Tropical Storm Helene Disaster Recovery Update

October 17, 2024

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Topics to cover

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- Tropical Storm Helene recovery status
- Recovery assistance programs
  - For residents/survivors
  - For county and municipal governments
- Process for Public Assistance (PA) projects
- Documentation and reimbursement

First: Tropical Storm Debby

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- Landfall near Bulls Bay 8 August; three weeks of flooding in Edisto, Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, and Waccamaw River basins.
- Rain: 22 inches in Berkeley County; 17 inches in Colleton County.
- Reported damage to more than 900 homes.
- Public agency costs and infrastructure damage projected at $16 million+.
- Federal disaster declaration requested 16 September:
  - Individual Assistance: Charleston, Colleton, and Dorchester
  - Public Assistance for 12 counties (Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkeley, Colleton, Dillon, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Orangeburg, and Union).
  - Public Assistance declaration approved; Individual Assistance declaration pending.

Tropical Storm Helene

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- Peak wind speeds of 75 mph
- Rain: 21 inches in Greenville County
- Storm related deaths: 49
- Power outages: 1.3 million customers
- Road/bridge closures: 906
- Shelters
  - Peak shelters: 28
  - Peak population: 370

Helene recovery assistance

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- Expedited major disaster declaration for Hurricane Helene (FEMA-DR-4829-SC)
- Public Assistance (PA)
- Individual Assistance (IA)
- Small Business Administration (SBA) loans
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Helene: at-a-glance

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- Counties declared:
  - Individual Assistance (IA): 28
  - Public Assistance (PA): 29
- *PA estimated costs: $292 million+
- *IA registrations: 326,500+
- *TSA: 767 households; 1,857 people
- *One shelter still open
- Debris estimate: 3 million CY

*Data changing daily

Recovery strategy

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- Post-disaster housing strategy in development
  - Options to support post-disaster housing needs for displaced residents
  - By-county needs – gathering data
- State Recovery Task Force will develop Tropical Storm Helene Recovery Strategy
- Based on existing state plans, tailored for Helene

Disasters start and end locally

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- Local response resources and capabilities are first
- State support if needed
- Federal assistance if local and state resources are overwhelmed/ insufficient

Disaster declarations

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- Disaster declarations unlock federal assistance when disasters exceed local and state capacity to respond and recover
- Types of Stafford Act declarations:
  - Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG)
  - Emergency declaration
  - Major disaster declaration

Major disaster declaration

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Major disaster under Stafford Act:

An event that the President believes has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of state and local governments to respond

For TS Helene, FEMA-DR-4829-SC –expedited request submitted 9/28/2024; granted 9/29/2024

Expedited declaration

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For rare events of unusual severity.

Allows for rapid assessment methods to determine the need for a declaration.

For Helene, submitted initial expedited request and requested counties be added as received more info.

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Individual Assistance (IA)

Federal monetary assistance direct to survivors

Individuals and Households Program (IHP)

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- Housing Assistance
  - Financial assistance for:
    - Repair
    - Replacement
  - Max grant for FY24: $42,500
- Rental Assistance

Individuals and Households Program (IHP)

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Other Needs Assistance:

- Serious Needs Assistance ($750)
- Displacement Assistance (two weeks' lodging)
- Funeral assistance
- Other including medical and dental, child care, and moving and storage expenses
- Clean and sanitize
- Personal property
- Transportation
- Group flood insurance policy
- Max Grant for FY24: $42,500

Other assistance programs

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- Disaster Unemployment Assistance - available
- Disaster Crisis Counseling - under consideration
- Disaster Legal Services - available
- Disaster Case Management - application being developed
- D-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (D-SNAP) - application being developed
- Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest loans – available
- USDA farm emergency loans

IA implementation

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- Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams (DSA)
- Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) and Business Recovery Centers (BRCs)
- www.disasterassistance.gov
- 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

Disaster Recovery Centers

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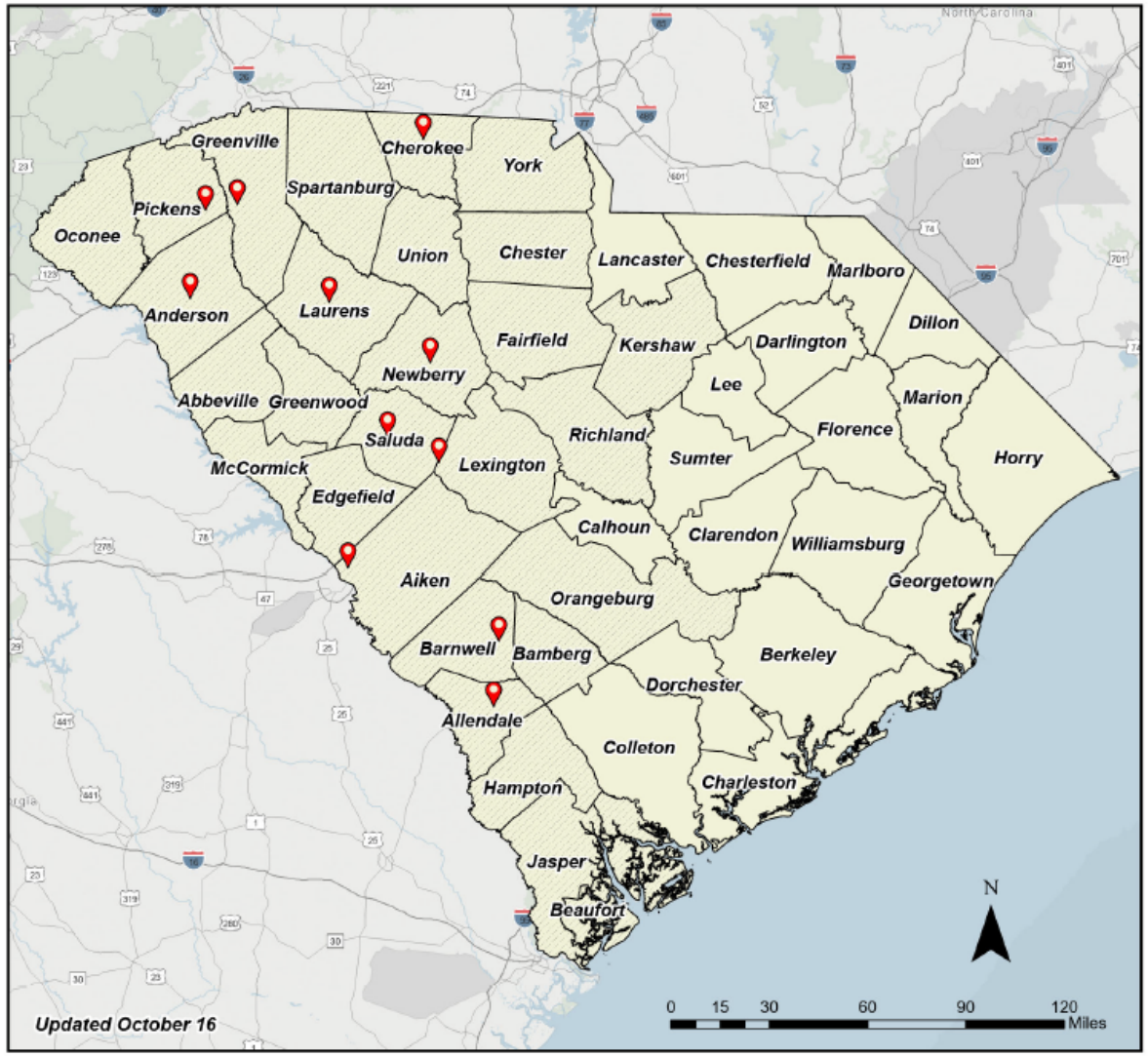

South Carolina Disaster Recovery Centers

- Greenville County - Open 8:00am-7:00pm, closes October 24
  Freetown Community Center: 200 Alice Avenue Greenville, SC 29611
- Barnwell County - Open 8:00am-7:00pm, October 13-16
  Barnwell Regional Airport: 155 State Rd S-6-398 Barnwell, SC 29812
- Lexington County - Open 8:00am-7:00pm, October 13-16
  Batesburg-Leesville Fire Station: 537 West Church Street Batesburg, SC 29006
- Aiken County - Open 8:00am-7:00pm, October 14-17
  Nancy Carson Library: 135 Edgefield Road North Augusta, SC 29841
- Anderson County - Open 9:00am-8:00pm, October 14-21
  Anderson County Library: 300 North McDuffie Street Anderson, SC 29621
- Pickens County - Open 8:00am-7:00pm, October 15-19
  Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library: 304 Biltmore Road Easley, SC 29640
- Laurens County - Open 8:00am-7:00pm, October 16-19
  Laurens County Public Library: 1017 West Main Street Laurens, SC 29360
- Saluda County - Open 8:00am-7:00pm, October 17-19
  County Admin Building: 407 W. Butler Avenue Saluda, SC 29138
- Cherokee County - Open 8:00am-7:00pm, October 17-20
  East Gaffney Baptist Church: 2308 Cherokee Avenue Gaffney, SC 29340
- Allendale County - Open 8:00am-7:00pm, October 18-20
  James Brandt Building: 398 Barnwell Highway Allendale, SC 29810
- Newberry County - Open 8:00am-7:00pm, October 21-24
  Newberry County Sheriff's Office: 540 Wilson Road Newberry, SC 29108

** DRCs are open holidays and weekends unless noted otherwise.*
More DRCs will be opened once additional locations are confirmed.

County responsibilities

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- Publicize information about IA
- Recommend potential DRC and DLOC sites
- Coordinate timing of DRC closure
- Coordinate with DSA teams to ensure coverage of impacted areas
- Coordinate with LTRG/VOAD to facilitate meeting unmet needs
- Elevate citizen concerns about the IA process

Voluntary agencies

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- There at the beginning - providing emergency food, shelter, clothing, and medical needs support
- There at the end - providing resources to address unmet needs
- Coordination with:
  - VOADs – Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
  - COADs – Community Organizations Active in Disaster
  - LTRGs – Long-Term Recovery Groups

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Federal Public Assistance (PA)

Financial reimbursement to government entities and certain private nonprofits to address eligible uninsured losses

Public Assistance basics

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- Federal share not less than 75%; non-federal share at most 25%
- For Hurricane Helene, 90% federal share for 90 days for debris removal and emergency protective measures

PA eligibility: applicant

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- State government agencies
- County governments
- Municipal governments
- Federally recognized tribes
- Special purpose districts
- School districts
- Certain private non-profit organizations

Request for Public Assistance (RPA)

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- May be submitted electronically via Grants Portal.
  - Applicants also need to register for Grants Portal, if not done so already. Please email pa@emd.sc.gov if you need assistance.
- RPAs must be submitted to FEMA within 30 days of the area being designated in the declaration.
  - TS Helene RPA deadline is Tuesday, October 29, 2024
- Does your organization have a UEI number?
  - A UEI # is a unique nine-digit identification number required to receive federal grants.
  - Go to https://sam.gov/content/home

PA eligibility: facility

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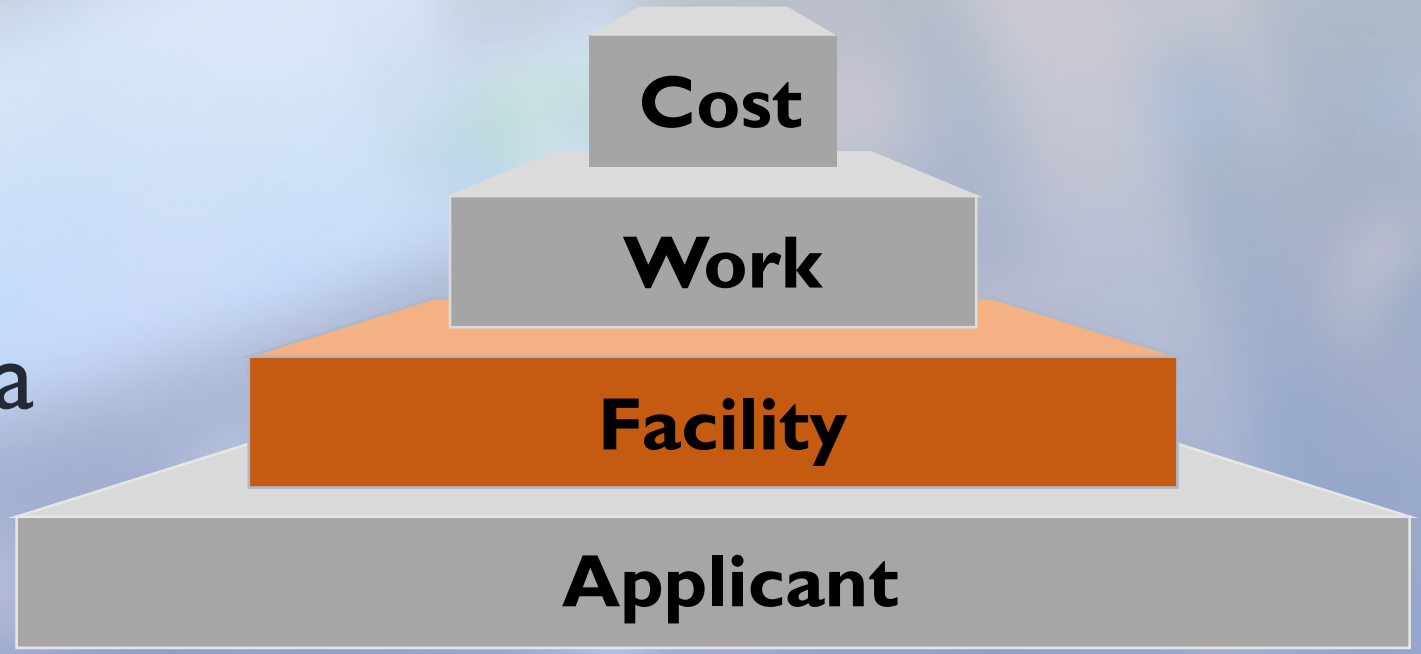
Facility:

- Damaged by declared disaster
- Located within a designated disaster area
- Legal responsibility of an eligible applicant
- Not under the specific funding authority of another federal agency



PA categories of work

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- Emergency Work
  - A - Debris Removal
  - B - Emergency Protective Measures
- Permanent Work
  - C – Roads and Bridges
  - D – Water Control Facilities
  - E – Buildings and Equipment
  - F – Utilities
  - G – Parks, Recreation, and Other

Project development with FEMA

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- Recovery scoping meeting
- Project formulation including scope of work and cost estimate
- FEMA review and "obligation" of project
- Conduct and complete work and maintain documentation
- Scope change and/or time extension requests through SCEMD if needed
- Quarterly reporting
- Submit requests and supporting documentation for reimbursement
- Close out
- Retain documentation for three years after closeout

Project Funding

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Small Projects

- Greater than $3,900, but less than $1,037,000; projects below $3,900 are not eligible
- Projects below $1,037,000 may use Simplified Procedures
- Funding based on cost of work completed or initial cost estimate
- Federal cost share paid upon project approval
- Alternate or improved projects or other changes in scope require additional review by the State and/or FEMA

Large Projects

- Projects $1,037,000 or greater
- Approved based on estimated or actual costs; paid based on documented actual costs
- Federal cost share is paid as work is completed
- Alternate or improved projects or other changes in scope require additional review by the State and/or FEMA

Management costs

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"Category Z" project

- Subrecipient requests Category Z project
- 5% of the project award amount for the event at the time of request
- Project will be adjusted to reflect 5%

Grants Portal

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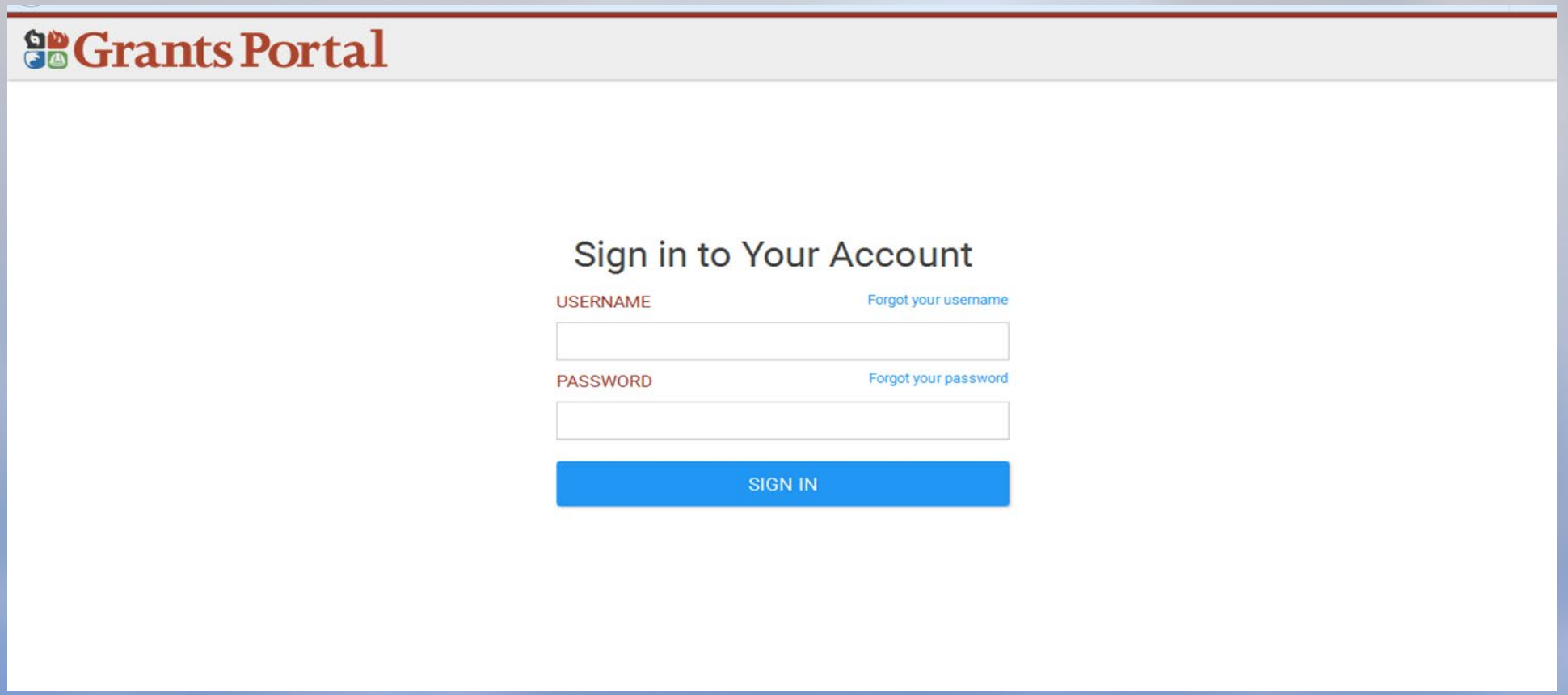

https://grantee.fema.gov/

SC Recovery Grants

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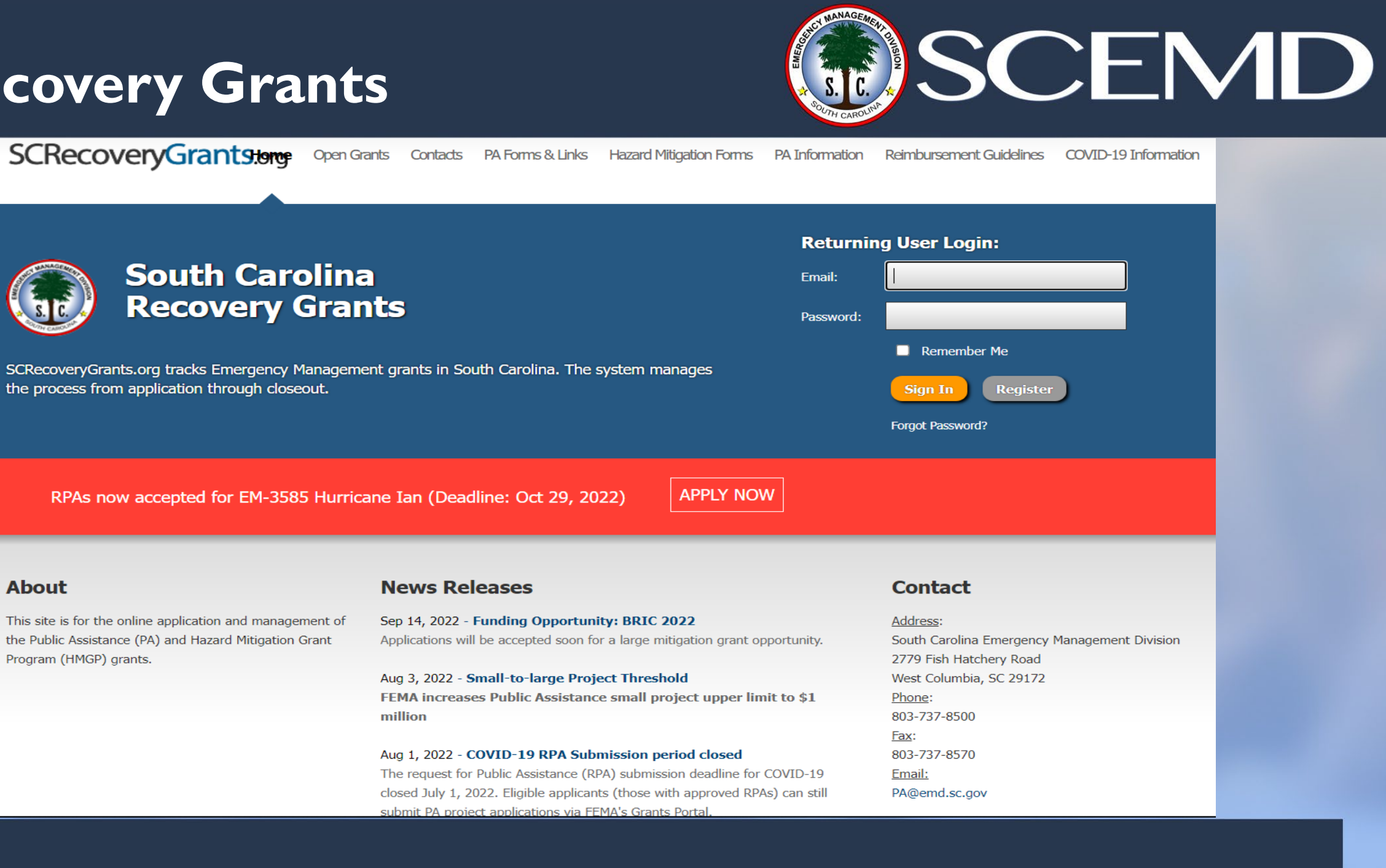

Documentation

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Documentation is **key** for FEMA reimbursement

- Timesheets
- Activity Logs
- Payroll Policy
- Insurance Policy
- Maintenance Records
- Contracts
- Invoices
- Proofs of Payment
- Equipment Inventories
- Procurement Policy
- Method of Procurement (advertisements, bids, quotes, etc)

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Recover and rebuild stronger

Mitigation opportunities

Hazard mitigation

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Measure(s) and/or actions, usually passive, to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.

Can do before disaster or after (mitigation grants or part of PA project).

Right thing, smart thing to do

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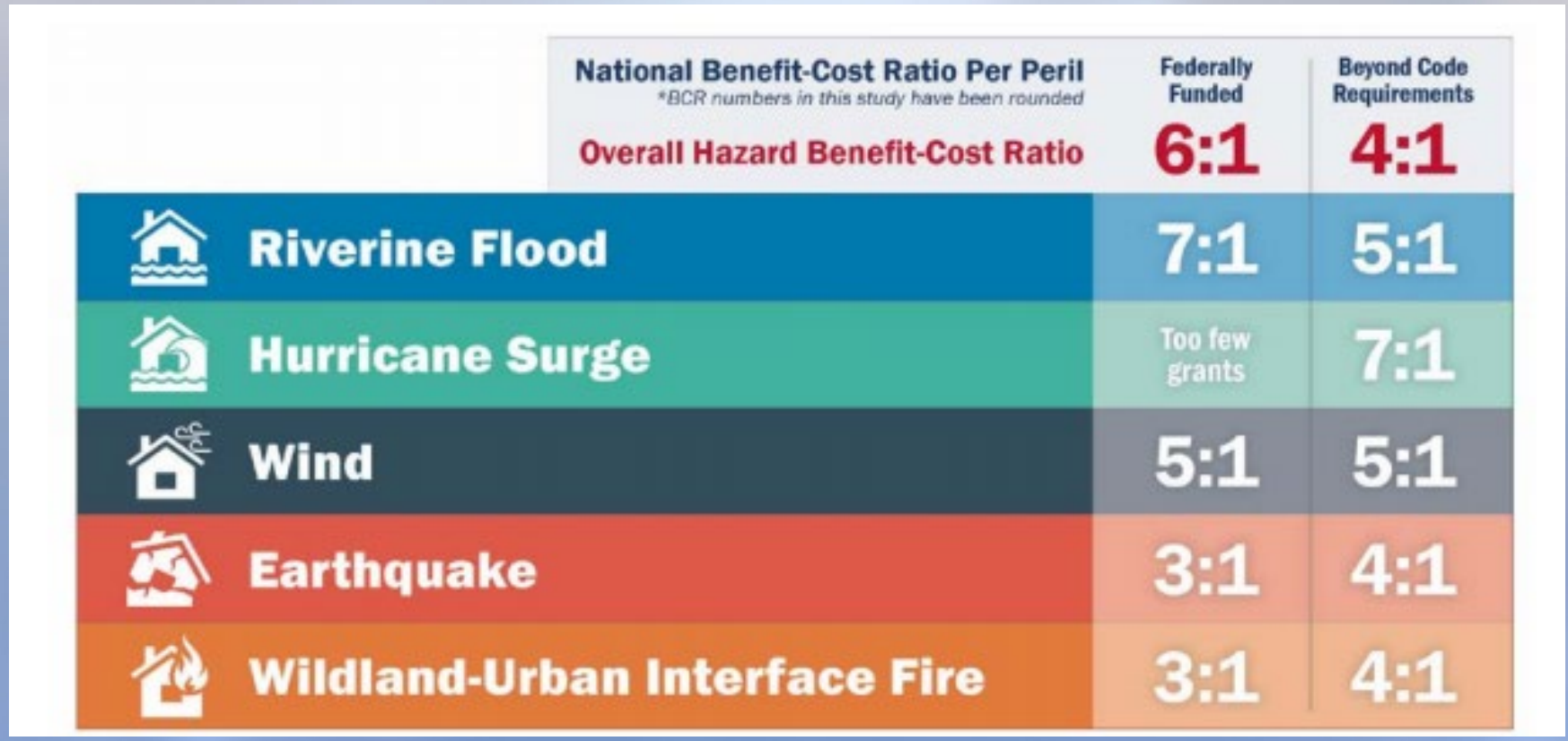

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Questions?

Resources

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- PA Applicant Briefings
- Training:
  - Damage Assessment Training
  - Disaster Assistance Workshop
  - G205 – Local Role in Disaster Recovery
- State Recovery Plan and RSF annexes
- County recovery plan template
- Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide
- Palmetto Damage Assessment App

References

- Stafford Act and 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 206
- Fire Management Assistance Grant Program and Policy Guide
- Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide (IAPPG)
- Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG)
- 2 CFR 200 (procurement regulations)
- www.fema.gov

POCs

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PA new projects-new disasters: Allison Volk, deputy PA program manager (avolk@emd.sc.gov; 803-920-1659)

PA reimbursement: Antonio Johnson, Grants and Finance manager (ajohnson@emd.sc.gov; 803-457-0072)

Individual Assistance (IA): Jessica Haygood, IA officer (jhaygood@emd.sc.gov; 803-457-3544)

Hazard Mitigation: Tyler Spires, state Hazard Mitigation officer (spires@emd.sc.gov; 803-239-7401)

Recovery training; recovery planning: Kristel Werntz, deputy chief of Recovery and Mitigation (kwerntz@emd.sc.gov; 803-521-1055)

Emily Bentley, chief of Recovery and Mitigation (ebentley@emd.sc.gov; 803-429-0193)