

# News Highlight

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## USDA Makes Grants Available to Help People in Rural South Dakota Repair Their Homes Damaged By Severe Storms in 2022

This past year South Dakota experienced the power of Mother Nature, first with Derechos that swept across the eastern half of the state in May, followed by severe thunderstorms impacting numerous counties in June, then major snowstorms that devastated communities across the state in December.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared 35 counties and four tribal areas in South Dakota as Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas, or PDDAs.

“This program will help make essential repairs and improvements to homes in affected counties,” said Single Family Housing Program Director Michael Matlin. “These storms affected many communities, so we encourage people to visit [FEMA’s Declared Disaster](#) site to see if they’re in an eligible area. Our Single-Family Housing staff can assist with getting applications submitted for those repairs.”

Low income homeowners may qualify for a grant up to \$40,675 through Rural Development’s [Single Family Housing Rural Disaster Home Repair Grants](#). South Dakota was awarded \$1.5 million to assist homeowners. Applications must be submitted and approved by August 1, 2023, to receive funding. Homeowners are encouraged to apply soon.

“Even if the homeowner already made the necessary repairs, they may be eligible for reimbursement,” said Rural Development State Director Nikki Gronli. “There are certain criteria that may allow residents to recover costs if the damage is from one of these storms.”

If a homeowner resides in an affected area and had damage to their home from one of the declared storms, they should contact Rural Development to discuss their claim.

The five events from 2022 declared as PDDAs are:

- [May 12, 2022, severe storm, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding](#)
- [June 11-14, 2022, severe storm, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding](#)
- [December 12-25, 2022, Rosebud Sioux Tribe severe winter storms and snowstorm](#)
- [December 12-25, 2022, Oglala Sioux Tribe severe winter storms and snowstorm](#)
- [December 12-25, 2022, South Dakota severe winter storms and snowstorm](#)

A list and maps of counties and tribal areas affected can be viewed at

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/media/file/download/rd-sd-rural-disaster-home-repair-grant-program-eligible-south-dakota-counties-4202023.pdf>

Rural Development Single-Family Housing staff recently held a Webinar to answer questions for partners across the state. The Webinar can be viewed at [Rural Development South Dakota Rural Disaster Home Repair Grant Webinar, April 26, 2023 - YouTube](#)

A second Webinar is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2023, at 2pm Central, 1pm Mountain. Register at <https://bit.ly/DisasterRepairGrantsWebinar>.

Homeowners can apply directly through Rural Development. For more information or to apply, send an email to [SFHDirectSD@usda.gov](mailto:SFHDirectSD@usda.gov) or call (605) 352-1100.

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