

DEPARTMENT OF TRUST LANDS



Flood-impacted political subdivision infrastructure development grants - In Section 10 of 2011 Senate Bill No. 2371, the Legislative Assembly provided a \$30 million one-time general fund appropriation to the Land Department for providing infrastructure development grants to flood-impacted political subdivisions. The Legislative Assembly provided that up to \$110,000 of the appropriation may be used by the commissioner for salaries and operating expenses relating to administration of the program.

In Section 11 of 2011 Senate Bill No. 2371, the Legislative Assembly provided guidance for the flood-impacted political subdivision infrastructure development grants. The Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office director is to develop a plan for providing infrastructure grants to eligible political subdivisions, receive and review applications for infrastructure grants, and make recommendations to the Board of University and School Lands on grants to eligible political subdivisions. The Board of University and School Lands is to award and distribute infrastructure grants to eligible political subdivisions based on identified needs. Eligible political subdivisions include counties, as well as cities, school districts, and other political subdivisions located within such counties, that have received an individual assistance designation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency relating to a 2011 flood event. Individual assistance designated counties include Barnes, Benson, Burleigh, McHenry, Morton, Ramsey, Renville, Richland, and Ward. Funding received by eligible political subdivisions may be used for up to 50 percent of the costs not otherwise reimbursed through federal or other state funds to:

- Develop new community infrastructure, the need for which is directly related to the displacement of residents due to flooding. Infrastructure includes community-owned waterlines, sewer, curb, and gutter.
- Evaluate the extent of damage to community-owned infrastructure.
- Restore or repair flood-related damage to community-owned infrastructure.
- Expand landfill capacity or reimburse flood-related waste disposal costs.
- Raise roads or develop flood control structures.
- Acquire property needed for infrastructure.
- Acquire homes damaged by levy construction.
- Provide reimbursement for other flood-related expenses.

The Department of Trust Lands hired a temporary employee in December 2011 to manage the flood-impacted political subdivision infrastructure development grant program with the \$110,000 appropriation provided for administration of the program. Grant guidelines were established to ensure grants addressed needs not provided by other state or federal response or insurance coverage. In April 2012, grant applications were evaluated in consultation with other state agencies involved in flood recovery efforts. The Department of Trust Lands evaluated 107 applications for assistance with projects with a 50 percent cost-share totaling \$37.7 million. In late April 2012, the Department of Trust Lands awarded grants totaling \$25.6 million for 92 projects. The projects require a 50 percent local cost-share. The Department of Trust Lands is reserving the remaining \$4.4 million for unanticipated and unknown future needs. Grants were awarded by county as follows:

County	Number of Projects	Grants Awarded
Barnes	10	\$500,000
Benson	15	467,806
Burleigh	5	2,685,606
McHenry	19	527,026
Morton	5	1,079,749
Ramsey	6	459,800
Renville	2	514,001
Richland	19	500,048
Ward	11	18,835,995
Total	92	\$25,570,031

In Section 12 of 2011 Senate Bill No. 2371, the Legislative Assembly provided legislative intent that the money appropriated to and distributed by the Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office for flood-impacted political subdivision grants is to be used by grantees to address needs not funded by other state or federal response or insurance coverage.