



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

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Governor Rell: State Appealing Denied Request for Individual Storm Aid

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that President Obama has denied the state's request for individual aid to homeowners, renters and employers affected by severe storms and flooding in March. Governor Rell said she has immediately started gathering information to file a formal appeal.

"The storms that battered our state last month left a trail of astonishing devastation in their wake – crushed cars, homes struck by trees, week-long power outages and staggering flooding," Governor Rell said. "People and businesses all across Connecticut were left with millions of dollars in damage. They need help.

"This decision is not only disappointing – it's wrong, and I will appeal it," the Governor said. "I have directed our state emergency management officials to immediately gather whatever information may be needed to further support our application for assistance. I will also work with our Congressional delegation and with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue pursuing this matter until all avenues for aid are exhausted."

President Obama on Friday approved Governor Rell's request for a "major disaster declaration" in response to severe storms that struck on March 12-14 and March 29-31. The declaration allowed financial assistance to the state and municipal governments in three counties: Fairfield, Middlesex and New London.

However, the President today denied broader request for federal aid to affected individuals in those three declared counties as well as New Haven and Windham counties, despite surveys that identified a total of 1,315 homes in the five counties with damages totaling \$5,262,100 in estimated housing assistance needs and Other Needs Assistance. The Small Business Administration determined that 116 businesses were affected and estimated the damages at \$5,359,250.

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