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Disaster Assistance Tops \$53 Million for Hurricane Survivors in South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Thursday, Nov. 10) — One month after the federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Matthew, the amount of federal assistance to help South Carolina recover has climbed to **\$53 million**.

That **\$53 million** total includes:

- More than **\$28.5 million** in disaster grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for homeowners and renters.
- More than **\$12.2 million** in low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for businesses of all sizes (including landlords), private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters.
- More than **\$12.2 million** in flood insurance payments from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

While progress continues, here's a look at recovery highlights to date:

- More than **39,000** households have applied for disaster assistance from FEMA. The declaration now designates **24** counties for Individual Assistance: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter and Williamsburg.
- Disaster assistance from FEMA includes **\$23.9 million** in Housing Assistance grants and **\$4.6 million** in Other Needs Assistance, including grants for the replacement of flood-damaged vehicles and reimbursements for serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance. The incident covers damage incurred between Oct. 4 and Oct. 31, 2016.
- The SBA has approved **349** low-interest disaster loans, totaling **\$12.2 million**. Disaster loans help fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. SBA has approved **341** home loans, **2** business loans and **6** Economic Injury Disaster Loans, which help small businesses and private-nonprofits with working capital needs as a direct result of the disaster.

- The SBA has opened **3** Business Recovery Centers to enable storm-impacted businesses to meet individually with SBA representatives and find out how a low-interest disaster loan can help them recover. Additionally, SBA has staff at all Disaster Recovery Centers to provide one-on-one assistance.
- FEMA-contracted housing inspectors have completed more than **26,000** inspections of disaster-damaged properties to verify damage.
- In support of the State of South Carolina, **196** Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) personnel have been canvassing storm-damaged neighborhoods. In the first 30 days of recovery operations, DSA teams have visited more than **28,000** homes and spoken with **18,000** people. Team members are equipped to register survivors with FEMA and answer their questions about disaster assistance.
- The NFIP, which is administered by FEMA, has paid out partial and advanced payments totaling **\$12.2 million** to **6,335** policyholders.
- The State and FEMA have opened **16** Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) to serve survivors. The centers report **3,830** visitors to date. More DRCs will open and close according to community need and visitor demand.

The federal disaster declaration on Oct. 11, 2016, also made FEMA Public Assistance—help for hard-hit communities—available in **26** South Carolina counties: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter and Williamsburg.

Public Assistance grants reimburse local, state and tribal governments and certain nonprofit organizations for 75 percent of their disaster-related expenses, including emergency protective measures, debris removal, and infrastructure repair and replacement.

Although the millions of dollars in Public Assistance go to government entities and nonprofits, Public Assistance benefits everyone—communities, cities and states. The monies help pay for efforts to keep people and property safe, clean up disaster-related debris, and put roads, utilities and public works back in order after the disaster.

Federal funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide. For Individual Assistance, survivors can apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by phone at **800-621-3362** (voice, 711 or relay service) or **800-462-7585** (TTY). The toll-free lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice. Multilingual operators are available.

Survivors who have questions about their flood insurance policies and coverage should contact the NFIP call center at **800-621-3362 (Option 2)** between **9 a.m. and 7 p.m.** Monday through Friday. Specialists can help with service claims, provide general information regarding policies and offer technical assistance to aid in recovery.

FEMA mitigation specialists are also available at DRCs to provide literature to survivors on NFIP and guidance on cost-effective rebuilding and repair techniques to make homes more flood- and wind-resistant.

For more information about SBA loans, call SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955**, email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visit <http://www.sba.gov/disaster>. TTY users may call **800-877-8339**. Applicants may also apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

To find a complete list of DRC locations and hours, download the free FEMA app to your mobile device or visit asd.fema.gov/inter/locator. DRCs are accessible to people with disabilities. The centers have magnifiers, tools to amplify sound, materials in alternative formats, and video remote interpretation. Sign language interpreters are available upon request. For more information about the disaster recovery operation, please visit fema.gov/disaster/4286 or the South Carolina Emergency Management Division at scemd.org/recovery-section/ia.

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All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status, or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). If you have a speech disability or hearing loss and use a TTY, call 800-462-7585 directly; if you use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 800-621-3362.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/femaregion4> and the FEMA Blog at <http://blog.fema.gov>.

The SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling 800-659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call 800-877-8339.