



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

April 11, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington DC, 20500

Through: Mr. Michael Chesney, Acting Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V
536 South Clark Street, Sixth Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. President:

As I mentioned in my meeting with you at the Oval Office on April 9th, parts of northern Michigan have been devastated by recent extreme weather and we're in need of federal assistance. Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5191 (Stafford Act), as implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.35, I request that you declare on an expedited basis an emergency for the State of Michigan and the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Mackinac, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle as a result of impactful winter weather that resulted in extreme and severe ice accumulation that began on March 28, 2025, and lasted until March 30, 2025. Tribal members, lands, and facilities of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians were also impacted in the affected area, and the tribe has requested to join the State of Michigan as part of this request in addition to the aforementioned counties.

Accumulations of .25 to 1.5 inches of ice were reported for several locations across northern Michigan. In combination with high winds, these conditions resulted in widespread power outages that have left residents in some of the impacted areas without access to electricity even today. It also caused fuel shortages, communication disruptions, hazardous driving conditions, blocked highways/roads, and the accumulation of large amounts of vegetative debris across.

In response to these conditions, all of the counties referenced in the first paragraph took appropriate action to cope with the situation, including but not limited to: declaring local states of emergency, activating the disaster response and recovery aspects of their emergency operations plans, issuing emergency public information, closing affected roadways, removing debris from public rights-of-way and infrastructure, providing shelter, food, and water to affected residents, and conducting door-to-door wellness checks. Local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in the impacted areas were staffed and coordinated requests for critical assistance. State assistance was requested when local resources were exhausted. In addition, the affected local emergency management agencies provided consistent situational awareness to the State of Michigan departments and agencies through conference calls, emails, and the Michigan Critical Information Management System (MI CIMS). Similarly, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians activated their emergency procedures to respond to incident conditions on tribal lands and at tribal facilities, and to provide for emergency relief to tribal members. In addition, they also provided sheltering and warming facilities to the general population and emergency responders deployed to the affected area.

I took appropriate action under state law in response to this emergency and directed the execution of the Michigan Emergency Management Plan on March 30, 2025. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated on the same day and staffed with Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) employees, and State Emergency Management Coordinators (SEMCs) from multiple agencies and partner organizations. On March 31, 2025, under my authority as Governor, I also declared a State of Emergency for the counties of Alpena, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Mackinac, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle, and directed state departments and agencies to utilize all available resources necessary to assist the impacted counties and local political subdivisions in responding to and recovering from this incident. On April 1, 2025, I expanded my declaration to also include the counties of Alcona and Antrim.

Volunteer organizations are working with state and local officials to assist in response and recovery. Volunteer efforts include management and staffing of shelters and warming centers, food preparation and distribution, distribution of hygiene kits, technology and connectivity support at response facilities, assistance with debris removal from private property, and identification of unmet needs of residents.

State departments and agencies immediately initiated response actions in the impacted area in accordance with their assigned missions in the Michigan Emergency Management Plan. These initial actions included but were not limited to: providing direct assistance to the affected communities and individuals; ensuring the safety of residents; assessing the damage and impacts to affected state

facilities, infrastructure, and services under their stewardship; and taking appropriate actions to keep those affected facilities, infrastructure, and services operational.

The State of Michigan continues to provide a variety of critical resources to local jurisdictions. I have activated the Michigan National Guard (MING) to support the response to this incident. Soldiers primarily conduct the removal of debris from roadways and critical infrastructure sites (particularly to enable utility workers to engage in power restoration activities). They have also conducted wellness checks on disaster survivors, provided food and other supplies to the public, and transported heavy equipment.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is also assisting impacted utilities and local road authorities and governments with the removal of debris. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is removing debris from state trunklines and supports local road authorities. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) under the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) coordinates with impacted utility companies to monitor service disruptions and provide updates on outage status and restorations to the SEOC. The Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) is supplementing local communications capabilities by operating radio event channels, procuring supplies and equipment needed for incident response and recovery, and transporting supplies and equipment. The Michigan State Police (MSP) has assisted local jurisdictions with traffic control and utilized aerial assets, including helicopters and unmanned aircraft systems, to support local damage assessments. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) coordinated with local health departments, healthcare coalitions, and medical providers to ensure the continuity of medical services and facilitated the deployment of medical equipment to the impacted area. They further support sheltering and other mass care needs and facilitate the provision of incident-related human services programs, such as food replacement benefits.

The SEOC continues to provide resource support to local jurisdictions and state agencies and to date, has facilitated the deployment of over 150 requested resources. Resources and supplies that have been provided through the SEOC include generators, bulldozers, woodchippers and grinders, chainsaws, diesel and gasoline, deployable communications infrastructure, and mobile oxygen generators and oxygen tanks. The SEOC also maintained points of distribution to dispense fuel to emergency response vehicles and oxygen to medical providers and medically dependent disaster survivors.

Initial estimates for damages and response costs illustrate the magnitude of this emergency. While local and tribal governments are still actively responding to the incident and have not been able to provide comprehensive substantiated cost

estimates, electric utility cooperatives alone estimate their response costs to exceed \$65 million. This does not yet include damages incurred by municipal utilities or private utilities that would not be eligible for federal assistance under the Stafford Act. The State of Michigan estimates that costs for the state response already exceed \$7 million, with over \$2 million in cost for the use of the MING, \$2 million in cost for emergency measures performed by MDOT, and \$1 million for MDNR. Costs for resources procured through the SEOC exceed \$1.5 million.

Several socio-economic indicators for the emergency area indicate that a larger than usual share of disaster survivors will struggle to efficiently recover from this incident. For example, many of the counties included in this request have higher rates of poverty and unemployment than the United States and Michigan as a whole. The population in the impacted area is older with higher rates of disability than the country and state. Many residents rely on retirement or other supplemental income and government assistance programs. The concentration of these populations of increased social vulnerability in the impacted area further illustrates the need for federal assistance.

	<i>Population:</i>	<i>Persons with Income below poverty (last 12 months)</i>	<i>Pre-disaster unemployment rate (of those in the civilian labor force age 16+)</i>	<i>Aged 65 years and older</i>	<i>Non-institutionalized Persons with a disability</i>	<i>governmental assistance: social security</i>	<i>retirement income</i>	<i>governmental assistance: supplemental security income</i>
Data Source	ACS 2023 5-yr. CP02	ACS 2023 5-yr. CP03	ACS 2023 5-yr. CP03	ACS 2023 5-yr. CP05	ACS 2023 5-yr. CP02	ACS 2023 5-yr. CP03	ACS 2023 5-yr. CP03	ACS 2023 5-yr. CP03
United States	332,387,540	12.4%	5.2%	16.8%	13.0%	31.2%	24.2%	5.1%
Michigan	10,051,595	13.1%	5.8%	18.2%	14.2%	34.7%	28.2%	5.7%
Alcona Co.	10,310	14.3%	5.0%	36.2%	23.0%	56.6%	46.5%	7.2%
Alpena Co.	28,908	17.0%	7.1%	24.5%	21.6%	45.5%	35.9%	9.7%
Antrim Co.	23,876	9.4%	4.1%	28.3%	15.9%	44.1%	36.3%	5.4%
Charlevoix Co.	25,778	8.7%	3.8%	26.2%	14.7%	41.3%	33.2%	3.9%
Cheboygan Co.	25,506	12.8%	7.0%	28.4%	19.3%	49.3%	39.8%	5.7%
Crawford Co.	13,271	14.8%	7.2%	26.6%	22.9%	49.3%	38.8%	6.9%
Emmet Co.	34,159	9.3%	3.6%	24.2%	14.0%	39.8%	32.2%	5.5%
Mackinac Co.	10,865	16.9%	9.4%	29.0%	20.2%	46.7%	35.4%	4.9%
Montmorency Co.	9,372	17.9%	6.1%	32.9%	24.5%	53.2%	42.4%	8.3%
Oscoda Co.	8,338	15.8%	8.8%	28.5%	22.3%	53.3%	38.8%	7.3%
Otsego Co.	25,352	9.6%	4.5%	21.7%	16.5%	37.9%	28.7%	4.8%
Presque Isle Co.	13,142	12.2%	6.3%	33.1%	18.9%	53.3%	43.4%	6.7%

Please be advised that the impacted jurisdictions recognize their responsibility to make their communities as disaster resilient as possible. Of the twelve counties included in this request, ten maintain hazard mitigation plans currently approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (counties of Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Cheboygan, Crawford, Mackinac, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle). The two remaining counties (Charlevoix and Emmet) also maintain hazard mitigation plans that have recently been updated and are currently undergoing state and federal review before FEMA approval is obtained.

Despite their commitment to mitigate hazards and our joint efforts related to this specific emergency, our combined local, tribal, state, and voluntary capabilities have been insufficient to respond to the situation. Therefore, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State of Michigan and the affected tribal and local governments, and that federal assistance is critically required to protect public health, safety, and property, and to lessen or avert the threat of more severe and persisting impacts to the community. I am specifically requesting activation of Category A (Debris Removal) and Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) under FEMA's Public Assistance program for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the twelve counties listed in this request.

Extensive and rapid removal of debris (Category A) remains indispensable to the restoration of power and access to critical infrastructure and key facilities across the impacted areas, and to the protection of public health and the environment during the response to this emergency. Efficient management of the exorbitant amounts of debris will also be crucial for allowing residents in the impacted area to return to normal community life during the recovery from this incident. Ongoing emergency protective measures (Category B) also remain critical in the response to this emergency, as sheltering and the provision of life sustaining supplies and commodities is still required.

I certify that for this emergency, the state, tribal, and local governments will assume the applicable non-federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act and have designated Insp. Michele Sosinski of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. She will work with FEMA on the response and recovery program implementation and may provide further information or justification on my behalf. At a later time, I also intend to request that FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) participate in a joint federal, state, tribal, and local Preliminary Damage Assessment of the disaster area in preparation of a potential later request for declaration of a Major Disaster and activation of additional Public and Individual Assistance programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gretchen Whitmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "W".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

Attachments and Enclosures:

Attachment A – Maps

Enclosure C – Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

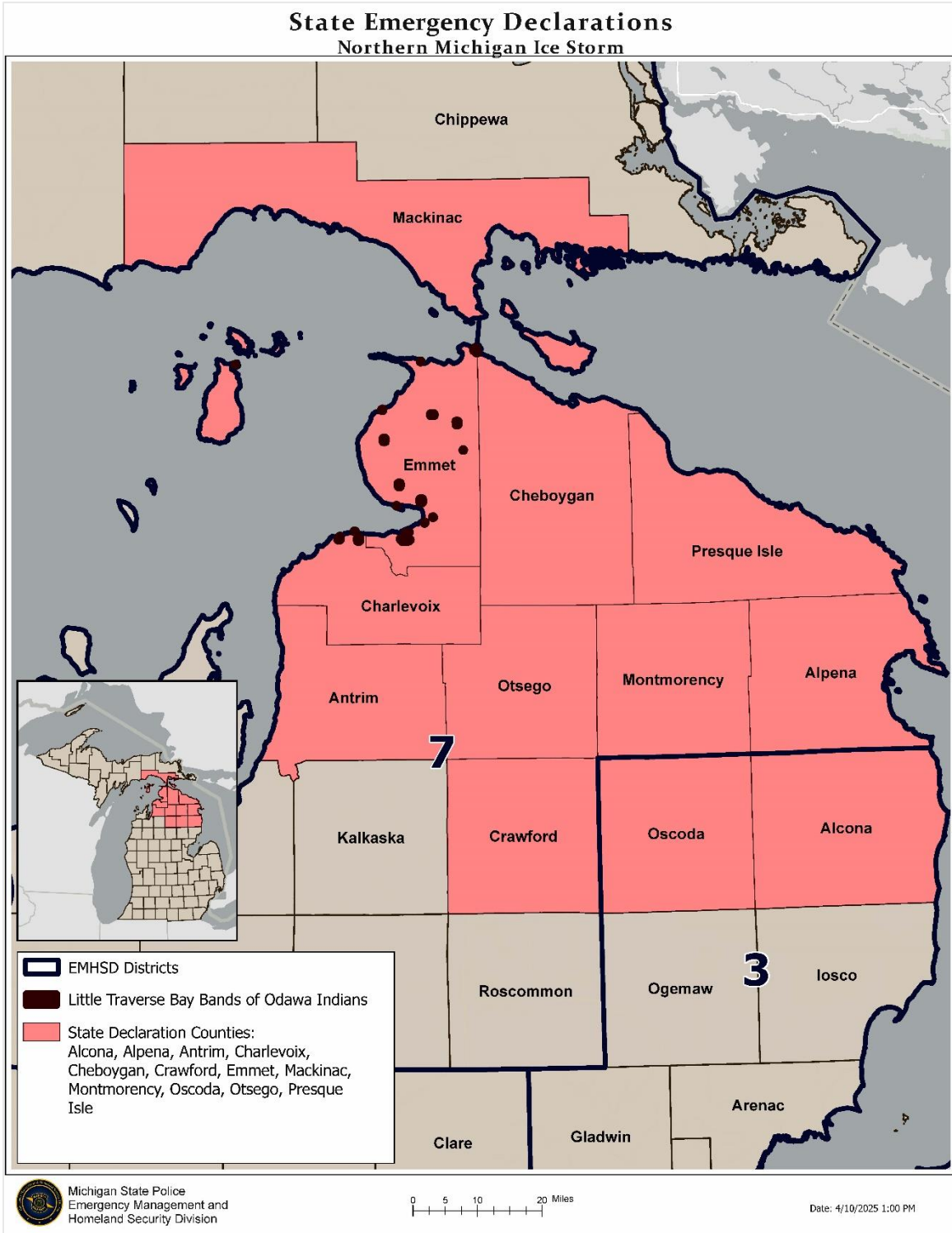
Enclosure D – Historic and Current Snowfall (Not applicable to this request)

(Enclosures A and C are not required for Emergency requests.)

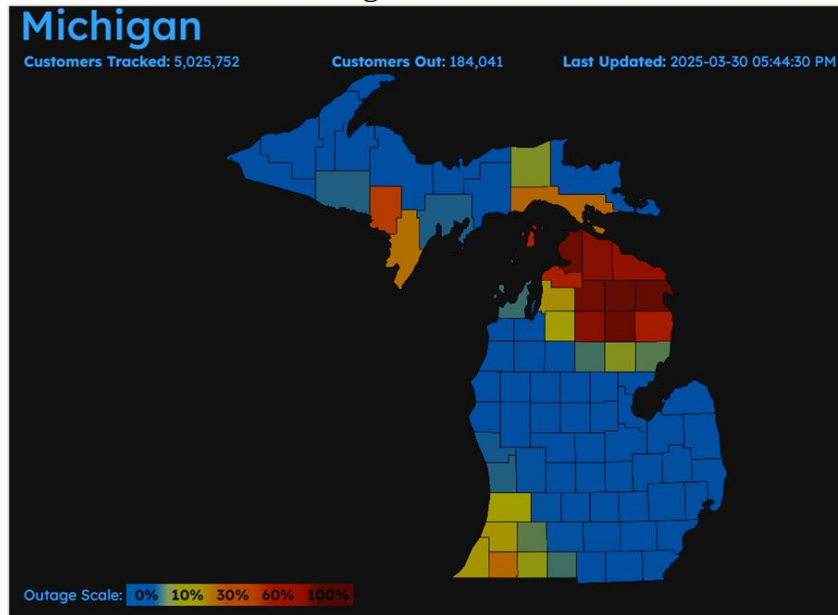
Attachment A - Maps

Governor's State of Emergency Declarations

State Emergency Declarations
Northern Michigan Ice Storm

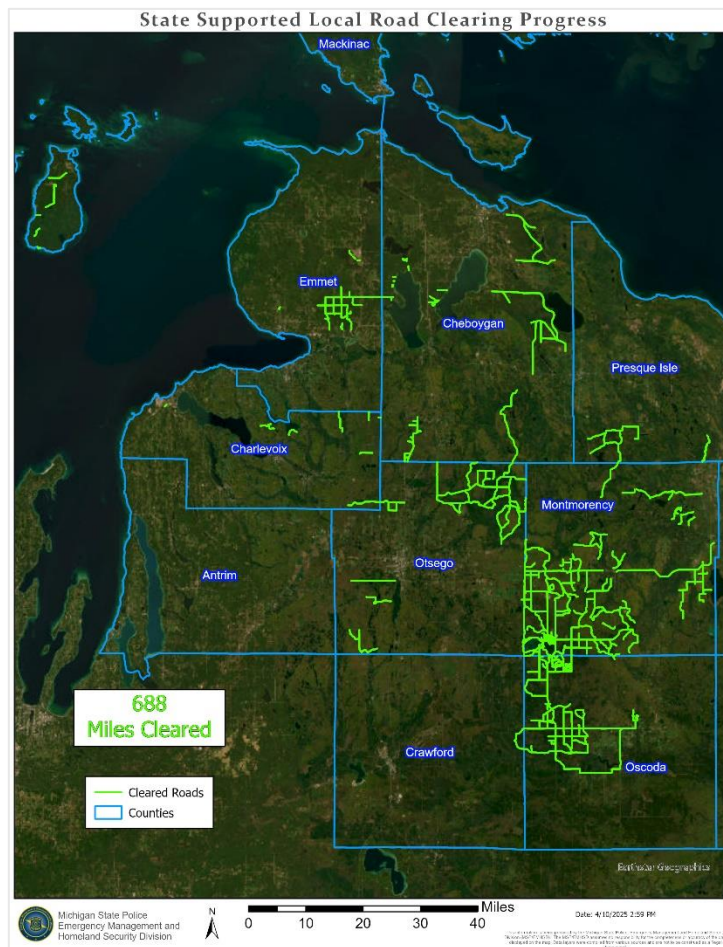


Power Outage Scale for March 30



Source: <https://poweroutage.us/area/state/michigan>, accessed: March 30, 2025, 1800

Local Roads Cleared with State Support



Source: Michigan SEOC GIS Unit

Enclosure C - Estimated Requirements from other Federal Agency Programs

SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	BIA	OTHER
TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Requirements from other Federal Agency Programs are still to be determined.

Enclosure D - Historic and Current Snowfall Data

Not applicable to this request.