FOR FLORIDA COUNTIES

NEARLY $5.4 MILLION APPROVED FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LOSSES

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Nearly $5.4 million in Public Assistance funds has been approved to help repair and rebuild infrastructure in the wake of severe storms between March 26 and May 5, according to State Emergency Response Team and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

To date, FEMA has approved $5,363,535 to pay for debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster, and for repairing or replacing storm-damaged public facilities and infrastructure in the 22 north Florida counties eligible for Public Assistance funds. Of that, the federal share, $3,386,840, or 75 percent, has been obligated to the state to disburse to local governments and certain private non-profits for specifically approved projects. The remaining 25 percent of the costs will be shared by the state and other applicants.

“The storms caused quite a bit of damage to local infrastructure, so we’re pleased that repair and replacement costs will be shared by the federal government,” said State Coordinating Officer Doug Wright. “Now that the funds have been obligated, it shouldn’t be long before the money starts being disbursed for approved projects.”

Obligated Public Assistance funds will go to help communities in the following counties: Bay, Calhoun, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.

"Restoring vital services and infrastructure to pre-damaged condition is a priority right now," said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Jeff Bryant. "These funds should help communities recover faster and hopefully be better prepared for whatever the future holds—including this hurricane season.”

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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.
Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA’s temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management and State Emergency Response Team (SERT) coordinates disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs with all 67 counties and the federal government. For more information and to GET A PLAN! please visit www.FloridaDisaster.org.

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