



March 27, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Lee K. dePalo  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region VIII  
Denver Federal Center  
Building 710, Box 25267  
Denver, CO 80225-0267

RE: REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION

Dear Mr. President:

Please accept my gratitude on behalf of the State of North Dakota residents for issuing the unprecedented national Emergency Declaration on March 13, 2020, that allowed for the rapid mobilization of federal resources in support of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) response.

Federal assistance is critical for our capability to expand North Dakota's response to the rapidly evolving impacts of COVID-19. Pursuant to 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 CFR §206.36, the State of North Dakota requests a major disaster declaration for the State of North Dakota as a result of COVID-19. We are specifically requesting the implementation of the Public Assistance (PA) program Categories A – G and all available programs allowed through the federal Individual Assistance (IA) program, as well as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for all 53 North Dakota counties, the Spirit Lake Nation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation. Additionally, due to the catastrophic nature of COVID-19, we request the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) waive the requirement to conduct a preliminary damage assessment pursuant to 44 CFR §206.33(d) to expedite the disaster declaration process.

In response to the needs of our citizens, I have issued 13 Executive Orders to date to ensure a high-level of preparedness, response and mitigation by our Whole of Government partners. Executive Order 2020-03 issued March 13, 2020, declared a public health emergency, activated the State Emergency Operations Plan, state agencies and the North Dakota National Guard; implemented appropriate isolation and quarantine measures; and waived permitting and prescribed weight restrictions on vehicles delivering needed supplies. Executive Order 2020-04 on March 15, 2020, closed public and private schools to minimize the risk of disease transmission. Executive Order 2020-05, issued March 19, 2020, suspended certain state statutes and administrative rules for hospitals and healthcare restrictions. The same day, I issued Executive Order 2020-06 limiting restaurants, breweries, cafes and other on-site dining establishments to take-out, delivery, curbside, drive-through and off-sale services. Executive Order 2020-07, issued March 20, 2020, required state agencies to identify provisions hindering delivery of services

while Executive Order 2020-08, issued the same day, allowed for expansion of eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits related to COVID-19.

Additional executive actions include Executive Order 2020-09, dated March 21, 2020, to streamline prescription medication refills and grant pharmacists with authority to administer COVID-19 testing. Executive Order 2020-10 dated March 22, 2020, extended school closure and directed all school districts and non-public schools to develop plans for age-related appropriate distance learning. Executive Order 2020-11, dated March 24, 2020, suspended in-person administrative hearings with the N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and removed load restrictions on state highways. The following day, I issued Executive Order 2020-12 to extend workers' compensation coverage to first responders and healthcare workers who contract COVID-19. Executive Order 2020-13, dated March 26, waives requirements for physical polling locations to provide counties more flexibility with absentee ballot voting. Executive Order 2020-14 expanded the time period for a quarantine order by the State Health Officer to 14 days. On March 27, 2020, I issued Executive Order 2020-06.1, expanding business closures to include elective personal care services, including hair salons, barber shops, manicure and skin care salons, massage facilities and tattoo parlors and Executive Order 2020-15, that provides relief from interest on certain workers compensation premiums and extends certain reporting and contribution deadlines for unemployment insurance. As this disaster unfolds, I will continue to take any action necessary to alleviate suffering of our residents.

### **Pandemic in North Dakota.**

These unparalleled numbers of disaster-related executive orders support an extensive Whole-of- Government approach to mitigate pandemic impacts. State agencies, local and tribal governments and non-governmental organizations have been analyzing COVID-19 international and national trends. Based on our state's population of 762,062, predictive modeling by our planners indicates 152,412 individuals could become infected during an 18-month period. Additionally, planners project 22,341 individuals will require 14-day hospitalizations spanning a total of 313,744 hospital days. At these numbers, our existing healthcare facilities will rapidly exhaust capacity, requiring establishment of Tier 3 minimum care facilities. Individuals identified as close contacts to COVID-19 patients are also impacted by this illness. The range of individually identified close contacts is too broad at this time to effectively calculate the total population impacted; but in reality, all North Dakotans could be affected to some extent.

These analytics support mitigation measures to limit the exposure of our citizens. In consultation with our North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) State Health Officer and the N.D. Department of Public Instruction Superintendent, I closed schools to protect the state's most valued resource in North Dakota, our 125,171 school-aged children, and instructed our educators to develop plans for fragile and special needs students, future continuity of food nutritional programs and alternate learning programs. As this illness impacted more North Dakotans, I extended the school closures indefinitely. These measures soon extended to the general population as I issued an executive order closing all on-site restaurants, limiting sales to take-out, delivery, curbside, drive through and off-sale transactions. This order also directed the closure of recreational facilities, health clubs, athletic facilities and theaters, and instructed state agencies and offices to accelerate the transition of non-essential staff members to a telecommuting environment. On March 19, 2020, I limited access to state facilities and directed the transition of most state team members to work remotely to continue offering services in alternative ways, such as online.

As with other areas of the country, our healthcare and behavioral health workers are at grave risk of exposure to this deadly virus. NDDoH is working in partnership with healthcare organizations to ensure adequate personal protective equipment, fit test training and infection control guidance. We are already experiencing staffing shortages, particularly at our long-term care facilities. The pandemic will only exacerbate the problem and place the lives of patients in jeopardy if their caregivers become ill. In response to the need to backfill front-line workers, I

suspended licensure requirements for healthcare and behavioral healthcare professionals from other states as well as certain licensing requirements for our facilities.

Although these measures have largely mitigated the spread of COVID-19, we expect the numbers to grow as we prepare to address the additional stresses on our lifeline, healthcare and community infrastructure systems. Our Medical Contingency Planning Unit, supported by retired and current employees of NDDDES, the NDDoH and the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG), finalized plans to implement Tier 3 minimum care facilities required for rapid expansion of our healthcare facilities to address the needs of COVID-19 patients. We are requesting planning and potential implementation support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to build these facilities. Because of the potential need for thousands of skilled and unskilled volunteers, we activated our state Workforce Coordination Center (WCC) to match facilities' needs with appropriate volunteers. Additionally, the team is resourcing personal protective equipment and critical assets needed for this unprecedented response.

The Preventive Contingency Planning Unit is working with state, public and private healthcare organizations, the American Association of Retired Persons, the North Dakota Long-Term Care Association, the North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association and private providers to develop strategies to expand capacity for contact tracing, sheltering of homeless individuals, and ensure protection of emergency medical services, 9-1-1 dispatchers and seniors.

Increased public awareness through frequent media conferences by government officials has helped to keep the public up to date on recommendations and restrictions. As methods are developed to inform the public and collect data related to the pandemic, consideration must be given to address those individuals in the state who do not have access to computers and/or broadband services. Currently, 79 percent of the state is served by broadband.

Although essential to our safety, these alterations to our way of life in North Dakota came at a cost. My concern is for our citizens who suffered devastating losses as a result of three disasters in 2019 and are now stressed by the potential health and economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 response. FirstLink, the operator of 2-1-1 services in North Dakota, has seen the number of daily calls nearly double since March 16, 2020. Residents are expressing the need for assistance with obtaining food, making household and utility payments, accessing healthcare, obtaining transportation and receiving mental health support. As this disease advances across our state, I am concerned about the escalating need for behavioral health, mental and emotional care for all citizens and, in particular, our healthcare workers, first responders, government workers, parents, children and seniors. We are requesting implementation of the Crisis Counseling Program and the collaboration of our FEMA partners to help the N.D. Department of Human Services leverage technology to further develop innovative approaches and solutions to meet the behavioral health needs of our citizens.

Our Individual Assistance Program demographics illustrate how North Dakota statistics parallel national averages. With the closure of businesses, I anticipate the numbers of individuals below the poverty level to increase as well as the number of unemployed.

|                      | Average of Persons Below Poverty Level* | Median Household Income* | Percent Elderly* | Percent Disabled* | Percent Pre-Disaster Unemployment (January 2020)** |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| National Average     | <b>11.8%</b>                            | <b>\$60,293</b>          | <b>16%</b>       | <b>8.6%</b>       | <b>3.6%</b>  |
| North Dakota Average | <b>10.7%</b>                            | <b>\$63,473</b>          | <b>15.3%</b>     | <b>7.1%</b>       | <b>2.8%</b>  |

\* US Census Bureau

\*\*Nationwide - Bureau of Labor Statistics; North Dakota - Job Service ND

Each day, we take new initiatives to assist our citizens including extending workers' compensation coverage for first responders and other medical volunteers who may contract COVID-19 while on the job. Nearly 80,000 individuals would qualify under this executive order that will provide our responders and volunteers with wage replacement and medical benefits.

With business grinding to a halt, Job Service North Dakota recorded a 2,500 percent increase in claims as result of both the pandemic and falling oil prices. Oil companies indicate the precipitous drop in oil prices and the pandemic both contribute to decisions to lay off workers. Unemployment claims filed the week of March 15, 2020, became the first indicator of how devastating COVID-19 has been on our job market. A comparison of claims for the previous three years during the same time period indicates 383 claims were filed in 2017, 295 in 2018, and 214 claims in 2019. The number jumped to 5,665 claims in 2020 for the same time period. A large number of employers and workers who are not covered under the normal Unemployment Insurance program are denied benefits because of self-employment. Implementation of the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Program would provide critical funding to these individuals during this unprecedented time. The DUA program would also benefit those claimants who have had a claim prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and have now exhausted their benefits but are unable to return to work due to the pandemic. DUA would provide additional weeks of needed benefits to these individuals. Additionally, with many of our unemployed residents unable to pay rent, the N.D. Supreme Court suspended all residential eviction proceedings.

In response to the crippling economic impacts created by COVID-19, my office has created an Economic Resiliency Team to provide just-in-time information to businesses and employers. On March 25, 2020, I conducted a briefing for business leaders along with leadership from the N.D. Department of Commerce, the N.D. Secretary of State, the N.D. Insurance Department, the N.D. Bankers Association, the Bank of North Dakota, the U.S. Small Business Administration, Job Service North Dakota and the N.D. Workforce Safety and Insurance. Together, we are collaborating on solutions to restore our economy and help our workforce.

### **Whole-of-Community Response.**

Prior to the first report of COVID-19 in our state on March 11, 2020, we initiated operations to prepare for the inevitability of this novel virus reaching North Dakota. NDDoH has been tracking the disease since its emergence in China in December 2019. NDDoH elevated its activation level for its Department Operations Center (DOC) as epidemiologists and infectious disease specialists tracked the progress of the coronavirus across the world. In addition to conducting syndromic surveillance, NDDoH prepared for enacting social distancing, isolation and quarantine measures. NDDoH also leveraged all available media platforms to disseminate protective measures guidance to healthcare organizations, 9-1-1 dispatchers and the public, particularly the most vulnerable populations, including an estimated 114,300 North Dakota seniors. Additionally, the NDDoH team found resources to provide groceries and other assistance for individuals who are self-isolating to protect their families and neighbors. By late February, NDDoH staff readied response resources after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warned state health officers to prepare for wider transmission.

As conditions worsened on the national front, N.D. Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) activated its State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to ensure a coordinated Whole-of- Government approach, led by NDDDES and NDDoH. The NDDoH Division of Disease Control Director implemented risk assessments and monitoring protocols of individuals who had recently traveled internationally from areas adversely impacted by the virus. The agency also activated hotlines to address questions from the public, long-term care facilities and healthcare providers. NDDDES is monitoring impacts to critical lifeline services and coordinating requests from local, tribal and state agencies for

such resources as command trailers, personal protective equipment, National Guard personnel, semi-tractor trailers, planners, public information officers, data analytics, warehouse support, supply delivery drivers, administrative assistance, safety and logistics personnel, ventilators and flights. The Bank of North Dakota issued student loan relief options. The N.D. State and Local Intelligence Center and the N.D. Information Technology staff either received or discovered hundreds of cyber threats. The N.D. Department of Human Services secured Medicaid waivers to implement temporary program changes to accommodate needs created by COVID-19. Job Service North Dakota, Workforce Safety and Insurance, N.D. Department of Labor, N.D. Risk Management Division and N.D. Human Resources Management Services collaborated on development of the Workforce Coordination Center.

On the local and tribal levels, leaders have taken precautions to protect the public, promoting safety measures, closing facilities and taking precautions to protect first responders. Like our citizens, local and tribal leaders are struggling to secure adequate supplies of hand sanitizers and disinfectants. To date, 45 counties, two tribal nations and 17 cities have issued emergency declarations. Local and tribal EOCs have been activated to respond. Examples include: in Cass County, COVID-19 measures and protective measures have readily outpaced preparations required for the threat of widespread overland flooding this spring. Core planning teams in several areas of the state, including Ward County, assesses conditions daily and ensures dissemination of timely guidance to schools, healthcare facilities, businesses and local governments. In Dickey County, an aggressive outbreak of flu stressed responders as they prepared for potential coronavirus cases. As with other facilities in the state, the Towner County nursing home enacted lockdown procedures to limit visitors. In Spirit Lake, leaders are collaborating to ensure unified updates and messages are disseminated to tribal members. Cities like Bismarck in Burleigh County developed strategies to ensure continued essential services for public safety, public health, public works operations, wastewater and waste disposal services.

Our voluntary agency partners, through the N.D. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NDVOAD), have been meeting to assess conditions and discuss strategies for supporting the needs of their communities. The American Red Cross has established protocols if they are required to set up shelters and Lutheran Social Services developed and disseminated literature in multiple languages to help residents take precautions against COVID-19. NDDoH is preparing to mobilize its 1,200 Public Health Emergency Volunteer Reserve/Medical Reserve Corps registrants in case additional staffing is needed.

### **Our Recent Disaster History.**

The federal support activated through the March 13, 2020, national emergency declaration provides much needed relief at a time in our state's history when we are still recuperating from three major disasters which resulted in extensive losses for our agricultural producers and widespread infrastructure damage to our communities.

In calendar year 2019, the State of North Dakota was severely impacted by spring flooding which resulted in approximately \$10,670,000 in damages to public infrastructure. The 2019 spring flood was followed by historic rainfall amounts during late summer and early fall, breaking 125-year-old records, saturating soils, and causing rivers and lakes to begin rising. Then, from October 9 -12, 2019, a severe fall storm generated heavy rain before transitioning to snow containing up to three inches of water content equivalent. Nearly 30 inches of snow blanketed prime farmland and decimated unharvested crops. The State Farm Service Agency determined that our agricultural producers suffered nearly \$423 million in losses for just the one crop in each county with at least 30 percent loss, and billions of dollars in additional crops and livestock values were still left at risk. Since it was still early fall, that October rain/snowstorm rapidly melted and created a late fall flood which damaged nearly \$10 million of public infrastructure . Many of these roads are still inundated this spring in the southern James River basin.

The cost of these major disasters had already depleted emergency fund budgets in numerous counties and cities across central and eastern North Dakota before the current nationwide pandemic began in early 2020. Due to the amount of quarantine efforts required to prevent the spread of COVID-19, local businesses and agricultural producers that represent the tax bases for our communities are being significantly impacted, with many business owners afraid that they will never be able to recover. Losses are expected to grow exponentially as quarantine efforts and emergency protective measures continue in our best efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the risk to human life and safety.

Attachment A, North Dakota Presidential Disaster Declarations 1993 to 2019, lists the state's 37 disaster declarations during the past 26 years, the majority of which have resulted from widespread flooding including the catastrophic flood event of 2011, FEMA-DR-1981. Communities are still recovering eight years later from the event for which federal, state and local costs exceeded \$1 billion.

Thank you for your support during this past year of disasters in North Dakota as residents experienced nearly every potential adverse weather impact. We are indebted to you and your administration for presidential disaster declarations FEMA-DR-4444-ND and FEMA-DR-4475-ND, and then the Secretarial Disaster Designation for 47 of our 53 counties following the aforementioned October precipitation event that culminated in widespread devastation of crops.

### **Building a Resilient North Dakota.**

NDDDES leads a Whole-of-Community approach to building a resilient North Dakota in partnership with 84 public and private organizations. The diverse State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT) ensured the *State of North Dakota Enhanced Mitigation Mission Area Operations Plan (MAOP)* achieved the Enhanced Status designation by FEMA on February 6, 2019. Our partners' commitment has enabled our state to effectively implement Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs to strengthen our communities and reduce the impacts from natural and technological hazards. In 2018, the National Institutes of Building Sciences in its *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2018 Interim Report* estimated every dollar spent on federal mitigation grants saves \$6 in damages. The following year, the PEW Charitable Trust conducted a state-by-state analysis of the benefit of the HMA programs and determined the return on investment amounted to \$6.54 per every dollar spent on mitigation in the State of North Dakota. Based on that estimate, a total of \$160,207,600.25 invested in 202 mitigation construction projects since 1997 has resulted in a savings of \$1,047,757,705.63 in long-term disaster response and recovery costs for our state.

The SHMT's commitment to protect our state's residents also extends to mitigating the impacts of a pandemic. The team's work on the *Enhanced Mitigation MAOP's* infectious disease profile has enhanced our understanding of the disruptive and potentially deadly consequences of pandemics on communities. The team's recommended mitigation actions have proven useful for our state response to COVID-19 as we enact disease and syndromic surveillance, social distancing, isolation and quarantine measures.

We are thankful to FEMA for its long-standing commitment to help our state build resiliency, and we remain committed to utilization of effective mitigation measures whenever possible to help prevent damages to public and private property, as well as save local, state, and federal taxpayer dollars.

### **Conclusion.**

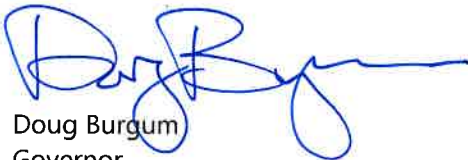
Pursuant to 44 CFR§206.35, I have determined the COVID-19 pandemic response is of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments. For the reasons described in this letter and its supporting documentation, we respectfully request

that you declare a major disaster, with an incident period starting January 20, 2020, and continuing. Our request encompasses implementation of Public Assistance (PA) program Categories A – G, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for all 53 North Dakota counties, the Spirit Lake Nation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation. This request also encompasses all available assistance allowed through the federal Individual Assistance (IA) program to include, but not limited to, the Individuals and Households Program, mass care and emergency assistance, crisis counseling, disaster case management, disaster unemployment assistance, and disaster legal services as well as Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Transitional Sheltering Assistance. I reserve the right to request additional assistance if the need arises. We request FEMA waive the requirement to conduct a preliminary damage assessment pursuant to 44 CFR §206.33(d) to expedite the disaster declaration process. We also request North Dakota be designated as a Public Assistance Managing State, as it has in previous disasters.

I certify for this major disaster that the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shares of costs required by the Stafford Act 93-288. Enclosure A is my certification that the expenditures and obligations will include the non-federal shares of costs required by PL 93-288, as amended. I have designated MG Alan S. Dohrmann and Homeland Security Director Cody Schulz as the State Coordinating Officers (SCO) for this request.

Thank you for your consideration of my request of a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for the State of North Dakota and for your continued support as we recover from an unprecedented series of disasters.

Sincerely,



Doug Burgum  
Governor

Enclosures: Enclosure A: Governor's Certifications  
Attachment A: North Dakota Presidential Disaster Declarations 1993 to 2019

CC: Senator John Hoeven  
Senator Kevin Cramer  
Representative Kelly Armstrong  
MG Alan S. Dohrmann, Director, North Dakota Department of Emergency Services  
Cody Schulz, Director, North Dakota Division of Homeland Security  
Justin Messner, Disaster Recovery Chief, North Dakota Division of Homeland Security





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 Mar 27, 2020

**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.<br><br>State of North Dakota | 2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). <u>672,591</u> |
|---|---|

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name<br>Governor Doug Burgum | 4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number<br>MG Alan S. Dohrmann, Director, N.D. Dept. of Emergency Services, 701-333-2300 |
|--|--|

5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number  
 Cody Schulz, Director, N.D. Division of Homeland Security, 701-328-8256

6. Declaration Request For:  Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401)  Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Jan 20, 2020 End Date \_\_\_\_\_ or  Continuing

*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).*

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

Drought     Earthquake     Explosion     Fire     Flood     Hurricane     Landslide     Mudslide  
 Severe Storm (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning)     Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data)     Straight-Line Winds  
 Tidal Wave     Tornado     Tropical Depression     Tropical Storm     Tsunami     Volcanic Eruption     Winter Storm  
 Other (please specify) Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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.  
 State agencies, local and tribal governments and non-governmental organizations are actively responding to COVID-19. Based on our state's population of 762,062, predictive modeling by our planners indicates 152,412 individuals could become infected during an 18-month period. Additionally, planners project 22,341 individuals will require 14-day hospitalizations, a total of 313,744 hospital days. At these numbers, our existing healthcare facilities will rapidly exhaust capacity, requiring establishment of Tier 1, 2 and 3 minimum care facilities. K-12 schools in the State have been closed, as well as colleges and universities. Public events are being canceled, local businesses have been restricted or are closing, and impacts from this pandemic are going to continue disrupting all sectors of North Dakota, both public and private, for the foreseeable future.

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.  
 North Dakota Governor's Office, N.D. Department of Emergency Services, ND Department of Health, N.D. Department of Environmental Quality, ND Department of Public Instruction, ND Department of Commerce, Bank of North Dakota, N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. Department of Agriculture, NDSU Extension, N.D. Department of Human Services, Job Service North Dakota, Workforce Safety and Insurance, ND Forest Service, and the N.D. National Guard. These efforts were supported by the N.D. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NDVOAD and Lutheran Social Services. Please refer to the Declaration Request cover letter for additional agencies and activities associated with COVID-19.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

Individual Assistance      Dates Performed    **Requested** 3/27/2020      **Start** 1/20/2020      **End** \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
 Preliminary Damage Assessments are impossible to perform at this time due to the increases in cases each day, ongoing life-saving response activities, and due to State and Local resources continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The State of North Dakota is requesting a waiver for the PDA process in accordance with 44 CFR Section 206.33(d).

Public Assistance      Dates Performed    **Requested** 3/27/2020      **Start** 1/20/2020      **End** \_\_\_\_\_

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
 Preliminary Damage Assessments are impossible to perform at this time due to the increases in cases each day, ongoing life-saving response activities, and due to State and Local resources continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The State of North Dakota is requesting a waiver for the PDA process in accordance with 44 CFR Section 206.33(d).

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.  
 Statewide (53 Counties and 4 Tribal Reservations). All Individual Assistance Programs are being requested for: Adams, Barnes, Benson, Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Eddy, Emmons, Foster, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Grant, Griggs, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Sioux, Slope, Stark, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward, Wells, and Williams Counties; and also the Spirit Lake Nation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).  
 Spirit Lake Nation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation.

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.

Adams, Barnes, Benson, Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Eddy, Emmons, Foster, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Grant, Griggs, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Sioux, Slope, Stark, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward, Wells, and Williams Counties; and also the Spirit Lake Nation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).  
Spirit Lake Nation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation.

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:

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

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).

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.

12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date February 5, 2024 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 3/13/2020 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 Attachment A, North Dakota Presidential Disaster Declarations 1993 to 2019

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature  
 Governor, N.D.

3/27/2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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