



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

November 16, 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:

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) along with the state Disaster Recovery Office (SCDRO) have provided revised and up-to-date financial impact and federal recovery fund estimates for Hurricane Florence.

These estimates are lower than the September 20, 2018, preliminary damage estimates. They are based on actual damages reported and on-the-ground disaster recovery assessments that were conducted by federal, state and local officials following the hurricane and the subsequent flooding events.

SCDRO data indicate over two thousand homes suffered flood damage in Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Horry, Marion, and Marlboro counties. Of these seven counties, the number of flood damaged homes in Horry County is significant.

Many of these residents face serious personal financial challenges in making the necessary repairs to their homes. Sadly, some are dealing with the startling prospect of total home loss and the inability to afford replacement. Damage to critical public infrastructure like roads, bridges, water and sewer equipment, utilities, parks, as well as small businesses and farming has also been reported in these counties.

Hurricane Florence - \$ 607,000,000

Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (\$108 million) - Disaster Relief Fund (\$200 million) - Federal Highway Administration (\$18 million) - Agriculture (\$125 million) - Small Business Administration (\$45 million) - National Flood Insurance Program (\$111 million)

South Carolina Congressional Delegation

November 16, 2018

Page Two

On behalf of those affected by Hurricane Florence, I ask that you support including these funds for South Carolina in any disaster recovery appropriation considered by Congress.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Henry McMaster

HM/tw

cc: South Carolina Constitutional Officers
South Carolina General Assembly

**The State of South Carolina
Military Department**



OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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

November 16, 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 on current damages as reported but also with projections for additional costs that have yet to be captured.

Disaster Relief Fund (state and local costs only): \$200 million
Federal Highways Administration: \$18 million
Agriculture: \$125 million
National Flood Insurance Program: \$111 million
Small Business Administration: \$45 million

This cumulative number of \$499 million remains an early estimate of losses. The estimates for disaster recovery expenses will continue to fluctuate for months and years following Hurricane Florence.

Sincerely,

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

Kim Stenson
Director

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
2779 Fish Hatchery Road
West Columbia, South Carolina 29172
(803) 737-8500 Fax (803) 737-8570**



November 15, 2018

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

Dear Governor McMaster,

Below is my updated estimate concerning the use of Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) potential for the State of South Carolina regarding Hurricane Florence in 2018. This Hurricane caused extensive damage primarily from flooding throughout the entire Pee Dee watershed, and in the northeastern quadrant of our State. Initially, we believed the entire state would suffer extensively, but we now have a much clearer picture. Our initial projections held that multiple watersheds across the State would see record levels of flooding. Fortunately for the vast majority of the State, we did not have a statewide impact as we have experienced in past Hurricane recoveries. This is not to minimize the plight of our fellow citizens who are still recovering in the northeastern corner of our state, but to acknowledge that the impact was limited.

Although the damage is limited to a specific geographic area, the damage is substantial. We have widespread housing damage in eight South Carolina counties with over two thousand flood damaged homes. When flood damage is combined with high wind damage, we have a substantial regional impact. Given the demographics of this area, many Low-to-Moderate income citizens have been impacted by this disaster, and the CDBG-DR grant funds are the federal funding source of last resort for our most vulnerable citizens. The eight counties impacted are: Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, and Horry. Horry County has by far the most damage.

It is noteworthy that South Carolina has five counties which have been severely impacted by Hurricane Joaquin in 2015, Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and now Hurricane Florence in 2018. These five counties are Horry, Georgetown, Darlington, Florence, and Marion. Additionally, Chesterfield, Dillon, and Marlboro Counties suffered damage from both Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and now from Hurricane Florence in 2018. We continue to conduct an extensive housing focused recovery for our most vulnerable citizens in these counties as well as in the twenty-four declared counties from previous disasters.

Given all above, and combined with the previous unmet needs assessments we conducted for both Hurricane Joaquin in 2015 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, we believe South Carolina has a need for \$108 Million in CDBG-DR funding. This estimate is centered upon the fact that we



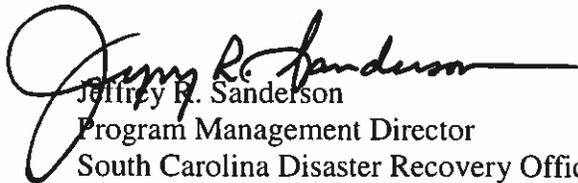
South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office

Recovery Operations Center
632 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

have five counties which have experienced three major disasters within the last three years. Each of these five counties have significant Low-to-Moderate income populations, who have experienced repeated disaster events. These citizens historically have significant difficulty recovering from natural disasters and are the centerpiece of any potential CDBG-DR grant funding.

Regards,

JR


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