



## News Release

**CONTACT** Ryan Brown  
**PHONE** 651-556-6750  
**E-MAIL** ryan.brown@state.mn.us

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Ryan Brown

[ryan.brown@state.mn.us](mailto:ryan.brown@state.mn.us)

## **Update: More local governments affected by recent flooding can ask for early aid payments from the state**

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – Local governments located in additional Minnesota counties can request their state aid payments early due to financial hardships caused by the recent severe weather and flooding, the Minnesota Department of Revenue announced today. In mid-July, eight counties were officially recognized as disaster areas by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and last week [FEMA declared 24 more counties](#) disaster areas. The counties, and the cities and townships within these counties, are also eligible for early aid payment. There are six counties still under review by FEMA that could become eligible for early aid payments.

“Much of Minnesota has felt the effects of the severe storms and flooding this summer,” noted Revenue Commissioner Myron Frans. “Getting these scheduled aid payments into the hands of local governments months in advance can go a long way in helping them recover and rebuild.”

Normally, payments for Local Government Aid (LGA) for cities and townships, and County Program Aid for counties, are made in two installments, once in July and once in December. Minnesota law allows the state to make the December payment earlier than scheduled if a local government is determined to be in a “financial hardship” due to a natural disaster.

Based on the recent FEMA declaration, the Minnesota Department of Revenue is in the process of notifying the affected local governments of this option and will make early payments when requested by a local government.

Early payments of state aid have been made in previous natural disasters, most recently during the severe flooding in northeastern Minnesota during the summer of 2013.

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