

HURRICANE FIONA SUPPLEMENTAL RELIEF PROGRAM

Program Guidelines

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Hurricane Fiona Supplemental Relief Program provides financial assistance to Nova Scotia registered farms to recover from the damage caused by Hurricane Fiona in 2022. This program is presented with the assistance of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and aims to fill funding gaps that were not eligible for other disaster-relief programs.

The program will fund **up to 75% of eligible expenses** not already covered in the following categories:

- Infrastructure repair or replacement
- Greenhouse replacement
- Generator purchases and operation
- Debris removal
- Product lost in storage that is not insurable
- Livestock, feed, and fencing

Successful applicants will be required to demonstrate commitment for the remaining 25% of eligible expenses. Final claims for expenses must be submitted to Perennia by March 31st, 2025.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15th, 2024. FUNDING WILL BE SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION EARLY.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FARMS

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM, FARMS MUST FULFILL THESE CRITERIA:

- The applicant must be at least 19 years of age and able to enter a legal contract
- The business must have been a registered farm at the time of Hurricane Fiona; if not currently registered, farms must re-register before funding will be delivered
- The applicant is the owner of the property where the damage occurred or a verifiable lease agreement exists between the applicant and the owner of the property
- The business must be located within the areas impacted by Hurricane Fiona: Hants, Colchester, Cumberland, Antigonish, Pictou, Halifax, and Guysborough counties, and all of Cape Breton Island. Businesses near but outside these boundaries may be eligible if they can demonstrate that the losses were the result of Hurricane Fiona.
- The business must either:
 - » Have a gross annual business income under \$10,000, or
 - » Have a gross annual business income over \$2,000,000, or
 - » Have a gross annual business income between \$10,000 and \$2,000,000 if:
 - ▶ The business has more than 20 full-time-equivalent employees, or
 - ▶ The business has an ownership structure where no single entity owns more than 50% of the business

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Damages must have occurred on September 23rd or 24th, 2022.

Note that only expenses required to return the business to pre-Fiona conditions are eligible.

Repair and replacement work may be completed, ongoing, or yet to be started, and materials may be already purchased or not.

Expenses already covered by insurance, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) Fiona Agriculture Disaster Assistance Program (FADA), the NSDA FADA Greenhouse Replacement Program, Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) or other assistance programs, are not eligible.

Expenses covered by insurance plans are not eligible, whether the applicant is insured or not.

EXPENSE CLAIMS MUST BE SUPPORTED BY DOCUMENTATION SUCH AS:

- Invoices and receipts
- Quotes or estimates for work not yet completed
- Work plans
- Photos or videos of damaged structures
- Photos or videos of structures prior to damage
- Records of insurance payments
- Records of any other disaster-relief funding received
- Records of loss or disposal of products or livestock

STREAM 1: INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

- Repair or replacement of existing agricultural buildings
- Silos and grain tanks
- Farm machinery
- Feeding systems
- Refrigerated or cold storage
- Crop infrastructure
- Structures found to be poorly maintained or abandoned prior to Fiona may be ineligible
- Structures must be repaired or replaced on the same site as the previous structure
- Other expenses to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

STREAM 2: GREENHOUSE REPLACEMENT

- Repairs or replacement of existing greenhouse structures destroyed or damaged
- Greenhouse coverings
- Heating, ventilation, electrical, plumbing, anchoring, and irrigation systems
- Greenhouses found to be poorly maintained or abandoned prior to Fiona may be ineligible
- Greenhouses must be repaired or replaced on the same site as the previous structure
- Other expenses to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

STREAM 3: GENERATOR PURCHASES AND OPERATION

- Generators purchased to replace those damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Fiona or burned out due to continual long-term operation, and fuel costs for generators
- Must be purchased during or immediately after Hurricane Fiona
- Other expenses to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

STREAM 4: DEBRIS REMOVAL

- Labour costs and equipment rental to clean up downed trees and to remove damaged or destroyed farm structures
- Labour can be provided by the business ("in-kind") or hired
- In-kind labour will be funded at minimum wage
- Other expenses to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

STREAM 5: PRODUCT LOST IN STORAGE THAT IS NOT INSURABLE

- Production cost of agricultural product lost or spoiled due to power failure or damage or destruction of storage structures, and product stored in the field (such as wrapped hay)
- Includes product intended for processing, retail, or direct sales
- Product found to be improperly stored prior to Fiona may be ineligible
- Other expenses to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

STREAM 6: LIVESTOCK, FEED, AND FENCING

- Animal death and veterinary fees
- Rental of alternative facilities or pasture for animals displaced due to Fiona
- Replacement of damaged stored feed
- Extraordinary costs to provide water to animals
- Deadstock removal for animals killed or injured by Fiona
- Feed purchased to replace unharvested crop
- Repair and replacement costs for fencing
- Other expenses to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

INELIGIBLE COSTS

- New construction or infrastructure that does not replace existing structures damaged or destroyed by Fiona
- Any “Build Back Better” projects designed to replace damaged or destroyed infrastructure with better or upgraded structures
- Cannabis and hemp operations
- Equine operations except forage production and livestock for sale
- Infrastructure or equipment not directly used for agriculture or processing
- Energy sources to operate irrigation systems
- Income support
- Normal business operational costs
- Costs related to normal commercial expansion
- Refundable portion of the GST/HST, value-added taxes, or other items for which a refund or rebate is receivable
- Lost revenue
- Other costs that program staff deem ineligible

PROCEDURE

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete the Hurricane Fiona Supplemental Relief Program application form
2. Collect the supporting documentation:
 - Proof of farm registration effective September 23/24, 2022 and current registration
If your farm is not currently registered, please include proof of registration at the time of Hurricane Fiona, and proceed with re-registering with NSDA.
 - Proof of farm income for 2022 or 2023 (tax form T2042, T1273, or Schedule 125 – Farm Revenue: detailing sales by commodity revenue code)
 - Supporting documentation for expenses
 - Proof of any funding received from other sources
3. Send the completed form and supporting documentation to one of the following:
 - By email: programs@perennia.ca
 - By fax: (902) 678-7266
 - By mail or in person: 6-28 Aberdeen Street, Kentville, Nova Scotia B4N 2N1
or
173 Dr Bernie MacDonald Drive, Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2H5

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15th, 2024

Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and applicants will be notified by email whether they are eligible to receive funding. Eligible applicants' cost claims will then be assessed. Perennia may contact these applicants for further information.

All eligible cost claims will be reviewed by a committee consisting of Perennia and NSDA members, and applicants will be notified of the results of the review. Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Approval detailing the funds approved.

All approvals of expenses will be at the discretion of the review committee.

Applicants are advised that funding received through this program is considered taxable income, and income tax forms will be issued.

ARM'S LENGTH TRANSACTIONS

Program funding will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that involve a supplier/service provider with an arm's-length relationship to the applicant for approved projects. Arm's length is defined as individuals who are NOT connected by blood relationship, marriage, common-law partnership, or adoption.

REDRESS

In the case where an application has been denied, a formal letter of declination will be sent to each applicant who has been declined funding, providing the reason for declination. If additional relevant information is provided by the applicant, Perennia reserves the right to formally re-evaluate the application. If following a re-evaluation, the application is still deemed to not meet the FSRP's criteria, the applicant will be notified again, including the reasons for declination. The applicant will also be made aware that this in no way hinders their right to re-apply to the FSRP in the future and will be invited to do so.

AUTHORITY

The review committee shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information. The submission of an application creates no obligation on the part of Perennia to provide funding for the proposed project.

EVALUATION AND AUDIT

Successful applicants must complete their project and submit their final claim by March 31st, 2025.

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by Perennia, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (as a funder) and/or Government of Canada (as a funder) or other parties chosen for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining assistance. This review and evaluation process may be conducted prior to project commencement, during work or upon project completion.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the Program. This specific information is deemed to be public information. Perennia may provide any information from an applicant to another public body or a law-enforcement agency in Canada to assist in an investigation, undertaken with a view to a law-enforcement proceeding or from which a law-enforcement proceeding is likely to result. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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