

Ontario Ice Storm Assistance Program

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Ontario is helping municipalities and conservation authorities affected by the December 2013 ice storm by implementing the Ice Storm Assistance Program. Program eligibility depends on detailed record-keeping of incremental ice storm costs. Applicants will be required to demonstrate that claims are ice damage related and in excess of regular operating budgets in order to be eligible for assistance.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Release of Program Guidelines (May 2014)

- Detailed guidelines, instructions, expression of interest forms and claim forms will be distributed to municipalities and conservation authorities within potentially affected areas.
- Support will be made available to respond to technical and general program questions.
- Please wait to receive these materials before submitting an expression of interest.

Deadline for Expression of Interest Submissions (June 16, 2014)

- All applicants must submit an expression of interest with evidence to support ice damage (e.g. media reports, photos, reports submitted to council outlining response, evidence of power outages, weather data, etc.) and estimates of ice storm costs incremental to regular budgets.
- Municipal applicants that did not previously submit a resolution seeking assistance through the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program (ODRAP) must submit a resolution from council seeking provincial assistance for the ice storm.
- As part of the expression of interest, municipalities will be requested to confirm that authority is delegated to the treasurer to submit claims on behalf of the municipality.
- The Province will review all expressions of interest to determine whether the applicant was impacted by ice and is eligible to submit a claim for assistance under the program.

Deadline for Claim Submissions (August 31, 2014)

- All claims must be verified and signed by the municipal treasurer or chief financial officer of the conservation authority, and supported with complete and detailed documentation including copies of invoices, overtime sheets and other materials.
- More details about supporting documentation will be provided in program guidelines that will be released in May 2014.



DECEMBER 2013 ICE STORM FACTS

- The December 2013 storm is the most widespread and costly ice-related disaster since the storm of 1998 that hit eastern Ontario.
- At the peak of the storm, approximately 830,000 Ontarians were without power.
- Ice build-up damaged trees, caused power outages and resulted in transportation network problems.

NEXT STEPS FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

When preparing an expression of interest or a claim submission, applicants should:

- Review and adhere to program guidelines that will be released in May 2014. Applicants should not submit an expression of interest until they have reviewed all program guidelines and forms.
- Ensure that your municipality passes a council resolution seeking provincial assistance for the ice storm. If an ODRAP resolution was already passed, it will be accepted for this program. Municipalities that want to apply, but have not passed a resolution, must pass a council resolution before seeking funding under the Ice Storm Assistance Program and submit that resolution with the expression of interest.
- Ensure that your council delegates authority to your municipal treasurer to submit claims on behalf of the municipality.
- Maintain detailed documentation to prove eligible costs, including tracking ice storm costs separately from normal operating costs in your financial system. Expenses can be incurred until June 22, 2014 to be considered eligible – that is 6 months after the ice storm.
- Retain all documentation on ice storm costs including invoices and overtime sheets, and ensure that documents are marked as ice storm-related.

OVERVIEW OF ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS

The list below provides examples of types of eligible and ineligible costs under the Ice Storm Assistance Program. The list is not exhaustive. All applicants should refer to the program guidelines that will be available in May 2014 for more detailed information.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Incremental costs of immediate emergency response, such as setting up warming centres. ✓ Clean-up of debris including fallen trees and broken branches on roads, sidewalks and frequently travelled routes to protect public health and safety. ✓ Incremental costs incurred to provide the essential services, equipment, material and labour required to sustain the operability of public infrastructure. ✓ Incremental costs of staff for overtime work and for temporary contract staff to manage ice storm response and clean-up. ✓ Repairs or replacement to pre-disaster condition of municipal and conservation authority infrastructure and related equipment damaged as a result of the ice storm. ✓ Incremental costs of appraising and estimating damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Regular public sector salaries. ✗ Normal operating expenses, including maintenance budgets of those involved in the response. ✗ Emergency service costs related to routine incident management functions, as opposed to incremental costs of responding to broader disaster consequences. ✗ Tree replacement or tree canopy restoration. ✗ Costs of restoring or replacing items that were insured or insurable. Under the program, “insurable” means that insurance coverage for a specific hazard for the municipality or conservation authority was available in the area at reasonable cost. ✗ Loss of income, wages, profits and/or revenue, loss of opportunity or inconvenience. ✗ Costs incurred by local electricity distribution companies.

If you have questions on the Ice Storm Assistance Program, please contact your local [Municipal Services Office](#) for more information.