



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Regional Administrator Tony Robinson  
FEMA Region 6  
Denton, Texas

RE: Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration — Major Disaster Declaration

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Texas as a result of the severe winter weather that began on February 11, 2021.

In response to the current situation, I have taken the appropriate action under state law by directing the execution of the State's emergency management plan and by declaring a state of disaster on February 12, 2021, for all 254 Texas counties. On February 13, I requested an emergency declaration which was granted on February 14, 2021. With this, Texas received access to assistance for mass care and sheltering under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Emergency Protective Measures and Direct Federal Assistance. Texas is grateful for your decisive action and for our partners at FEMA for quickly granting this federal Emergency Declaration. More assistance is needed to help Texans respond to and recover from this unprecedented winter weather.

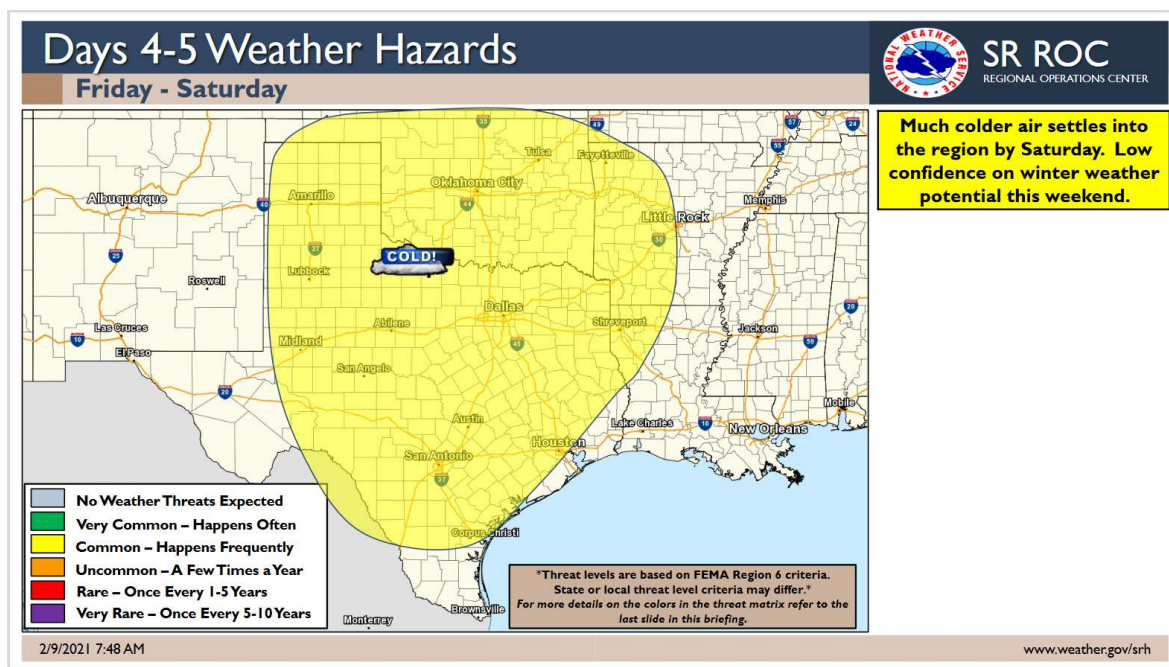
Pursuant to 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I have determined that damages caused by the severe winter weather event are of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local government, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster.

I am requesting Public Assistance (all categories), Individual Assistance (all programs), and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for all 254 Texas counties.

## Weather Conditions

Texas is currently being impacted by severe winter weather of historic proportions. Unprecedented, prolonged cold temperatures and near-record snow fall amounts have crippled the entire state. While forecasts attempted to provide accurate information on what was facing Texas, several rounds of bitter, arctic air and wintry precipitation fell far beyond initial expectations, leaving Texas vulnerable.

During the week of February 8, 2021, a very uncertain winter weather forecast was materializing for Texas. On February 9, the only certainty was uncommonly cold temperatures and perhaps some minor ice and snow accumulations.



Snow, sleet, and freezing rain entered western Texas on February 11, 2021, and began making their way across the state. By the morning of Friday, February 12, most of the state had already seen its first round of severe weather. Road conditions became treacherous, with overpasses and bridges beginning to ice. In most areas receiving the wintry mix of precipitation, temperatures fell far below freezing, where they have remained for almost a week. As the weekend progressed, more frigid air made its way south, and moisture helped add additional



rounds of precipitation. Another round of snow and ice spread across North Texas and Central Texas overnight Sunday into Monday, when numerous roadways were already covered with ice. The snow exacerbated poor travel conditions with several inches of accumulation. These regions of the state essentially shut down as travel became near impossible. Temperatures on Monday and Tuesday nights were near zero with several areas even dipping into the negatives.

Wind chill warnings were issued for the first time in some parts of the state, and at one point, all 254 of Texas' counties were under winter storm warnings. As of Thursday, February 18, Dallas was on its fifth day below freezing, which is the longest stretch since 1983. Austin is poised to set an all-time record of seven consecutive days below 35 degrees, and on most of those days, the city remained below freezing. Temperatures as cold as -11 degrees Fahrenheit were experienced in Amarillo.

## Incident Overview

The severe winter weather occurring in Texas has taken its toll on Texans statewide. Unprecedented, record temperatures have been felt from El Paso to Houston and from the Texas Panhandle to Brownsville. Snow and ice accumulations only seen once in a generation have greatly affected most of the state. While wintry weather was forecast days in advance, an incident of this magnitude was difficult to imagine and extremely challenging to prepare for as winter weather this severe is very rarely seen in Texas.

Before the onset of the storm, the demand for supplies such as food, water, batteries, and other survival essentials became scarce at local stores across the state. As the first round of ice and snow impacted Texas, the task of finding any supplies became more difficult as logistics became disrupted. Texans then found it difficult to get out of their homes due to dangerous conditions on the roads. For those who have been able to make it to stores, they have faced long lines to enter, have found stores lack goods, or have found that stores closed due to weather conditions.

During this time, additional challenges surfaced. Some providers had to turn off power to most customers in order not to disrupt service to critical infrastructure. Because of that, many Texans had no power for multiple days. At its peak, there were over four million Texans without power. Texas expects an overwhelming pressure on the plumbing industry as these impacts to commercial and residential properties increase. The power outages created another negative impact.

Providing potable water has now become one of the largest challenges, due to freezing temperatures, electric outages, and transportation challenges. In areas where power was

interrupted, water treatment plants and pump stations temporarily lost the ability to pump water to their customers, with over 200 drinking water systems not operational, affecting over 370,000 Texans. Additionally, with the prolonged cold, several main water lines have frozen and burst across the state. Alongside the reduced or stopped water supply, ruptured water mains and depleted water tanks have triggered boil water notices for a vast number of Texans. As of Thursday, there are at least 954 boil water notices in place across Texas, impacting over 14 million people. This is creating a health hazard for those who do not boil water for use, and the problem is compounded for those without electricity and for those who do not currently have access to water.

There are now a high number of Texans without drinkable water in their homes. The second problem with frozen pipes will be damage to homes. Many homes have already had pipes burst and experienced flooding. There is likely a much larger number of others that have had pipes freeze and burst, but the ice has not yet melted. When that happens, it will leave homes damaged. This will also impact water service across neighborhoods and cities as water usage will exponentially rise while already stressed water systems will further deplete reserves and require additional electricity to pump needed water.

These challenges are being faced by Texans from all backgrounds, many of whom will need assistance getting back on their feet. These people have not only felt the devastating impact from this weather, but people are still reeling from the effects of COVID-19, a pandemic that has left many Texans unemployed, low on income, and behind on bills. Also, not all homeowners and renters are able to be insured. As mentioned, the full effects and damage have yet to be realized, and without support, many homes will be uninhabitable. Texans will need immediate assistance repairing their homes to provide safe shelter. Over the last year alone, the State of Texas has mobilized



resources for COVID-19, hurricanes, tropical storms, and now this severe winter weather. The State and local jurisdictions have worked hard to ensure Texans remain able to press forward, but the pandemic alone has resulted in over \$6 billion in state agency expenses and approximately \$400 million in damages to local jurisdictions. Hurricane Hanna and Hurricane Laura added to that burden for both the state and the areas affected by those storms. Federal assistance is needed for our people.

During this incident, several private nonprofits have stepped in to provide assistance, but given the severity and magnitude of the incident, there are limits as to what they are able to do. It is also difficult to mobilize volunteers with such treacherous transportation conditions. Volunteers have their own homes and families to care for. In addition, sheltering in the time of this pandemic is a challenge. Non-congregate sheltering is the preferred method to prevent the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19-fatigued jurisdictions are stepping up to get those who need help into non-congregate settings, but the entire state has numerous resources and finances tied up battling the ongoing pandemic.

To date, since the onset of the storm, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) has received over 100 local disaster declarations, with more being submitted hourly as jurisdictions are regaining power and technology services.

Supplying commodities throughout the state has also been a challenge because of the dangerous road conditions and closures. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has reported 4,854 roadway sections that are impacted by snow and ice with 22 road closures due to icy conditions. TDEM is currently struggling to coordinate air travel (military, commercial, and private) to deliver much-needed supplies to heavily affected areas.

## Response Overview

Due to this severe weather event, I declared a state disaster for all 254 Texas counties. Below is a summary of the resources used in the state of Texas so far to respond to and recover from this severe winter weather event. As of February 18, 2021, the reported cost for state agency response totals exceeds \$27 million and this number is growing by the hour. Almost all local jurisdictions are unable to submit damage estimates as they actively respond to this disaster. We are confident costs will far surpass the state threshold for infrastructure damages, and we believe, under the current circumstances, any slowdown in requesting or granting this response will create an even direr situation for Texans. Full Public Assistance and Individual Assistance are needed now.

Agency Reporting	Personnel													Reporting Agency	
	(Head Count)	Straight Time	Overtime	Travel	Equipment	Materials	Rentals	Fuel	Water/ Ice	Contracts	Leases	Repairs	Other	Total	
Finance DSHS	30	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$166,076.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$173,276.00	
Finance HHSC	3	\$840.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$367,238.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$368,078.88	
Finance TDEM	123	\$22,752.97	\$19,139.86	\$0.00	\$30.78	\$194.57	\$0.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$542,118.18	
Finance TFS TAMU	308	\$118,272.00	\$0.00	\$47,749.00	\$71,070.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$237,091.00	
Finance TPWD	10	\$5,640.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,479.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,119.00	
Finance TxDOT	18710	\$6,827,707.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,245,538.00	\$8,438,915.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,512,160.00	
Finance TxMFM	518	\$88,060.00	\$0.00	\$59,393.33	\$20,409.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,788.90	\$79.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$169,730.63	
Grand Total	19702	\$7,070,471.97	\$19,139.86	\$107,142.33	\$10,338,526.78	\$8,439,109.57	\$0.00	\$501,788.90	\$367,318.28	\$166,076.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,009,573.69	

## State Agency Activities

### Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System

**(TDEM):** The State of Texas State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions, with Daily Operations staff coordinating daily weather calls; processing disaster declarations, letters to the governor, disaster summary outlines, and State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs); and preparing snapshots and the state SITREPs. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the SOC, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners and various members of the public health community to assist with unmet needs and resources. TDEM has also submitted several requests to the FEMA Region VI Response Center for fuel, water, transportation, ambulances, blankets, generators, and other emergency supplies.

### Texas Division of Emergency Management - Communications Coordination

**Group (TDEM-CCG):** The Communications Coordination Group (CCG) has alerted public, private, and volunteer sector partners to be on alert for possible communications response due to the continued winter weather threatening the state. TDEM ESF 2-CCG is monitoring the situation and has prepared resources in the event of communications outages. Our partners



across the public, private, and volunteer sectors daily assess and adjust their resources in accordance with the situation. As a result of widespread power outages, many communication systems are currently on backup power systems. However, due to the unprecedented cold temperatures and length of power outages, the backup power systems have begun to fail. The result has impacted cell phone, internet, and 911 systems across the state. The weight of the ice has also caused the collapse of several towers, located primarily in West Texas. The winter weather has also impacted other areas of the country, resulting in delays in bringing resources into the state.

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):** The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife) is standing ready to support TDEM, the Texas Animal Health Commission, and local jurisdictions in helping with livestock sheltering and other issues related to the February weather event. AgriLife activated one DAR agent on February 14 to assist TEEX with a delivery of 2,695 blankets from the Lufkin warehouse to Houston TRANSTAR shelter to support operations. AgriLife Communications has distributed winter weather disaster preparedness and recovery information to news media and on social media.

**Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX):** The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) is standing by to provide search and rescue assistance as well as personnel to support winter weather operations as needed.

**Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS):** The Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) is currently supporting local agencies, TDEM, and TxDOT with winter weather support. TFS crews are currently assisting in the Panhandle, West, Northwest, North, East, Central, and South Branches with seven Motor Graders, 34 4x4 vehicles, two short plans teams, one resource staging area team, and 85 support personnel. Additionally, TFS is working to help fill Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) resources for Zapata County, the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, the city of Galveston, the city of Nacogdoches, and Village Fire Department in Harris County. Five saw crews and 30 four-wheel drive vehicles remain available and ready for response.

**Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC):** The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) continues to monitor and communicate with power providers as well as track power outages due to winter weather. PUC currently assesses about 40,000 MW of generation is offline, including 23,500 MW of thermal generation and the rest in wind and solar.

PUC continues to monitor outages and work with utilities to properly identify and address the restoration of critical facilities throughout the state. In addition, PUC continues to work with TxDOT to ensure routes used to provide fuel and operating supplies to power production facilities remain open, as well as coordinate with TDEM regional and district personnel to provide resources necessary for the continued restoration of power across the state.

**Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):** The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is maintaining situational awareness of the evolving weather incident. The TAHC is activated to the SOC, is monitoring weather calls, and is coordinating with TAHC Regional Offices and animal response partners at the local, state, and federal levels for support of local jurisdictions. Coordination communications have occurred with ESF-11 partners regarding potential hay/feed or other livestock-related support following the storm. Some feed stores and other agriculture infrastructure are beginning to get back online, but stock may be low due to

transportation delays and high demand. All partners have indicated no need at this time but are working to prepare for anticipated issues. TAHC staff remain on standby for response to any animal issues which may arise. Rolling energy brownouts and storm damages are continuing to impact both TAHC staff and animal stakeholders. All ESF-11 partners are working to maintain contact and situational awareness of any concerns related to these issues.

Impacts to the animal agricultural industry are continuing to be reported. Gas curtailments and electricity outages are impacting processing plants, which has cascading impact on the milk and meat-animal production industries. Additionally, slowdowns or shutdowns of the processors are becoming critical issues for the poultry industry, which the TAHC is working to help mitigate. Reports of milk, beef, and poultry impacts have been received. The TAHC is holding calls with industry partners to determine the extent of impacts and what possible relief or mitigation may be supported by state and federal partners, as appropriate.

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** In preparation for severe winter weather, TxDOT pre-treated roadways for ice in all TxDOT Areas and Districts. All 25 TxDOT District Emergency Operations Centers, in addition to the TxDOT representatives assigned to the State Operations Center, were activated and are operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice, with field crews operating around the clock in 12-hour shifts. TxDOT crews patrolled and treated areas of ice where temperatures remained below freezing during overnight hours across the state. 229 permanent digital message boards were activated to display advisories of weather conditions to the public, including areas with severe fuel shortages and limited fueling locations.

Currently, there are 4,854 roadway sections that are impacted by snow and ice, with 22 road closures due to icy conditions. TxDOT has been and continues to receive State of Texas Assistance Requests from counties and cities to pre-treat and treat local roadways. TxDOT has also supported State Resource Staging Areas with ice pre-treatments and deicing, in addition to businesses engaged in public-private partnerships with local and state organizations.

To date, in support of this incident:

- TxDOT has or continues to operate over 740 snowplows along with 225 motor graders to plow snow and deice across the state.
- More than 5,016 TxDOT employees have been active in response to or in support of the State.
- As of February 16, 2,784 pieces of equipment have been or are continuing to be used in winter weather operations across the state.

**Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):** The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has prepared statewide resources to appropriately respond to this severe weather event. All Texas Highway Patrol (THP) troopers are fully prepared to respond as conditions dictate. Some areas already impacted by the severe weather are ensuring 24-hour trooper coverage. DPS has troopers and equipment responding statewide to events in areas adversely affected by the winter weather event.

All assigned THP troopers are actively investigating crashes and have been assisting stranded motorists around the clock since the start of the winter weather event. Troopers are clearing traffic and continue to patrol and monitor the affected areas. THP is working closely with state

partners at TxDOT, TDEM, TFS, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and the Texas Military Department (TMD) during this event. THP personnel are ready to assist with requests for assistance. North Texas DDCs assisted with the coordination and delivery of blood, fuel, and cots, as well as the relocation of nursing home residents, and provided critical fuel to first responders.

Central Texas troopers escorted crucial diesel fuel deliveries to prevent potentially catastrophic manufacturing system failures. Additionally, troopers assisted local law enforcement agencies with crash investigations, weather-related traffic issues, and assisted stranded motorists. THP troopers have investigated 1,952 crashes, with 500 injuries and 22 fatalities, across all regions from February 11 through February 16, 2021.

**Texas Military Department (TMD):** TMD continues supporting THP, TPWD, and TxDOT in protecting life and property during events of winter weather in Texas. TMD has deployed 94 personnel and 34 vehicles to Amarillo, Abilene, Wichita Falls, Waco, Dallas/Fort Worth, and Tyler to assist stranded motorists and conduct welfare checks. TMD has conducted 550 personnel assists and three rescues, and has towed six vehicles. TMD has activated personnel to support warming centers in select locations throughout Texas. TMS has activated an air operations center and two airlift mission ready packages. TMD has activated personnel for shelter management at a warming shelter in Missouri City as well as a rotary wing mixed mission ready package with rotary wing aircraft staged in Austin, San Antonio, and Grande Prairie.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):** TPWD has prepared resources for this winter weather event consisting of Texas Game Wardens and state parks police officers. TPWD has specialized equipment and resources available to support requests, including our Aviation, UAS, and K9. TPWD is continuing to be advised of the current weather conditions and is maintaining a state of readiness.

**TDEM Mass Care and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD):** Since the onset of winter weather, 333 warming centers have been identified statewide. TDEM has published active warming locations within WebEOC on the Response Common Operating Picture and public facing on the TDEM website. From February 12 to February 16, there have been a total of 18,648 resource inquiries via 2-1-1. Of those, 5,936 have been for housing and shelter, 1,347 for food, and 1,322 other disaster-related needs. Due to the nature of COVID-19, each organization has unique limitations and challenges on their current ability to respond.

**American Red Cross (ARC):** The American Red Cross (ARC) continues to support preparedness messaging to the public, including winter storm safety, pet safety, water safety, and emergency supplies. Teams have been working actively with local jurisdictions to support warming centers or temporary evacuation sites. Subject to availability, ARC can provide personal protective equipment, cots, blankets, comfort kits, and shelter supplies. The ARC is actively supporting 124 sites across the state. The overnight congregate shelter population is 2,567 persons at 44 facilities.

**The Salvation Army:** The Salvation Army continues to support local communities in need with warming stations and cold weather sheltering across the state. They have supported



communities with 24 pallets of water and 10 pallets of blankets and cots to the cities of Arlington and Grapevine. A Salvation Army Liaison is supporting the SOC remotely.

## Disaster Impacted Population Profile

Texas is home to agricultural businesses, financial institutions, health facilities, petroleum refineries, some of the busiest ports in the U.S., manufacturing companies, entertainment and travel destinations, and much more. Unfortunately, for many, work slowed or came to halt as companies and businesses had to close.

Texas is also home to many vulnerable population groups. For example, over 35 percent of the state's population is part of a household where a language other than English is spoken at home. These language barriers can hinder Texans from getting the emergency assistance they desperately need during this catastrophic event. The percentage of the population under 65 years of age with a disability is higher than 7 percent. Also, persons under the age of 18 and persons age 65 and older make up a nearly 39 percent of the state's population.

### Population Statistics

February 2021 Severe Winter Weather								
	Persons Below Poverty Level in percent	Median Household Income in dollars	Percent of Elderly (Age 65 and Older)	Percent of Disabled (Under the Age of 65)	Percent Pre-Disaster Unemployment (December 2020)	Persons 18 Years and Younger in percent	Percent without health insurance (Under the Age of 65)	Speak a Language Other than English in percent
National	10.5%	\$62,843	16.5%	8.6%	6.7%	22.3%	9.5%	21.6%
Texas	13.6%	\$61,874	12.9%	7.9%	7.2%	25.5%	20.8%	35.5%

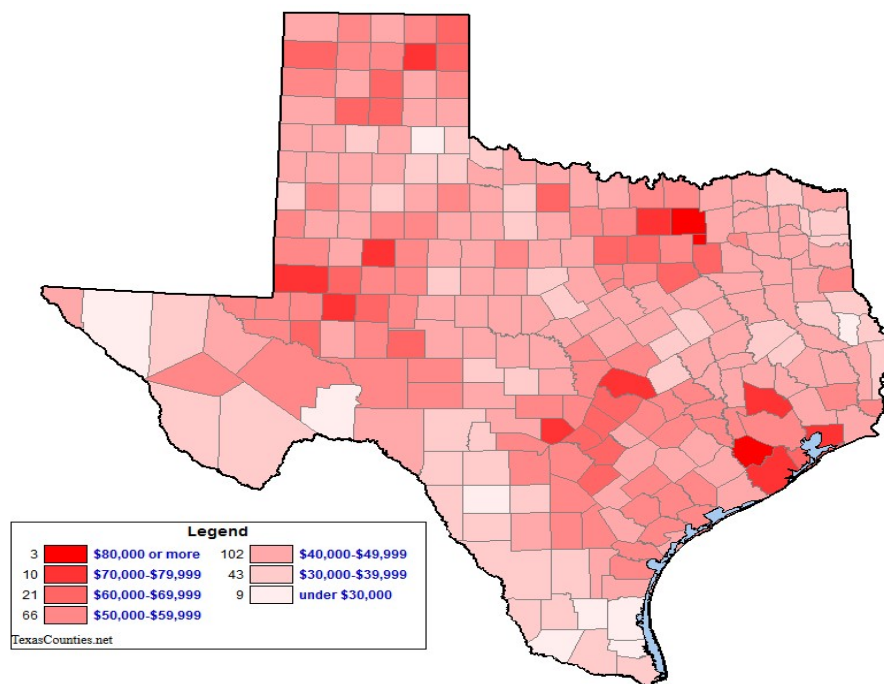
Data from U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Numbers in red identify outliers from the national and Texas averages

\*Unemployment statistics for counties are from December 2020 averages

### Income and Poverty

Based on U.S. Census Data from 2019, Texas ranks near the bottom half (23<sup>rd</sup>) of the United States in median household income totaling \$61,874. Compared to the median U.S. household income, Texans bring in \$969 less than the national average. The heat map shown below shows that 220 of 254 counties in Texas make less than the U.S. median household average.



Texans are resilient and will continue to meet head-on the challenges brought by disasters, but federal assistance is greatly needed in order to enable our communities to bounce back quickly. The State of Texas and these local communities specifically are contributors and enablers of a strong federal economy. Providing the assistance needed to allow these individuals and communities to swiftly and completely recover from this severe weather event will be better for Texans across the state and the overall economic health of the country.

## Closing

Pursuant to 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, this incident is of such magnitude and severity that effective response is beyond state and local capability, and supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and protect property, public health, and safety.

Texas will continue to collect data for infrastructure and individual damages. However, we are confident that these numbers will surpass the Public Assistance threshold and meet the factors for Individual Assistance. A prolonged wait for virtual damage assessments will be near impossible and create a profound disaster for Texans, one that can be mitigated by providing full federal assistance immediately.

As a result of this disaster, the State of Texas is specifically requesting a major disaster declaration for all categories of Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance, including the Individuals and Households Programs (IA), Other Needs Assistance (ONA), Crisis Counseling, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Legal Assistance, and Disaster Case Management for all 254 Texas counties. I am requesting Hazard Mitigation statewide and the U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program for physical and economic loss for all Texas counties. Additionally, the State requests assistance to Texans for immediate repair to homes impacted by this disaster.

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

February 18, 2021

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I have designated Chief Nim Kidd as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Suzannah Jones as Alternate GAR. Nim Kidd is designated as the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and Suzannah Jones is designated as the Deputy State Coordinating Officer (DSCO) for this request. Chief Kidd will work with FEMA and will provide further information and justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Abbott", written in a cursive style.

Greg Abbott  
Governor

Enclosure: OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION**  
**MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

OMB Control Number 1660-0009  
Expires 09/30/2019

1. Request Date Feb 18, 2021

**Burden Disclosure Notice**

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.  Texas		2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). 25,145,561	
3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Greg Abbott		4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number W. Nim Kidd (512) 424-2436	
5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number W. Nim Kidd (512) 424-2436			
6. Declaration Request For: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))			
7. Incident Period: Beginning Date 02/11/2021		End Date Feb 11, 2021 or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuing	
<i>If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).</i>			
7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Drought <input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake <input type="checkbox"/> Explosion <input type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Flood <input type="checkbox"/> Hurricane <input type="checkbox"/> Landslide <input type="checkbox"/> Mudslide <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Storm <input type="checkbox"/> Snowstorm <input type="checkbox"/> (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning) <input type="checkbox"/> (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) <input type="checkbox"/> Straight-Line Winds <input type="checkbox"/> Tidal Wave <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Depression <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Storm <input type="checkbox"/> Tsunami <input type="checkbox"/> Volcanic Eruption <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Winter Storm <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____			
8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter. On February 12, 2021, I issued a disaster declaration in all 254 Texas counties in response to severe winter weather that is impacting Texas.  This request includes 254 counties for which the recent population estimate is 28,995,881 million Texans (U.S. Census Bureau 2019 population estimates).			
9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.  Ahead of the severe winter weather that is currently impacting Texas, the state of Texas deployed state resources to assist local officials in their response efforts, and the Texas State Operations Center (SOC) expanded its daily operations to 24-hours a day through the end of next week. The Texas Division of Emergency Management has deployed the following state resources to support winter weather response operations: Texas Department of Transportation; Texas Highway Patrol, Texas Department of Public Safety; Texas Military Department; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Texas Department of State Health Services; Texas A&M Forest Service; Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, Texas Task Force 1; Public Utility Commission of Texas; Texas Animal Health Commission. As of February 18, 2021, the reported cost for state agency response totals exceed \$27 million.			

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

☐ Individual Assistance      Dates Performed \_\_\_\_\_ Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Start \_\_\_\_\_ End \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

☐ Public Assistance      Dates Performed \_\_\_\_\_ Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Start \_\_\_\_\_ End \_\_\_\_\_

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance ☐ N/A ☒ Individuals and Households Program ☒ Crisis Counseling Program ☒ Disaster Unemployment Assistance  
☒ All ☒ Disaster Case Management ☒ Disaster Legal Services ☒ Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).

Individual Assistance (all programs) for all 254 Texas counties.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

*\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request*

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance ☐ N/A ☒ Debris Removal (Category A) ☒ Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) ☒ Permanent Work (Categories C-G)\* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Public Assistance (all categories) for all 254 Texas counties.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

**Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity**

☐ I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

☒ I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

**Request for Direct Federal Assistance**

☐ I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

☒ I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

To meet critical emergency protection requirements as needed to include but not limited to mass care, sheltering, power and gas needs, search and rescue assistance, law enforcement support and other requests as SAR assistance, sheltering and other support as needed.

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services. Response resources in Texas are strained and first responders, volunteers and citizens are fatigued by continual disaster impacts. The continued freezing temperatures sustained for several days and the forecast for the next many days will continue to overwhelm the electrical, gas and other systems. Extremely low temperatures will threaten life safety and property. Federal assistance will be needed.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

**Request for Snow Assistance**

☐ N/A ☒ I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).  
For all 254 Counties in Texas

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request



11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation\* ☒ Statewide **OR**

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.  
All counties statewide.

12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date October 2023 b. Type of Plan ☐ Enhanced ☒ Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

☐ I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies ☒ I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C**: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs for additional information in support of this request\*.

14. Findings and Certifications

☒ I certify the following:

a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on February 12, 2021 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

☒ Cover Letter ☐ Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)\* ☐ Enclosure B (Public Assistance)\*  
☐ Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs) ☐ Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)  
☐ Additional Supporting Documentation \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

February 18, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request