

From: Becker, Derrec <DBecker@emd.sc.gov>  
To: Adams, ChaneyChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov  
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Subject: DRAFT: State Gets \$1.1 Million for Counseling Hurricane Survivors

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Hi Chaney

Here is an advanced copy of a news release announcing the award of crisis counseling funding to SCDMH, please let me know if you have any questions!



Hurricane Matthew | DR-4286-SC

## NEWS RELEASE **XX9**

*For Immediate Release*

FEMA/State Joint Information Center

803-737-8515 | Social: @SCEMD

**SCEMD:** 803-737-8500

**FEMA NEWS DESK:** 803-714-1412

## State Gets \$1.1 Million for Counseling Hurricane Survivors

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (Xxxxxday, Dec. xx)** — The South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) has been awarded a grant of more than \$1.1 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for crisis counseling for survivors of Hurricane Matthew.

Stress, anxiety, and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions after a disaster. The FEMA-funded Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) allows SCDMH to hire and train people locally to provide free, short-term crisis counseling to survivors who may be having trouble psychologically adjusting to the effects of Hurricane Matthew and the flooding that followed.

SCDMH Crisis Counselors canvass neighborhoods, go door-to-door and visit individuals and families in communities severely impacted by Hurricane Matthew. Crisis Counselors make contact in homes and communities, not in clinical or office settings.

FEMA's Crisis Counseling Program is designed to provide supplemental funding to states in the aftermath of major disasters. As it did in last year's floods in South Carolina, CCP is making free help available to survivors recovering emotionally from Hurricane Matthew. Through the Crisis Counseling Program survivors are learning to cope with the stress caused by the disaster.

If you or someone you know is struggling with post-disaster stress or anxiety, you are not alone. Help is as near as your phone. You can connect with a trained CCP counselor, or request that a counselor visit your home, by calling the 24-hour Disaster Distress Helpline at **800-985-5990**. This support service is

confidential. Multilingual operators are available.

Other phone numbers available to survivors in need of help:

- Deaf/Hard of Hearing Disaster Distress Helpline, **800-985-5990**
- Text to connect with a trained crisis counselor, **TalkWithUs** to **66746**
- Suicide Prevention Hotline, **800-784-2433**
- Veterans' Crisis Line, **800-273-8255**

All of the crisis lines operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information, visit [samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline](https://samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline).

Individuals may be eligible for crisis counseling services if they were directly affected by Hurricane Matthew and reside in one of these disaster-designated counties: **Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter and Williamsburg.**

Survivors continuing to need help recovering from Hurricane Matthew, or are in need of food or clothing, should call **2-1-1** for assistance.

For more information about the disaster recovery operation, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4286](https://fema.gov/disaster/4286) or the South Carolina Emergency Management Division at [scemd.org/recovery-section/ia](https://scemd.org/recovery-section/ia).

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*All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status, or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). If you have a speech disability or hearing loss and use a TTY, call 800-462-7585 directly; if you use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 800-621-3362.*

*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. Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/femaregion4> and the FEMA Blog at <http://blog.fema.gov>.*

## Derrec Becker

Public Information Officer

South Carolina Emergency Management Division

Mobile: **803.530.2193** | Office: **803.737.8500**

Online: [scemd.org](https://scemd.org) | Social: [@SCEMD](https://twitter.com/SCEMD)

Skype: **SCEmergency**

*"South Carolina's emergency management program minimizes loss of life and property damage from all-hazard events."*

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