a half miles long and 300 to 400 yards wide. It was rated EF4 when it reached the Village of Millbury. The tornado finally lifted at 11:35 pm after destroying the Lake Township Administration/EMS/Dispatch Center, the Lake Local High School and many homes and businesses.

IMPACT

Financial Impact

Per Enclosure A, the total uninsured estimated cost to surveyed individuals and families impacted by this disaster is expected to exceed \$1,366,833. Per Enclosure B, the total uninsured estimated cost for state and local governments is \$1,363,668. By any measure, these figures represent a significant short and long term recovery challenge to those citizens and places an additional burden on budget-challenged local governments and voluntary agencies actively engaged for this event and across the State (see Voluntary Agencies Resources Section).

State government has suffered significant and historic losses in revenues as tax collections decreased by 0.3 percent in State FY 2008 and an unprecedented 12 percent in State FY 2009. It is projected that these losses will continue through State FY 2010 before returning to growth in State FY 2011. These revenue losses have resulted in multiple cuts to the state budget over the last two bienniums, including ten (10) days mandatory furlough for state employees in State Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.

Burdened by the long national economic recession, the storm-ravaged communities continue to suffer high unemployment rates and declining tax revenues. Moreover, congressional reluctance to extend recently expired unemployment benefits places a further strain on those individuals struggling to meet basic needs and retain hard-earned property and assets.

The economic reality of regional and statewide unemployment rates that exceed the national average further demonstrates the pre-event challenges facing elected officials and business leaders. Per data from the May 2010 Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Toledo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) shows an unemployment rate of 11.2% that is the second highest rate in the state, ranking 301 out of 372 nationwide. Fulton, Ottawa and Wood counties are three of the four counties that make up the Toledo MSA. Further, the Fulton County rate of 11.8% alone exceeds the Toledo MSA unemployment rate.

In Fulton County, several fire and law enforcement departments responded to Swancreek Township to perform search and rescue and the County Engineer assisted with debris removal. This response totaled 1,839 regular hours (totaling \$40,589) and 210 overtime hours. Over 2000 volunteers worked 20,000 hours assisting in cleanup efforts. The City of Toledo Forestry Department also assisted with debris removal operations and took debris to their locally owned landfill. This outpouring of assistance demonstrates that local resources have lessened the financial impact to Swancreek Township and surrounding areas but certainly not lessened the severity of this localized event. Current Fulton County Public Assistance estimates are \$43,843 which reflects an increase of \$25,847 from the initial request of the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) and a current per capita loss (damage incurred by the county divided by the county's population) of \$1.04 which reflects an increase of \$0.61 from the initial request.

Current Public Assistance estimates in Ottawa County are \$683,321 which reflects an increase of \$609,796 from the Joint PDA and a current per capita loss of \$16.67 which reflects an increase of \$14.89 from the initial request. The EF3 tornado destruction in Allen Township generated large quantities of debris and the removal efforts caused significant damage to their rural township roads. Repair to sections of three township roads and one county road is currently estimated at \$387,518. The Township portion of this estimate is \$331,518 which represents a per capita loss to the Township of \$92.32, just for the road repairs. The severity of this event to Allen Township and Ottawa County is beyond the capabilities of the affected entities to recover from this event without Federal financial assistance.

Current Public Assistance estimates in Wood County are \$474,481 which reflects a decrease of \$697,856 from the Joint PDA and a current per capita loss of \$3.92. This reduction is primarily attributed to the state resources provided by Ohio Department of Transportation

(ODOT) in Lake Township. At the time the Joint PDA was submitted, state resources were not fully engaged. We learned during the appeal process the magnitude of ODOT's assistance in debris removal actually shifted the costs from the Township to the State. This expense assumed by ODOT creates additional burdens on a Department that is already operating under extreme constraints. Also, the emergency protective measures taken by local governments in Wood County exceed \$200,000, not including regular time costs and mutual aid.

The mutual aid provided to the affected counties which has reduced the financial impact in regards to Wood county and statewide per capita does not lessen the overall impact of this event. The generous nature of the communities in Northwest Ohio who responded at a moment's notice to help their fellow local officials and citizens demonstrates that local efforts have gone above and beyond normal operations and now require supplemental financial assistance from the Federal government. This event was extremely localized and has stretched the capabilities of the affected entities to recover.

Not including the Northwest Ohio tornadoes, there have been twelve additional events that have impacted local governments during calendar year 2010. The types of events ranged from severe snow storms to severe flooding and high winds and ranged in dollars from \$16,808 to \$2.2 million and were scattered across the State. The majority of affected local officials requested supplementary state assistance through our State Disaster Relief Program and in some instances state resources were deployed to assist with emergency snow removal or debris operations. However, since 2008, this Program has been unfunded due to the state budget deficits and the State was unable to provide financial assistance to these already strapped local governments. This source of supplementary state assistance is also not available for the counties affected by the June 5-6 tornadoes.

This appeal is a request for assistance to recover from an incident of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is only possible with Federal assistance. The cost of over \$2.7 million is too great for the State and local communities to bear.

Trauma

This event dealt a significant physical and emotional blow to those exposed to the night-time tornadic activity and resulted in long term community impacts. For example, in the Village of Millbury, population 1,161 (2000 census), approximately one-third of the 441 site-built homes were impacted, a significant number of those destroyed or uninhabitable. In addition, this strong storm front caused countywide damage outside of the tornadic footprints in Fulton (Swancreek Township), Ottawa (Allen Township) and Wood (Millbury, Lake Township) counties. The American Red Cross estimated 646 homes were impacted throughout Wood County. The SBA Survey Recap, Enclosure C, demonstrates a significant impact to businesses in the three counties, including 27 with major damage in Wood County alone. This private sector impact may increase unemployment, decrease income to owners and employees alike, with an overall loss of services within the counties. This information shows the impact to these communities is far reaching and will require financial and emotional long term recovery assistance that is beyond the capabilities of the already distressed budgets of the State, affected local governments and voluntary agencies.

There were 28 reported injuries, one critical, and 5 deaths initially reported in Wood County. The critical injury, the husband and father of two initial fatalities, his wife and 4-year old son, became the sixth fatality, leaving a 7-year old girl as the sole family survivor. The father of the Lake High School 2010 Valedictorian was killed as he attempted to secure their home from the effects of the storm. All four of these persons resided in the Village of Millbury. The fourth and fifth deaths were a 20-year old mother of a 2-year old son who died attempting to take refuge at the Lake Township Police Station along with her male companion, and a Wauseon woman who was struck by airborne debris while driving on State Route 795. In addition, Saturday evening's destruction of Lake High School delayed Sunday's scheduled 2010 high school graduation ceremonies, causing additional community-wide emotional distress. The graduation was ultimately held at Owens Community College on June 8, 2010. The Valedictorian did not deliver her prepared address to those assembled.

There were three injuries in Ottawa County, two of which were an elderly couple critically injured when they were thrown from their home by the force of the tornado. The wife landed in a pond on their property and the husband was struck by their own car after the tornado sent the car airborne. There were two reported injuries in Fulton County, fortunately neither of a critical nature.

While the immediate emotional and spiritual needs have been met by volunteer and local mental health resources, only the FEMA Crisis Counseling Program can provide for the long-term mental health needs of those in these communities who were directly and indirectly affected by these catastrophic storms.

Voluntary Agency Resources

The Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) is a highly organized statewide resource that makes its network of faith based resources available on a nationwide basis. This has been the case recently as Ohio VOAD deployed assets to Nashville, Mississippi, and Kentucky to assist others. Recent activity here in Ohio has been and continues to provide assistance with uninsured losses in 13 counties for seven events between May 1 and June 23 that include flooding, flash-flooding, high winds, severe storms and tornadic events, including the northwest tornadoes. VOAD estimates over 1,000 families have been impacted by these recent Ohio events.

While far reaching, VOAD resources are generally limited to labor-only assistance. In many cases, the ability of VOAD to contribute such labor is dependent on concurrent donations of materials or cash with which to purchase materials. The Aidmatrix portal was opened to generate donation of materials/cash to match up with their labor capabilities, however, the recent burden on the statewide donations capability of materials is reflected by the meager reply to this solicitation. The case management capability of VOAD has also been undermined by the current burden and is demonstrated by the fact Lutheran Services is only able to afford funding for a single staffer to perform part-time case management of 20 hours a week for 30 days for the three counties. Only FEMA's case management and companion IHP/ONA grant capabilities can augment the efforts to date and assist with meeting the short and long term uninsured

essential needs by providing the cash outlay necessary to augment the available VOAD labor pool.

Uninsured Losses

While insurance coverage is highly prevalent for real property damage within the three impacted counties, those property owners and renters without coverage for this hazard face a challenge with alternate living arrangements and expenses. In addition, the large number of vehicles severely damaged and destroyed will present a transportation issue to those who lack comprehensive coverage for their primary means of transportation. As these needs cannot be met by the limited volunteer resources available, the FEMA IHP/ONA grant umbrella will be the sole supplemental assistance available to meet these significant unmet, essential needs.

Although primarily a Public Assistance issue, local, county and state resources removed private property debris brought to the curb/right-of-way in the three counties to alleviate health and safety concerns. This is an example of the limits of insurance coverage to meet an imminent health and safety threat.

STATE ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE EFFORTS

State Field Liaison staffers were deployed to Fulton and Wood Counties on Sunday, June 6. In addition ODOT posted crews overnight on June 6 to maintain detours on affected State Routes (SRs), such as SRs 64 and 795. A State Recovery staffer was deployed to Ottawa County on June 7 to assist with damage assessment. Ohio EPA Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management personnel were in the field on June 7 providing technical assistance on debris management and disposal, environmental, historical compliance in all affected counties.

The Ohio Department of Insurance deployed personnel on June 9 to Wood County to the answer questions and provide technical assistance at the Fire Association Hall in Millbury. State Attorney General Consumer Protection Section representatives met with representatives of Fulton, Wood and Ottawa Counties and established a service booth at the Millbury Fire Hall, on June 10. The service booth in Millbury remained open through June 13.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and ODOT augmented local and county forces in Fulton, Ottawa, and Wood Counties to assist with debris removal and disposal from public property and the road right-of-way. At peak, ODOT and ODNR provided 31 dump trucks, 7 loaders, 4 backhoes, 6 pick-ups, 2 skid steers, 3 trailers, 2 chippers and 47 technicians. These assets removed a total of 3,438 cubic yards of mixed debris from the three counties. The use of these state resources, particularly in Lake Township, Wood County, contributed to the significant decrease in debris removal costs initially estimated for the Township.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was operated at a Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 2 from June 6 through June 10 and CAS 1 until June 16. The last of 13 EOC Missions, debris removal in Ottawa County along Crane Creek, was completed on June 23.

The State of Ohio purchased and contributed 100 of the 230 roof tarps made available for use in Wood and Ottawa counties.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health assisted the Wood County ADAMHS Board with implementing their local board emergency response plan.

The Ohio Department of Health delivered 50 doses of tetanus and diphtheria (Td) to the Ottawa County Health Department, and 1,600 surgical masks to Wood County Health Department for respiratory protection of workers clearing debris.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) deployed an on-scene coordinator on June 6 for spill response to address numerous releases, primarily diesel fuel from semi tractors, school buses and storage tanks in Lake Township, Wood County. The on-scene coordinator also addressed other issues such as downed electrical transformers. OEPA also contacted Lake School and Lake Township for potential asbestos issues at their destroyed facilities.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) deployed 15 patrol officers on June 6 to assist in disaster area security and traffic control and by providing two officers in the State Route 795 area of Lake Township, Wood County. The OSHP also has provided four fully equipped cruisers to the Lake Township Police Station for their use as long as needed.

The State Auditor's Office provided a computer to Lake Township so that government business could continue despite critical contents being destroyed at the Administration Building. On June 8, Township officials were unable to provide needed payroll to its employees but with the efforts of the State Auditor's office and assistance from a fiscal officer from another township, payroll needs were met.

As referenced earlier the total uninsured estimated cost to individuals and state and local governments impacted by this disaster is expected to exceed \$2,730,551. This is an overwhelming burden on Ohioans facing a long and difficult recovery process.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume the applicable non-federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total non-federal expenditures for the Other Needs Assistance portion of the Individuals and Households Program and the Public Assistance Program are expected to exceed \$349,821.00, in accordance with Enclosure D.

I have designated Nancy J. Dragani as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. She will work with FEMA in any additional damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Strickland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ted Strickland
Governor

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance under the Stafford Act

All Counties	Assistance to Individuals and Households					Other Programs (Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Legal Services, and Crisis Counseling)
	Temporary Housing <i>(Indicate No.)</i>	Repairs	Replacem ent	Permanent Housing Constructi on	Other Needs Assistance	
	\$ 29,131	\$ 638,612	\$ 672,428		\$ 26,712	
TOTALS	\$ 29,131	\$ 638,612	\$ 672,428		\$ 26,712	

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ESTIMATES

County/Jurisdiction	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C	Cat D	Cat E	Cat F	Cat G	Total
Fulton County	30,756.33	13,087.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43,843.33
Ottawa County	220,847.00	74,956.00	387,518.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	683,321.00
Wood County	142,415.00	218,066.05	2,000.00	0.00	112,000.00	0.00	0.00	474,481.05
Statewide	127,525.00	28,318.00	6,180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	162,023.00
Grand Total	521,543.33	334,427.05	395,698.00	0.00	112,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,363,668.38

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

SBA SURVEY RECAP

(County)	HOMES				BUSINESS			
	Maj	\$\$	Min	\$\$	Maj	\$\$	Min	\$\$
Fulton	8	330,500	36	283,300	4	100,000		
Ottawa	16	1,542,000	31	192,500	1	150,000	1	11,000
Wood	54	4,447,000	30	750,000	27	2,100,000	2	2,300,000
Totals	78	6,319,500	97	1,225,800	32	2,350,000	3	2,311,000

ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE
Individual Assistance:	
Other Needs Assistance under the IHP	\$8,904.00
Other (Specify)	\$0.00
Total:	\$8,904.00
Public Assistance:	
Category A – Debris Removal	\$130,385.00
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	\$83,607.00
Category C – Roads and Bridges	\$98,925.00
Category D – Water Control Facilities	\$0.00
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	\$28,000.00
Category F – Utilities	\$0.00
Category G – Parks and Recreation	\$0.00
Total:	\$340,917.00
Grand Total:	\$349,821.00 *

*In addition to match for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program