

## APPENDIX 6

### (SOUTH CAROLINA RECOVERY PLAN)

#### TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

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#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Recovery spans a continuum that starts with activities to restore vital life - support systems to at least minimum operating standards and extends through the rebuilding and redevelopment process, which can take years. Longer - term activities focus on efforts to restore communities and improve resilience by incorporating the principles of hazard mitigation
- B. Recovery occurs over an extended period of time that can be divided into phases of activity. The National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) identifies three phases of recovery: short - term, intermediate, and long - term.
- C. The South Carolina Recovery Plan incorporates State agencies, local governments, and volunteer organizations to ensure timely recovery from emergencies affecting the State of South Carolina.
- D. The State of South Carolina Recovery Plan is appendix six to the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan (SCEOP).
- E. This plan is predicated upon the concept that response and recovery operations begin and end at the local government level.

#### **II. PURPOSE**

- A. Provides a framework for recovery operations in South Carolina and the coordination of recovery themes, as outlined in the National Disaster Recovery Framework and adapted by the State for implementation.
- B. Outlines a broad series of activities, organized according to the NDRF, undertaken by State and Local emergency management personnel and stakeholders.

#### **III. SCOPE**

- A. Recovery support may vary depending on the magnitude and type of incident and available resources over the course of the recovery period.
- B. Short-Term Recovery is immediate and overlaps with the response phase.

It includes such actions as providing essential public health and safety services, restoring interrupted utility and other essential services, reestablishing transportation routes, and providing food and shelter for those displaced by a disaster.

- C. Long-Term Recovery actions enable communities to begin the process of rebuilding homes, replacing property, resuming employment, restoring businesses, and permanently repairing, rebuilding, or relocating public infrastructure.
- D. Mitigation activities reduce losses to life, property, infrastructure, and resources resulting from future occurrences of natural or human-caused disasters.

#### **IV. ASSUMPTIONS**

- A. Incidents may require long-term recovery and individual and family assistance activities.
- B. Incidents may result in significant short-term and long-term economic impact.
- C. A catastrophic emergency or disaster may overwhelm the capabilities of the State and its political subdivisions to provide prompt and effective relief and recovery measures.
- D. Federal assistance may be constrained based on the magnitude and scope of disaster.
- E. Deviation from the operational concepts identified in this plan may be necessary based on the environment or conditions.
- F. Preparations to implement this plan will begin as soon after a disaster as is feasible and, in cases when there is sufficient warning, prior to the event.
- G. Community desired outcomes in long-term recovery will be implemented as resources are available with a focus on critical life-line restoration (see Attachment I).

#### **V. SITUATION**

- A. Multiple natural and man-made hazards exist that may cause major or catastrophic disasters in South Carolina as identified in section V.C. of the State Emergency Operations Plan.

- B. Homes, public buildings, and critical facilities and equipment may be severely damaged or destroyed. Debris may make streets and highways impassable. The movement of emergency relief supplies and resources may be seriously impeded. Public utilities may be damaged and rendered partially or fully inoperable.
- C. Many State and local emergency personnel may be personally affected by the emergency, preventing them from performing assigned emergency duties.
- D. Thousands of disaster survivors may be forced from their homes, and large numbers of deaths and injuries could occur. Many survivors may be in life-threatening situations requiring immediate rescue and medical care. There may be shortages of many supplies necessary for emergency survival.
- E. Hospitals, nursing homes, pharmacies, and other medical facilities may be damaged or destroyed. Health care facilities that remain operable may be overwhelmed by the number of survivors requiring attention.
- F. Recovery operations will begin while response operations are ongoing.

## **VI. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. This plan is designed to be scalable to any size event that requires recovery operations incorporating tenets of the National Disaster Recovery Framework.
- B. All disaster recovery begins and ends locally. The Federal and State programs that address recovery may or may not be available to affected local communities.
- C. Where outside recovery programs are not available, recovery operations will be the responsibility of the local community.

## **VII. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The Governor
  - 1. The Governor, as the State's elected Chief Executive, shall be responsible for the safety, security, and welfare of the State when an emergency has been declared.
  - 2. The Governor is empowered by the authorities outlined in the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Revised 1989, Title 25-1-440 to discharge this responsibility.

**B. Structure**

1. The Governor of South Carolina issued Executive Order Number 2005-12 adopting the standards of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). All disaster recovery actions will operate within a unified command structure.
2. The South Carolina Recovery Task Force (SCRTF) brings together resources to identify issues and collaboratively solve problems. Members serve as specialists in their areas of expertise and as conduits to resources and programs in their functional areas. (Composition of the SCRTF is described in Attachment B).
3. Specific state-level positions associated with disaster assistance are as follows:
  - a. Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR)
    - i. The GAR is the person named by the Governor in the Federal/State Agreement to execute, on behalf of the State, all necessary legal and administrative documents for the provision of Federal disaster assistance following the declaration of an emergency or a major disaster by the President of the United States, including certification of applications and vouchers for public assistance.
    - ii. The Governor may also appoint an Alternate to serve as the Governor's Authorized Representative in the absence of the GAR. The Alternate GAR will retain all powers and authorities of the GAR.
  - b. State Coordinating Officer (SCO)
    - i. The SCO is the State official designated by the Governor to act as their principal assistant in the coordination, management, and supervision of the State disaster assistance program, and to act in cooperation with the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO).
    - ii. The SCO serves as the point of contact for political subdivisions of the State in seeking needed Federal assistance.
  - c. State Disaster Recovery Coordinator (SDRC)

- i. The State may identify or appoint an SDRC to coordinate the long term recovery effort in coordination with the Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC) and other Federal, State, and local recovery partners.
  - ii. A decision to appoint an SDRC to manage long-term recovery is based on the completion of a State and Federal Advanced Evaluation Team disaster assessment.
- d. Public Assistance Officer (PAO). The PAO manages the Public Assistance Program under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (hereinafter referred to as the Stafford Act).
- e. Individual Assistance Officer (IAO). The IAO manages the Individual Assistance Programs under the Stafford Act and coordinates disaster assistance available to individuals and households.
- f. State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). The SHMO is appointed by the Governor or their designee to manage the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program under the Stafford Act.
- g. Public Information Officer (PIO)
  - i. The PIO reports to the SCO, and is responsible for coordinating the release of information and instructions to the media and public.
  - ii. The PIO may also serve as Legislative Liaison and Congressional Liaison.
- h. The Legislative Liaison reports to the SCO, and is responsible for establishing relationships with the South Carolina Legislature and South Carolina congressional delegation to keep members apprised of the status of emergency operations and the administration of disaster relief.

### C. State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

1. The SEOC will activate upon the direction of the Governor or their authorized representative.
2. The recovery section will coordinate space for members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at the SEOC or alternate locations.
3. Following a Federal Disaster Declaration, the Governor or SCO may relocate elements of the SEOC to a Joint Field Office (JFO) to improve daily coordination of recovery efforts between local, State, and Federal agencies.

### **VIII. Phases of Recovery**

#### **A. Initial Recovery/ Short-Term Recovery (Initial 14 days following the Disaster Event):**

1. Short-term recovery activities are initiated as the response phase and the major impacts of the event are managed and stabilized. This phase is characterized by more detailed assessments of incident consequences, formulation of recovery strategies, and a gradual return to normal as services are restored and reentry into impacted areas is allowed.
2. Short-Term Priorities
  - a. Rapid impact assessment of immediate emergency needs and, as required, requests for Federal assistance.
  - b. Provision of mass care, including sheltering, food, water and other essential commodities for those displaced by the incident.
  - c. Provision of essential services to include law enforcement, security, fire service, search and rescue, public health, and medical assistance.
  - d. Restoration of critical functions, services, infrastructure, and facilities, as outlined in Attachment I.
  - e. Dissemination of emergency instructions and information to the public.
  - f. Initial damage assessment of homes, businesses, critical infrastructure and services.

- g. Clearance of debris from emergency transportation routes, debris removal, and general cleanup.
- h. Establishment of disaster survivor services to assist the population with individual assistance programs.
- i. Activation of the SCRTF to assist in assessments and coordinated delivery of services to survivors.
- j. Establishment of a JFO, in coordination with FEMA, in the event of a federally declared disaster.

### 3. State Personnel Actions

- a. While local governments implement local emergency response actions, State recovery planners will work with agencies representing the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and the SCRTF to prepare for the rapid deployment of resources necessary to implement initial recovery actions.
- b. Resource requests for recovery that exceed the capability of State agencies are coordinated with Federal ESFs upon activation of the NRF using the Resource Request Form (RRF) process outlined in the SC Logistics Plan (Attachment A to the SCEOP).
- c. State and local agencies will identify and conduct appropriate damage assessment missions and report their findings to the SEOC recovery section. Damage assessments will seek to determine the need for assistance beyond local resources, gauge the need for a Presidential disaster declaration, and provide a basis for local recovery planning.

### 4. Inter-Organizational Coordination

- a. The recovery section will gather situational and damage assessment information from the ESFs as appropriate.
- b. The recovery section will coordinate field and community interactions with ESF 3, ESF 6, ESF 8, ESF 11, and ESF 15.

### 5. Communications

- a. ESF 15 is the operational element responsible for public information and warning.

- b. The recovery section maintains a continual flow of information between the recovery stakeholders and the Recovery Support Functions (RSF) (state and federal) agencies and consolidate outreach to stakeholders to avoid duplication of efforts.

#### 6. Financial Management

- a. The State maintains and develops State management cost plans to gain access to post disaster Federal funding.
- b. These plans should estimate the cost of Individual Assistance (IA), Public Assistance (PA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

#### 7. Debris Management

- a. Plans for debris management are coordinated by the Department of Transportation, as described in the South Carolina Department of Transportation Debris Management Plan (Attachment J).

B. Intermediate Recovery (14 Days ~ 6 Months): Intermediate recovery activities involve returning individuals and families, critical infrastructure, and essential government or commercial services to a functional state, including temporary solutions that provide a bridge to permanent measures.

#### 1. Intermediate Priorities

- a. Re-establish access and facilitate reentry into impacted areas.
- b. Coordinate Federal assistance, if available, and complete Advance Evaluation Team assessment if applicable.
- c. Coordinate the identification, procurement, and distribution of emergency resources and materials.
- d. Provide disaster relief information to the public.
- e. Identify potential post-disaster mitigation strategies.
- f. Develop a Joint Incident Strategic Plan with defined objectives and outcomes to guide recovery operations.

#### 2. State Personnel Actions



- a. Identify the specified and implied tasks required for the implementation of the IA, PA, and HGMP programs.
  - b. Prioritize these tasks and identify the time periods in which each must be performed.
  - c. Identify the mission-essential tasks from among these specified and implied tasks.
  - d. Develop a coordinated operational plan across local, State, and Federal jurisdictions.
  - e. Based on the operational plan, identify critical objectives across mission areas and operational phases.
3. Inter-Organizational Coordination
- a. Recovery assessments and analysis informs the development of a Recovery Support Strategy (RSS).
  - b. The process of gathering information and developing the RSS involves engagement with governmental and nongovernmental partners and key stakeholders in the community to determine recovery-related impacts and priorities.
  - c. The RSS is one mechanism for informing recovery stakeholders of the type, scope, and nature of the RSF recovery support, which is provided to the local governments.
  - d. The scale and nature of the disaster determines outreach and communications needs for the recovery operation.
4. Communications
- a. Effective outreach and ongoing engagement with the public are critical to successful recovery planning. State agencies can provide support to local partners to develop methods for the public to provide input on recovery plans and strategies.
  - b. Recovery leadership needs to ensure consistent and effective messaging to the public about recovery efforts. Coordinating an inclusive recovery planning process means engaging members of the whole community to include individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, those from religious,

racial, and ethnically diverse backgrounds, and people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

#### 5. Financial Management

- a. Identify required resources to achieve critical objectives in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
- b. Post-disaster recovery is driven by access to and expenditure of grants from a variety of sources. The ability to effectively manage and coordinate this array of funding streams and their varied eligibility criteria and grant requirements necessitates a strong state-level grants management strategy.
- c. Ensure there are sufficient experienced grant managers to support local entities with determining eligibility criteria of individual funding sources as well as how differing funding sources can be combined, leveraged, and modified to meet local needs.

C. Long-Term Recovery (6 Months and beyond): Long - Term Recovery follows Intermediate Recovery and may continue for months to years before redevelopment and revitalization of the damaged area is complete. It is the process of restoring damaged or destroyed social, economic, natural, and built environments in a community to conditions set in a long - term recovery plan or support strategy.

##### 1. Long-Term Priorities

- a. Complete the Mission Scoping and Assessment to determine required recovery support function activation.
- b. Restore public infrastructure and facilities outlined in Attachment I.
- c. Coordinate Federal programs to assist disaster survivors in transitioning to long-term housing solutions.
- d. Develop economic and business revitalization strategies to restore economic bases and job markets in impacted communities.
- e. Identify and implement mitigation strategies, plans, and projects.
- f. Rebuild to appropriate resilience standards in recognition of hazards and threats.

## 2. State Personnel

- a. Prior to field demobilization, the State will establish mechanisms to track and communicate progress of interagency partners towards RSS implementation and seek creative solutions to any obstacles or challenges encountered in the course of program administration.
- b. State and local officials will execute transition plans developed during earlier stages to ensure a seamless shift from on-site and virtual State support to steady local program administration and information sharing.
- c. As recovery progresses, the focus shifts from addressing immediate needs to developing approaches and strategies to harden critical infrastructure, diversify the economy, and incorporate mitigation measures for homes and business.

## 3. Inter-Organizational Coordination

- a. Build partnerships to address identified recovery issues and facilitate timely, relevant, and accessible recovery support.
- b. Clear understanding of the expertise and resources provided by governmental and non-governmental partners is critical to the effective utilization of resources.
- c. Additional support for the disaster recovery effort can be provided via mutual aid agreements with other states and localities.

## 4. Communication

- a. Solicit regular feedback from local government officials and other members of the disaster recovery network to ascertain if the State is adequately meeting local needs before and after disasters (including assessing post-disaster needs that exceed traditional State and Federal recovery programs).

## 5. Financial Management

- a. Advocate for State needs, including the regular evaluation of policies adopted or proposed by Federal, State, and other organizations that affect State recovery capabilities, influence hazard vulnerability, or affect the timely and equitable distribution of pre- and post-disaster assistance.

## IX. FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

### A. Request for Federal Disaster Assistance

1. The process for requesting Federal disaster assistance varies depending on the scope and magnitude of the disaster.
2. Local initial damage assessment teams will rapidly analyze public and private damage and provide the results to their respective localities, to ultimately be provided to the SCEMD Director and the Governor by the recovery section.
3. The SCEMD recovery section will review this data to determine if the damage and overall impact are of such magnitude to warrant a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (or, in the event of severe impacts, a request by the Governor for an expedited Presidential declaration of an emergency or major disaster under the authorities of the Stafford Act).
4. FEMA and the White House consider other factors in determining the need for a Major Disaster Declaration. All Federal assistance authorized under the Stafford Act is discretionary.
5. The Governor's request for a Major Disaster Declaration under the authorities of the Stafford Act may result in an approved Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance only; Public Assistance only (for any or all categories of assistance); or both Individual and Public Assistance programs. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding may be authorized for any Major Disaster Declaration.
6. An emergency declaration may be granted by the President, authorizing direct Federal agency assistance and/or financial assistance up to \$5 million initially, which can be increased if necessary.
7. Forwarding of Requests
  - a. Requests for a Presidential declaration under the Stafford Act are forwarded through the FEMA Region IV Administrator to the President.
  - b. Requests for SBA Declarations are sent directly to the SBA Director of Field Operations East located at the SBA Area office in Atlanta, Georgia.

**B. Notification****1. Federal Disaster Declaration**

- a. When the President authorizes Federal disaster assistance under the Stafford Act, FEMA will immediately notify the Governor, appropriate members of Congress representing South Carolina, and appropriate Federal agencies.
- b. The SCEMD Director will notify county officials within the declared counties.
- c. Notification of cities and other possible applicants for Federal assistance will be a coordinated effort by County, State, and Federal officials.
- d. The State PIO will notify the media and public through regular briefings and press releases.

**2. Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration**

- a. The SBA will notify the Governor.
- b. The SCEMD Director will notify the declared county officials.
- c. Counties contiguous to the counties with a SBA disaster declaration are also eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

**C. Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO)**

1. The President of the United States will appoint an FCO who will be responsible for coordinating all supplemental Federal disaster assistance available under the President's declaration.
2. The responsibilities of the FCO include public information coordination, Congressional liaison, community liaison, outreach activities, and the establishment of a JFO.

**D. Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC)**

1. Depending on the scope and magnitude of the recovery operation, the FEMA Regional Administrator may appoint a FDRC to be responsible for the Federal coordination of long term recovery operations under the NDRF.

2. The FDRC, when appointed, reports to the FCO. If the magnitude of the event does not warrant the appointment of an FDRC, the FCO will manage recovery operations.
3. Upon the demobilization of the FCO, the FDRC can operate independently to carry on the essential functions of the long term recovery mission

#### E. FEMA/State Agreement

1. After the President's declaration of a Major Disaster or Emergency, the Governor and the FEMA Region IV Director will negotiate and execute a FEMA/State Agreement which will describe how Federal disaster assistance will be made available.
2. The Agreement:
  - a. Identifies those areas which are eligible for assistance
  - b. Stipulates the Federal and non-Federal cost shares
  - c. Specifies the time period in which assistance will be made available
  - d. Identifies any other conditions for receiving assistance, including procedures for adding counties to the disaster declaration

#### F. Joint Field Office (JFO)

1. The FCO and SCO will establish a JFO to coordinate the disaster relief and recovery effort. The JFO will be staffed with representatives from appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies.
2. The general location for the JFO will be determined jointly by the FCO and the SCO, and will consider disaster logistics (e.g. travel times, housing availability, other support systems, etc.).
3. FEMA and the SCEMD will provide appropriate training for personnel involved in administering disaster assistance. The training provided will cover the process of applying for assistance and specific information on each of the programs that will be offered to disaster survivors.

4. Detailed information about SCEMD's transition from staffing the SEOC to staffing a JFO can be found in the SEOC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

#### G. Planning

1. An Incident Action Plan (IAP) will be jointly developed and maintained by the State and FEMA, which identifies, prioritizes, and tracks the achievement of critical operational goals, and objectives.
2. The county EOCs and the State EOC will establish operational priorities, goals, and objectives.
3. Prioritization of issues having immediate concern may include, but will not be limited to:
  - a. Securing the disaster area.
  - b. Conducting search and rescue and other public safety protective actions.
  - c. Restoring or establishing emergency communications systems.
  - d. Providing emergency medical services.
  - e. Assessing the immediate unmet emergency needs of disaster survivors (shelter, food, water, clothing), and executing appropriate measures to meet those needs.
  - f. Identifying and eliminating public health hazards.
  - g. Assessing damages to essential public facilities and services (health and medical, energy production and distribution, telecommunications, transportation systems, etc.).
  - h. Executing appropriate measures to restore essential facilities and services.
4. A Joint Integrated Incident Strategic Plan will identify goals, objectives, and milestones to synchronize and guide the long-term recovery process.

### **X. NON-STAFFORD ACT DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

- A. The State will support impacted communities to scale recovery operations in accordance with NDRF structure.
- B. Successful recovery coordination stems from well-planned, well-coordinated and inclusive local recovery efforts.
- C. Local recovery support structures establish and prioritize recovery goals, develop community-focused recovery plans, ensure clear and consistent public messaging, and support resource coordination.
- D. Overall leadership for local recovery coordination is provided by the Local Disaster Recovery Manager (LDRM), as identified by local emergency management or the office of the senior elected official.
- E. The local recovery structure will coordinate with partners from local faith- and community-based organizations, the private sector, educational institutions, and regular service providers that support vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities and other functional and access needs. Understanding the roles of these individuals and organizations allows local recovery leadership to identify needs and leverage resources more effectively.
- F. Pre-Event Recovery Coordination and Non-Stafford Act Capacity Development
  - 1. Identify recovery leadership at all levels of government and define positions, authorities, roles, and responsibilities.
  - 2. Identify traditional and non-traditional State, Tribal, and Federal non-Stafford Act programs that can be used to support the needs of impacted communities
  - 3. Support the development of non-Stafford Act recovery coordination plans as part of each jurisdiction's broader recovery plan.
  - 4. Promote the development of engaged recovery-focused partnerships at all levels of government, which include non-governmental organizations and the private sector.
- G. Post-Event Recovery Coordination
  - 1. Ensure coordination with departments and organizations active in the response phase to discuss the current situation, activities to date, major areas of concern, and the transition to recovery (e.g., damage assessment



numbers, identified community impacts, known locations of displaced/evacuated residents, etc.).

2. Conduct comprehensive damage and impact assessment to identify community needs and strategic recovery challenges across the six RSFs.
3. Coordinate local and State governmental and non-governmental organizations to identify existing individual and community resources that can be used to support recovery including insurance, continuity of business plans/support, locally administered programs, and donated/volunteer resources.
4. Seek input of elected leadership, governmental leadership, religious leaders, faith and community based organization leadership, key private sector stakeholders, and individuals from the impacted community in order to identify community structures and priorities.
5. Provide State and Federal technical/subject-matter expertise as appropriate to support local assessments.

## **XI. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

### **A. Individual Assistance Officer (IAO)**

1. The IAO will be responsible for implementation and management of Individual Assistance (IA) Programs, in coordination with the FEMA Individual Assistance Branch Director (IABD).
2. The State IAO will work closely with the State Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) to coordinate non-governmental support to disaster survivors.
3. The State IAO will coordinate with the FEMA IABD to establish Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) and other program delivery resources in accordance with the State DRC Standard Operating Procedure.

### **B. Individual Assistance Programs**

1. Individual Assistance (IA) programs provide services to help eligible disaster survivors recover from disaster.
2. Individual Assistance Programs include the FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP), as well as the Crisis Counseling Program,

Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Legal Services, and Disaster Case Management. See IHP Unified Guidance for additional information

3. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loans

a. SBA Disaster Loans

- i. SBA Disaster Loans are designed to supply low-interest loans to owners of homes or businesses and renters who have experienced uninsured physical or financial loss as a result of a disaster.
- ii. The SBA disaster loan program is automatically included with a Stafford Act Major Disaster declaration authorizing Individual Assistance, or may also be provided independently under a SBA-only declared disaster.

b. SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC)

- i. For a disaster declaration by the SBA, DLOCs will be opened in the affected area(s) where survivors can receive support with disaster loan applications and general information concerning SBA assistance.
- ii. For small SBA-declared disasters, assistance may be provided via a toll-free telephone number in lieu of a Disaster Loan Outreach Center.

4. Other State and Federal Individual Assistance Programs

- a. Tax Relief: The South Carolina Department of Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service may offer post-disaster tax filing and payment relief.
- b. Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP): This assistance is applied for and implemented through the South Carolina Department of Social Services.
- c. USDA Loans: The United States Department of Agriculture has resources to help communities, farmers, ranchers, and businesses affected by disasters. This assistance is applied for and administrated by the Farm Service Agency.

- d. Housing Assistance Programs: The SC Housing Authority has resources available to disaster survivors to include SC HELP, the foreclosure moratorium and housing locator information, etc.
5. In extenuating circumstances, SCEMD is able to organize Evacuation Assistance Centers (EACs) in order to assist other states' disaster survivors who are in South Carolina. See Attachment A (Evacuee Assistance Centers).

## **XII. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

### **A. Public Assistance (PA) Program**

1. When authorized by the President's Major Disaster declaration, the Stafford Act Public Assistance Program will provide reimbursement for a portion of eligible costs incurred as a result of a presidentially declared disaster. The program provides grants for the reimbursement of a portion of costs for certain services, structural repairs, and replacement of eligible facilities.
2. Eligible applicants include State and local governments, Federally-recognized tribal nations, and certain Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations.
3. Eligible PNP facilities must be open to the public and perform essential services of a governmental nature.
4. Categories of Work
  - a. Reimbursement for this work falls into one of two major types of work and seven subsequent categories of work.
    - i. Emergency Work (must be completed within 6 months of the disaster declaration, subject to extensions of up to 6 months being granted by the GAR).
    - ii. Permanent Work (must be completed within 18 months of the disaster declaration, subject to extensions of up to 30 months granted by the GAR).
5. Reimbursement

- a. The terms of reimbursement are defined within the declaration document issued by the President of the United States.
- b. Under normal circumstances, FEMA will reimburse not less than 75% of eligible damages.
- c. Remaining costs will be borne by the State, local governments, or other eligible applicants, as determined by the Governor and South Carolina Legislature.
- d. The Governor may request a cost share adjustment when the disaster is of such widespread severity and magnitude that the per capita impact to the State as a whole becomes too burdensome for the State or applicants to bear.

#### 6. Notification

- a. The State PAO will coordinate with the State PIO to notify State and local officials and eligible PNP organizations of the availability of Federal public assistance funds.
- b. Notification may occur through written correspondence and telephone contacts, public notices in local newspapers, and broadcasts on local radio stations.
- c. Potential eligible applicants will be notified of the date, time, and location of the scheduled applicant's briefing.
- d. Co-ops may also be eligible applicants especially in terms of dams and electricity. A few utilities and dams are owned by State agencies or co-ops. In this case, these owners would be eligible to gain Federal and State assistance if it is available. However, any utility or dam that is privately owned by a business or corporation is responsible for their own losses.

#### 7. Public Assistance Grant Agreement

- a. The GAR will develop a Public Assistance Grant Agreement (commonly referred to as the State/Applicant Agreement).

- b. The Agreement defines and governs the request for and use of Federal Public Assistance funds in a specific disaster.
- c. The Agreement is signed by the GAR and designated applicant's agent.

8. Appeals

- a. Any applicant, through the GAR, can appeal any FEMA determination or denial of Federal public disaster assistance.
- b. This appeal must be made in writing within 60 days from the date of notification of FEMA's determination.
- c. The applicant must provide sufficient information to allow the GAR to determine the facts and assess the validity of the appeal.
- d. There are two levels of appeal. The first level appeal is to the Regional Director, and the second level is to the Director of Recovery at FEMA Headquarters.

9. Program Administration and Management

- a. State Public Assistance Officer (PAO)
  - i. The State PAO will be responsible for working closely with the Federal PAO and Infrastructure Branch Chief to coordinate the PA program.
  - ii. The State PAO will be responsible for establishing and staffing a PA Office within the JFO.
- b. The Public Assistance Officer will administer all public assistance grants, agreements, and contracts under the PA program.
- c. Public Assistance staff will be responsible for providing technical assistance to eligible applicants.
- d. The Public Assistance staff is responsible for maintaining and submitting all documents and paperwork necessary to obligate and disburse Public Assistance funds, including establishing and

maintenance of accounting records for each payment draw down by the State and each payment.

- e. Program data and reporting are managed through SC Recovery Grants and the Emergency Management Mission Integrated Environment (EMMIE). The National Emergency Management Information System (NEMIS) will be used to track historical program data.

### **XIII. HAZARD MITIGATION**

#### **A. State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)**

1. The Governor will appoint a SHMO who will be responsible for coordinating, updating, and implementing the State Hazard Mitigation Program (pursuant to Section 322 of the Stafford Act).
2. The SHMO will be responsible for implementation and management of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) (pursuant to Section 404 of the Stafford Act).

- B. Information on hazard mitigation programs and South Carolina mitigation actions can be found in the 2018 South Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### **XIV. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. The SCEMD Director has the overall responsibility for the development of this plan and for assuring that prompt and effective action can be taken to recover from the effects of a major or catastrophic emergency.
- B. This plan is a living document that is reviewed annually and updated as needed in coordination with agencies, departments, stakeholders and other partners. Plan revisions will reflect changes in implementing programs and procedures, improvements in emergency management capabilities, corrections of deficiencies identified in exercises.
- C. State agencies and departments shall review and update their respective areas in as required to reflect changes in doctrine, policy, capabilities or lessons learned. Local, county, and tribal authorities encouraged to review and provide input to this plan.

- D. SCEMD will provide training and exercise advice, counsel, and technical assistance to local, county, tribal, State, private sector, and non-governmental organizations agencies as appropriate.
- E. General response training is conducted as part of the player meetings preceding scheduled drills and exercises.
- F. SCEMD coordinates periodic exercises of the SCEOP and supporting plans , consistent with the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP), to ensure a comprehensive and continuing validation of the content as well as supporting plans and procedures.

**XV. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES.** See Attachment C (Authorities and References) to the SCEOP Basic Plan.

**XVI. ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY.** See Attachment B (Acronyms and Glossary) to the SCEOP Basic Plan.

**XVII. ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Evacuee Assistance Centers
- B. Recovery Task Force
- C. Disaster Housing Plan
- D. State Agencies Roles in Initial Recovery
- E. Public Assistance Administrative Plan
- F. Hazard Mitigation Administrative Plan
- G. Individual Assistance Other Needs Assistance Selections
- H. Disaster Recovery Center SOP
- I. Guidance for Restoration of Identified Critical Functions, Services/Programs, Vital Resources, Facilities, and Infrastructure to Affected Areas
- J. South Carolina Department of Transportation Debris Management Plan
- K. Damage Assessment SOP