



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

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PRESS RELEASE

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KENOSHA COUNTY RECIEVES MORE ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser today announced that Kenosha County will be receiving more than one million dollars from the FEMA and the State of Wisconsin for disaster relief, to help Kenosha County Government and Kenosha County municipalities and schools for the expenses incurred during the 2008 disasters that struck Kenosha County.

“I’m very pleased that FEMA and the State of Wisconsin are helping out local government and schools with disaster relief so taxpayers won’t feel the added burden of increased property taxes due to these disasters,” Kreuser said. “Kenosha County was challenged in 2008 starting with the January 7 tornadoes, then the Feb. 5-7 Presidential Disaster Declaration for Snow and finally the June 6 – 25, 2008 Presidential Disaster Declaration for Flooding.”

The one million dollars is aid given directly to Kenosha County government, municipalities and schools and does not include any disaster relief that was given directly to individuals through FEMA, the SBA or other sources.

When the tornadoes struck Kenosha County on January 7, 2008, the Towns of Brighton, Somers and Wheatland and the City of Kenosha were not eligible for a Presidential Disaster Declaration, because the event did not meet the minimum Federal Guidelines for damage of \$1.24 times the State population and \$3.11 times the County population. Governor Jim Doyle did declare a State of Emergency for Kenosha County which opened-up the door for State aid/reimbursement.

During the tornadoes, homes were leveled and other homes received Minor to Major damage. Residents received insurance reimbursement, assistance and donated goods, services, as well as cash. Local governments incurred costs for damage to roads, parks as well as for the clearing of debris off roads/rightaways and debris removal. The WI DNR assisted with grants to the Town of Wheatland and Kenosha County government totaling \$83,716. In addition, Kenosha County is still waiting to hear from WI Emergency Management regarding reimbursement from the WI Disaster Fund, to help the County and the affected municipalities with other expenses that were incurred.

The February 5-7, 2008 snowstorm left a near record level of snow across Kenosha and other Counties. A Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance for a 48 hour period was received, which reimbursed Kenosha County's local governments and schools. FEMA reimbursed 87.5% of eligible costs; the State of WI reimbursed another 12.5% of eligible costs, leaving the remaining 12.5% the Local share. Kenosha County Government received \$78,873.52, Kenosha County municipalities received \$408,652.71 and Kenosha County schools received \$130,322.51.

The June 6-25, 2008 flooding, affected 31 Counties including Kenosha County and gave Kenosha County its second Presidential Disaster Declaration of the year; this Presidential Disaster Declaration however included both Public and Individual Assistance. With regard to Public Assistance, FEMA reimbursed 87.5% of eligible costs; the State of WI reimbursed another 12.5% of eligible costs, leaving the remaining 12.5% the Local share. Kenosha County Government received \$109,448.16 and Kenosha County municipalities received \$278,154.72. With regard to Individual Assistance, a total of 91 people applied for Individual Assistance from FEMA with FEMA paying out \$439,523.68 in grants plus additional low interest SBA loans.