



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ♦ Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor ♦ Aaron Gornstein, Undersecretary

Public Housing Notice 2013-09

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Local Housing Authorities

FROM: Ayo Yakubu-Owolewa, Finance Manager
Bureau of Housing Management 

RE: FEMA Disaster Declaration for February 8 – 9, 2013 Winter Storm

DATE: April 25, 2013

The Commonwealth received a major disaster declaration in all fourteen (14) counties as a result of the February 8-9, 2013 winter storm event. This major disaster declaration includes storm related costs associated with debris removal, emergency protective measures and repair and restoration costs for storm damaged infrastructure.

In addition, this major declaration provides for snow removal assistance for ten (10) of the fourteen MA counties, specifically the counties of **Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Worcester**. Eligible snow removal activities include snow removal, snow dumps, and sanding and salting efforts directly related to the February 8-9, 2013 winter storm.

Local housing authorities in the 10 counties eligible for snow removal assistance may **apply directly to FEMA for reimbursement of their snow removal costs**. FEMA will work directly with each local housing authority in the counties of Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Worcester to review their eligible snow removal costs. This process begins by attending an Applicant Briefing.

LHAs should attend an Applicant Briefing session in order to apply for reimbursement of eligible snow removal costs. **Attached is the briefing schedule** which identifies the dates/times and location for briefings across the Commonwealth.

MEMA encourages attendance by a representative from each housing authority (within the ten snow eligible counties referenced above), at an Applicant Briefing to receive information on the reimbursement process. Each housing authority will complete and submit a Request for Public

Assistance (RPA) at the briefing. Please note that the application filing **deadline date for submitting an RPA is May 19, 2013.**

Should your housing authority have any questions regarding the FEMA reimbursement process for snow removal, please contact James Kersten of MEMA at james.kersten@state.ma.us or 508-820-1443.

With regards to all other non-snow removal related damages or costs, local housing authorities (in all 14 counties) must submit their information to Beth Grenier of Sullivan Group (bgrenier@sullivangroup.com), to make a property insurance claim if you have not already done so.

Non-snow removal work may include debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repair/restoration to damaged facilities. Please provide a description of your storm damages, actual/estimated repair costs in your claim sent to Beth Grenier, whether it is covered by the insurer or not. This information needs to be carefully tracked.

DHCD may apply directly to FEMA to recover funding for all losses associated with non-snow removal expenses which are not covered by insurance.

Eligible LHAs are encouraged to apply to FEMA for their snow removal cost reimbursement. The first step is to attend an Applicant Briefing. If you have any questions, you may call/contact Stephanie Giancola at 617-573-1229, stephanie.giancola@state.ma.us.