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For immediate release
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Public and Individual Assistance for Storm Damage, Response Costs Approved for Additional Counties

Federal Aid Will Help Local Governments Recoup Costs

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Greenville and Spartanburg Counties were approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Individual Assistance, allowing survivors who sustained losses from the flood to apply for assistance. Assistance can include money for temporary rental assistance and essential home repairs for primary homes, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help survivors recover from the effects of the disaster.

Survivors can register online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362. Disaster assistance applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing should call 800-462-7585 (TTY); those who use Video Relay Service may call 800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

In addition, four counties were approved for all categories of Public Assistance to help them recover from October's severe flooding: Allendale, Beaufort, Lancaster, and Marlboro. This assistance from FEMA enables state agencies, local governments and certain private non-profits to recoup costs for storm response, debris removal, and infrastructure damage.

The FEMA Public Assistance program categories are as follows:

- Category A: Debris Removal.
- Category B: Emergency Protective Measures.
- Category C: Roads and Bridges.
- Category D: Water Control Facilities.
- Category E: Buildings and Equipment.
- Category F: Utilities.
- Category G: Parks, Recreational Facilities and Other Items.

The FEMA Public Assistance program is a reimbursement grant program. Typically, the federal share is 75 percent and the state or local governments pay the remaining 25 percent whereas eligible private non-profit groups are responsible for the full 25 percent.

To date, FEMA has approved 24 South Carolina counties for Individual Assistance and 34 South Carolina counties for Public Assistance.

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