



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
Lawrence A. Stelma – Sheriff

701 Ball Avenue, N.E. • Grand Rapids • Michigan • 49503



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2013

Contact: Lisa LaPlante – 616.632.7182

**Emergency Management Division:
President issues a Major Disaster Declaration
For April 2013 Flood Damage**

GRAND RAPIDS – Kent County is among sixteen Michigan counties eligible to receive federal aid to cover the costs incurred by efforts April 16 through May 14, 2013. The President issued a Major Disaster Declaration, to open up federal funding available to recoup state and local funds, as well as some private, nonprofit organizations, for emergency efforts caused by severe flooding.

“This assistance will help us recover funding used in the emergency efforts, in what was a multi-million dollar disaster,” said Jack Stewart, Emergency Management Coordinator for Kent County. “These funds will cover extended emergency response, as well as damage to public properties, roads and infrastructure. We appreciate the support we’ve received from local units of government, as well as the Offices of the President and Governor Snyder in the past two months.”

Briefings will be scheduled in the coming months for leaders in affected communities to meet with Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) and federal agencies to start the application process. Other counties in the declaration include Allegan, Baraga, Barry, Gogebic, Houghton, Ionia, Keweenaw, Marquette, Midland, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ontonagon, Osceola, Ottawa, and Saginaw counties. Some federal funding may also be available for long-term hazard mitigation measures. This funding would help reduce risk to people and property from natural hazards like the April flooding.

This declaration does not include assistance for individuals, homeowners, or and businesses. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is currently offering low-interest rate disaster loans to help those with damage claims from flooding earlier this year. Applicants are encouraged to apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. “These loans will help provide some relief to residents and businesses impacted by this disaster,” said Jack Stewart, Emergency Management Coordinator for Kent County. If you are unable to use the website or require one-on-one service, the SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center will remain open through Thursday, June 27, 2013, located at:

Kent County Sheriff’s Department
Disaster Loan Outreach Center
701 Ball NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Hours: Weekdays: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, June 22: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday, June 23: Closed

**The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is August 12, 2013.
The deadline to return economic injury applications is March 12, 2014.**

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