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**Subject:** FW: DEW 10.15.15 FEMA/DUA Update

**Attachments:** DUA\_NR5\_final.pdf

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FYI

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**From:** Foster, Sally [mailto:SFoster@dew.sc.gov]

**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:11 PM

**To:** Stanton, Cheryl

**Subject:** DEW 10.15.15 FEMA/DUA Update

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

Please let us know if you are planning to hold a town hall, community fair, or general information session in your district. DEW is more than happy to send staff to speak to your constituents and assist them in filing claims.

Director Stanton spoke to nearly three hundred (300) people at an event organized by Sen. Joel Lourie and Rep. Beth Bernstein at Lake Forest Presbyterian Church Tuesday night. Director Stanton shared that the DUA program is for people who have lost their jobs or wages due to the disaster. She also stressed that small business owners and the self-employed, people who typically aren't eligible for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, may be eligible for DUA. She told the group that business tax rates will not be negatively impacted by any claims paid to their employees and discussed wanting to help businesses who may need an extension on their third quarter unemployment tax. Director Stanton asked them to contact us about the extension at their earliest convenience. Staff was also able to file several claims on-site. Last night, Bob Bouyea, DEW's Director of Communications and Marketing, participated in a similar town hall event organized by U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham at the Columbia Convention Center. He echoed Director Stanton's sentiments from Tuesday night and staff assisted several constituents in claims on-site as well.

Lastly, as promised, DEW would like to update you all on the number counties eligible for FEMA Individual and/or Public Assistance to date. Gov. Nikki Haley and the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) announced yesterday that Newberry County is eligible to receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) after FEMA approved them for individual assistance. This brings the total number of counties included in the declaration for Individual Assistance to twenty (20).

10/9/15 Recap:

- For the twenty (20) counties currently (which includes Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Darlington, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter, Williamsburg, Bamberg, Colleton, Greenwood, and Newberry), DEW will work with businesses affected by the storm as much as possible. With that in mind, we are offering businesses impacted by the flooding in these counties a potential extension to pay their third quarter unemployment taxes.
- For the eleven (11) counties currently included in the declaration for Individual AND Public Assistance (which includes Richland, Lexington, Sumter, Clarendon, Orangeburg, Williamsburg, Horry, Georgetown, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester), we are close to submitting the Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG). As discussed, this grant will go toward temporary job creation to provide clean-up, restoration, equipment procurement, and humanitarian assistance to communities that have been affected by the recent disaster here in South Carolina. DEW's grant was developed based upon preliminary projections as the state is still in

the process of assessing the impact of the flood.

- For assistance and eligibility information as it relates to Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)\*, your constituents may call 1-(888)-834-5890. They have thirty (30) days to file a disaster or flooding claim under this program as the last day to file is November 5, 2015. \*Please note there is a direct correlation between the twenty (20) counties with FEMA Individual Assistance and eligibility for DUA, just like the businesses potentially eligible for extensions for their tax filings, as described above.

As always, we are continuing to keep those impacted by the floods and our first responders in our hearts and minds as we recover and work together to restore South Carolina. Thank you for all you do for your constituents and the state of South Carolina.



**Sally Foster**

***Governmental Affairs and Special Projects Director***

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