



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

COL. JOSEPH M. GASPER
DIRECTOR

July 2, 2019

Mr. David Hodges, CEO
Ionia County Board of Commissioners
101 W. Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846

Dear Mr. Hodges:

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 21, 2019, requesting financial assistance from the Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund. In your request, you indicated that local resources were insufficient to respond to and recovery from the extreme ice jam and flash flooding which resulted in a State of Emergency Declaration from Governor Whitmer under the provisions of Public Act 390 of 1976, as amended, on February 13, 2019.

A State of Disaster or Emergency Declaration under Act 390 is primarily designed to provide state assistance in the form of personnel, supplies, equipment, and materials when the situation is beyond the capability and control of local government. In this case, the outstanding efforts of Ionia County in meeting the immediate threats to public health, safety, and property, and in addressing the basic needs of the affected residents, meant that only minimal state resources were required to augment the efforts of county relief efforts.

Under extraordinary circumstances, upon the declaration of a State of Disaster or Emergency under Act 390, the Governor may provide state financial assistance to a county or municipality under Section 30.419 of the Act (Section 19) when federal assistance is not available. However, this is only if the fiscal demands upon the county or municipality in coping with the disaster or emergency are unreasonably great and there is a demonstrated exhaustion of local effort. Section 19 assistance is limited to reimbursement for public damage and direct loss resulting from the disaster or emergency and cannot be applied to private damage incurred by home or business owners.

Information provided from Ionia County indicated that the total estimated eligible costs incurred were approximately \$105,316. Following a review of the affected jurisdictions audited financials on the Michigan Department of Treasury website, specifically the general revenue, a determination on your request has been reached. Although the county and local jurisdictions incurred expenses in responding to and recovering from these events, the local commitment did not place unreasonably great demands upon the county or clearly demonstrate exhaustion of local effort. In fact, the county's efforts were commendable and clearly demonstrated the strength and resiliency of local agencies in addressing public health and safety threats. Accordingly, the State has concluded that supplemental funding under Section 19 of Act 390 is not warranted at this time.

The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division will continue to work together with Ionia County on long-term recovery issues. I again thank you for your commitment to protecting life, health, and property.

Sincerely,

Capt. Emmitt McGowan, Commander
Deputy State Director, Emergency Management
and Homeland Security Division

cc:
Mr. Mark Totten, Executive Office
Col. Joe Gasper, Michigan Department of State Police
Lt. Col. W. Thomas Sands, Michigan Department of State Police
Sgt. William Hoskins, Ionia County Emergency Management Coordinator
Lt. Orville Theaker, Sixth District Coordinator, Michigan Department of State Police