



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

September 20, 2018

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Tim Scott
The Honorable Mark Sanford
The Honorable Joe Wilson
The Honorable Jeff Duncan

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
The Honorable Ralph Norman
The Honorable James E. Clyburn
The Honorable Tom Rice

To the Members of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation:

As you know, for two and a half days Hurricane Florence slowly crept across North and South Carolina - battering our coast with hurricane force winds, storm surge, and massive amounts of rainfall. Deadly localized flash flooding washed out roads and bridges, submerged homes, and left residents stranded from Chesterfield all the way to Horry County.

The rainfall and flooding in North Carolina is sending unheard of amounts of water into South Carolina along the Lynches, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers. The damage in the northeastern part of our state will be catastrophic, surpassing anything recorded in modern history.

I have asked President Trump to authorize federal disaster recovery funds in Public Assistance Categories A, B, C, D, E, F & G - as well Individual Assistance for 23 South Carolina counties through the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"). They are: Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter, Williamsburg, and York counties.

Public Assistance in these categories can include funding to support repairs for public assets, such as roads and bridges; water control facilities; building and equipment replacement; restoration and repairs to utilities; and public parks and beaches. Individual Assistance can be granted to persons for temporary housing, home repairs for individuals, dollars towards home replacement, and some other necessary needs.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) along with the state Disaster Recovery Office (SCDRO), have provided preliminary financial impact and federal recovery fund estimates for Hurricane Florence in anticipation of actual on the ground damage assessments. These estimates are based primarily on information from Hurricane Matthew and incorporating various other planning factors and estimates. I have attached these estimates for your review.

Hurricane Florence - \$1,228,000,000

Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (\$540 million) - Disaster Relief Fund (\$300 million) - Federal Highway Administration (\$18 million) - Agriculture (\$125 million) - Small Business Administration (\$80 million) - National Flood Insurance Program (\$165 million)

On behalf of all South Carolinians that were affected by Hurricane Florence, I ask that you support the federal disaster recovery requests made by the state, our counties and municipalities.

Thank you for considering this very important request. Should you have any questions or concerns, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours very truly,



Henry McMaster

HM/tw

cc: South Carolina Constitutional Officers
South Carolina General Assembly



South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office

Recovery Operations Center
632 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

September 19, 2018

The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster,

Subject: Estimate for Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant funds associated with Hurricane Florence

This analysis is based upon the 19 September 2018 SCEMD Hurricane Florence Disaster Intelligence ASCOPE and upon the proposition/planning assumption that the state suffered substantial damage from Hurricane Florence, and that multiple rivers throughout the State have already, or will obtain Moderate, Major, and Record flood stages causing damage to both homes and infrastructure. This assumes that flooding will impact the entire watershed and numerous tributaries throughout the watershed. Finally, it assumes up to 23 counties in South Carolina will be Presidentially Declared Disasters for both FEMA Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. Critical to CDBG-DR estimates is the Individual Assistance declaration.

Based upon the Disaster Intelligence summary, the following South Carolina Counties have already, or will experience, Hurricane Florence damage from either the Hurricane itself or subsequent flooding and could potentially be declared: Horry, Dillon, Marion, Marlboro, Darlington, Chesterfield, Lancaster, York, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter, Florence, Clarendon, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Union, Fairfield, Newberry, Orangeburg, and Berkeley. Many of the above have one or more of the following rivers flowing through their counties: Waccamaw, Lumber, Rocky River, Little Pee Dee, Lynches, Black Creek, Black River, Great Pee Dee, Catawba, Wateree, and Santee. Each of these rivers have multiple tributaries and streams associated with the river.

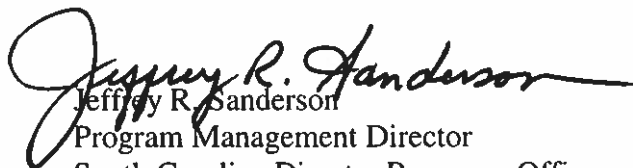
Three interrelated factors make up this analysis and form the basis for this estimate. First, Social Vulnerability Indexing which generally shows communities that have high portions of the population which do not have the means to recover themselves and are vulnerable to disaster impacts. Second, counties which have been previously declared by either Severe Storm 2015 or Hurricane Matthew 2016, or both, and are continuing to recover from those previous disasters. Repeated disaster events have significant and lasting impacts upon populations, communities, and counties. Finally, the number of major rivers and tributaries, which traverse these counties, which either have, or are predicted to be, in Moderate, Major, or Record flood stage.

Given these planning assumptions and above analysis, the best estimate for future CDBG-DR funds is \$540 Million Dollars. Based upon early reporting, we believe the counties in the northeastern corridor will have substantial damage. This estimate is a snapshot in time and based upon the best available information. This estimate could increase or decrease. It is noteworthy that South Carolina has experienced 4 natural disasters within the last 4 years. Severe Storm in 2015 (Hurricane Joaquin), Hurricane Matthew in 2016, mobilization but no Individual Assistance declaration for Hurricane Irma in 2017, and now Hurricane Florence in 2018. These natural disasters have produced a drastic impact upon numerous communities throughout rural South Carolina.

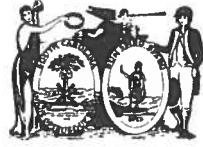
CDBG-DR grants are the Disaster funding of last resort, and can be used in broad categories for housing, infrastructure, and economic development, which meet the HUD National objectives associated with elimination of blight and slum, urgent need, and benefit for low to moderate income citizens. Many Low to Moderate income citizens have been impacted by this disaster. The State of South Carolina, as well as local jurisdictions within the State have received CDBG-DR funding in the past specifically in response to Severe Storm (Hurricane Joaquin) 2015 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016. South Carolina has an exceptional track record with the wise use of these funds.

Regards,

JR


Jeffrey R. Sanderson
Program Management Director
South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office
Department of Commerce

**The State of South Carolina
Military Department**



OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

ROBERT E. LIVINGSTON, JR.
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

September 19, 2018

The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

Below are the revised preliminary estimates of Hurricane Florence financial impacts based primarily in information from Hurricane Matthew and incorporating planning factors and estimates from the 2015 flood.

- Disaster Relief Fund – (state and local costs only): \$300 million
- Federal Highways Administration: \$18 million
- Agriculture: \$125 million
- National Flood Insurance Program: \$165 million
- Small Business Administration: \$80 million
- Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery: \$540 million

The number of \$1,228,000,000 represents a very early estimate of losses. These numbers are based in recent experience with large scale disaster events impacting South Carolina. The estimates for disaster recovery expenses will fluctuate for months and years following the response to Hurricane Florence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Stenson".

Kim Stenson
Director