



Carolina Panthers Charities
High School Athletics Flood Relief Grant
Summary Update Nov. 17, 2015

- In an effort to provide aid to the catastrophic flooding which impacted South Carolina, Carolina Panthers Charities began a process in the immediate aftermath of the storm to provide impacted high school athletic programs with the opportunity to apply for a Flood Relief Grant.
- Panthers Charities has provided \$250,000 for the program.
- Schools can apply for flood relief grants to replace lost or damaged athletic equipment/ resources such as uniforms, practice equipment and field damage.
- Schools are eligible to apply for grants ranging from \$5,000 - \$20,000 based on need. As part of the application, schools must provide an itemized list of equipment/ resources that were lost or damaged and an estimated cost to replace.
- The strategy of supporting high school athletics was based on helping communities return to a sense of normalcy in the aftermath of the storm. High school athletics serve an important role in communities across the region. The opportunity to assist high schools – including rural and resource-limited schools – is a visible way for the team to provide support in multiple communities.
- To date, 15 high schools have received approximately \$160,000 in grant funding. Approved schools fall in a geographic area that ranges from Columbia to Charleston to the Darlington/ Florence area. The rolling grant process will continue until funding has been fully allocated.
- The most common grant requests include replacing uniforms, shoulder pads, helmets, tackling dummies, field equipment and field damage. In most cases, field houses were submerged under water for up to four days. A common narrative has also been lack of budgets for equipment replacement. The grant program has been well received.
- The South Carolina High School League, South Carolina High School Football Coaches Association, Panthers television and radio affiliates and high school beat writers have each assisted in sharing the Flood Relief Grant opportunity with schools.

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- A formal announcement of recipient schools will be made once the process is complete. We anticipate a number of media stories at the local level detailing the team's assistance effort. THE NFL is also on standby to provide coverage of the relief effort.

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