Menasha Strong Update

Issue 1 | Federal help is open

Tuesday, October 27, 2026. From the City of Menasha.

Federal help is now open to households and businesses affected by the July 27 tornado. Here is where things stand, what is still unknown, and when we expect to know more.

WHAT WE KNOW

A federal major disaster declaration (FEMA DR-4949-WI) was approved on October 7. Homeowners and renters in Winnebago County can apply to FEMA for help with disaster-related needs, including temporary housing, basic home repairs and personal property. FEMA has begun approving help for households.

To apply, first file a claim with your insurance company if you have insurance. Then apply at DisasterAssistance.gov, through the FEMA mobile app, or by calling 800-621-3362. If a FEMA team looked at your home in August, you still need to apply. That visit was not an application.

FEMA has opened a Disaster Recovery Center at the Fox Cities Campus - Engineering Building, 1655 University Drive in Menasha. You can get help applying in person, learn about the types of assistance available and get updates on your application. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 AM to 5 PM, Tuesday and Thursday 11 AM to 7 PM, and Saturday 9 AM to 1 PM. The center is closed Sundays. Check fema.gov/disaster/4949 for current hours.

Low-interest SBA disaster loans are open to homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofits. Learn more at sba.gov/disaster. Some nonprofits need to apply to SBA before FEMA will consider them.

If you lost work because of the storm and don't qualify for regular unemployment, you may qualify for Disaster Unemployment Assistance through the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Apply for regular unemployment first.

> **The deadline for FEMA, SBA damage loans and disaster unemployment is December 7, 2026.** Apply as soon as you can.

The IRS has also moved federal tax deadlines to February 1, 2027 for people and businesses in the affected counties. This happens automatically.

FEMA also runs Public Assistance, which helps local governments, schools and nonprofits pay for emergency work and repairs to public facilities. FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management briefed those organizations on October 20. That briefing was not for

individual residents. Nonprofits with damaged facilities can contact Winnebago County Emergency Management.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW YET

- How much the City will receive for public repairs. FEMA has not approved that funding yet.
- Whether FEMA will add its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which funds projects that reduce risk from future storms.

WHEN WE'LL KNOW MORE

We will share each of these as soon as FEMA or the State confirms it. FEMA posts approved funding at fema.gov/disaster/4949. Questions about applying are best answered by FEMA at 800-621-3362.

THE RECOVERY PLAN

The Menasha Strong survey helps shape the City's recovery plan. Over 600 people have responded so far. Thank you. The survey is not an application for aid. It is open through October 29, and the first public open house is October 29, 5 to 8 PM, at Menasha City Hall, 100 Main St. We'll share what we heard by mid-November.

Need help now?	Answers to common questions and a guide to local help are at menasha-strong.org.
Get these updates by email	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/79T39S9
Questions about the plan	Andrew Dane, Community Development Director, (920) 967-3651
Next update	Mid-November, with what we heard from the survey and the open house