

SOUTH CAROLINA DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

APPENDIX 10 ATTACHMENT B

ATTACHMENT B - Programs Available to Support a Drought Response

I. The following agencies and programs provide assistance during federally declared drought emergencies

A. The United States Department Agriculture (USDA):

Under its own authorities, USDA agencies may provide the following:

1. The Food and Consumer Service provides for the release of donated food stocks to relief organizations that prepare congregate meal service in situations of distress, with or without a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Also, the USDA Secretary may authorize the Disaster Food Stamp Program during emergencies which disrupts commercial channels of food distribution, with or without a Presidential Disaster Declaration,
2. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help cover production and physical losses in counties declared as drought disaster areas by the President or Secretary of Agriculture. Established farmers and ranchers that have suffered actual physical loss or at least 30% production loss due to drought are eligible for loans. For drought situations, an actual physical loss may never occur, but a production loss is much more likely. Emergency loans may be used to replace essential property, pay for production costs, pay essential living expenses, reorganize farming operations, and refinance debts. Loan limit is up to 80% of actual loss with maximum indebtedness of \$500,000.
 - a. FSA provides cost-shared payments to orchardists, maple sugar producers, greenhouse operators, and vineyard growers who incurred losses due to damaging weather.
 - b. Emergency Conservation Program provides cost-shared grants for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought for livestock and existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards.
 - c. Haying & Grazing Emergency programs provide direct payments to qualifying farmers under the Acreage Conservation Reserve and Conserving Uses Programs to help livestock producers in counties approved by the FSA Deputy Administrator. When the growth and yield of hay and pasture have suffered 40% or greater loss due to widespread natural disasters to include droughts, direct payments may be authorized.

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- d. The Soil and Water Loan program provides loans to develop wells improve water supplies, to build dikes, terraces, and waterways, to construct/repair ponds, tanks, ditches, and irrigation canals for owners of family-sized farms unable to obtain credit from other sources.
 - e. The Farm Ownership Loan program provides loans to assist farmers to develop, construct, improve, or repair farm homes, farm and service buildings, to drill wells, and otherwise improve farm water supplies, and to make other necessary improvements. Applicants (family-sized farms) must not be able to obtain credit from other sources.
3. The Commodity Credit Corporation (USDA-CCC)'s Emergency Feed Cost-Sharing Program provides cost-shared at an established rate for livestock feed normally produced on the farm. Producers must have suffered a substantial loss of feed and must have insufficient feed to maintain and preserve their eligible livestock.
- a. Emergency Feed Programs provide for the sale of CCC owned grain at reduced rates to livestock producers whose feed, normally grown on the farm, has suffered a substantial loss and who have insufficient feed to maintain and preserve their eligible livestock.
 - b. Crash Feed Grain Donation Programs provide grains for commingled, stranded, and unidentified as to owner livestock, or livestock owned by one who is temporarily unable to arrange for feed or pasture.
 - c. Livestock Preservation Donation Programs provide for grains for eligible owners who have sustained major damages to the point that they no longer have the means (cash or credit) to pay for livestock feed.
 - d. In coordination with the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the USDA, the Indian Acute Distress Donation Program, provides feed grains to Indian tribes for feeding livestock due to severe drought, flood, hurricane, blizzard, or other disaster that has caused chronic, acute distress for the needy livestock owners and members of an Indian tribe.
4. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service may be issued a Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) mission assignment and/or a Technical

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Assistance mission assignment for disaster Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs).

5. The Rural Utilities Services (USDA-RUS) has the Water Assistance Grant Program which provides grants to local communities with a population of 15,000 or less and Indian tribes identified in a Presidential Disaster Declaration to help rural residents obtain adequate quantities of water that meet the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Projects compete nationally for available funding under the provisions of the ECWAG Program.
6. Water & Waste Disposal Loans & Grants provide assistance to develop, replace, or repair water and waste disposal systems in rural areas and towns having a population of 10,000 or less and who are unable to obtain credit from other sources. Grant funds are used to reduce costs to a reasonable level for rural users. Grants cannot exceed 75% of eligible grant costs.

B. Department of Commerce (DOC):

1. The Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small-interest loans to businesses and small agricultural cooperatives suffering uninsured economic injury due to a disaster, including drought. Loan maximum limit is \$1,500,000 and either a presidential, SBA or USDA disaster declaration must be made.
2. The Economic Development Administration provides 75-25% cost-sharing grants to state and local governments, certain Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations, and Indian tribes to assist development and implementation strategies that address adjustment problems resulting from sudden and severe economic dislocation.

C. United States Corps of Engineers (USACE):

Under its own authority, USACE may provide emergency water assistance, usually temporary, to meet minimum public health and welfare requirements. Assistance is supplemental to state and local efforts. Long term solutions to water supply problems are the responsibility of state and local governments. USACE may construct wells or transport water to farmers, ranchers, and political subdivisions within areas determined to be drought distressed. A request for this assistance should come through the Governor.

1. The state and local authorities must make a declaration of a drought emergency. Certain specific water conservation/restrictions must be implemented and enforced. Available state and local resources are fully

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utilized, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works must evaluate and designate a “drought distressed area.” Water may be transported; however, irrigation, recreation, or commercial/industrial processing is not authorized. Cost of the water, handling, and storage is the responsibility of the applicants.

2. The applicant will pay any cost associated with the construction of wells by USACE, and USACE may construct wells only when commercial or other sources cannot construct it within a reasonable time. Applicants must secure funding for the financing of the construction of wells through commercial or other resources and entered into an agreement with USACE to pay all costs associated thereto, or entered into an agreement with USACE to pay all costs with interest over a period not exceed 30 years.
3. USACE may be issued a technical assistance mission assignment to provide the required technical expertise to state and local governments and Indian tribes to effectively assess and make appropriate recommendations for making potable water systems operational. This mission assignment is 100% federally funded.
4. USACE may be issued a mission assignment for Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) to provide the required resources to repair and make operational public wastewater disposal systems in order to preserve public health and safety. DFA mission assignments are cost-shared with the states at not less than 75% federal share.
5. USACE may be issued a DFA emergency power mission assignment to provide the required emergency power (generators) for key facilities which are not able to operate because of prolonged power outages caused by low river water levels. DFA mission assignments are cost-shared with the states at not less than 75% federal share.
6. USACE may be issued a technical assistance mission assignment to provide the required technical expertise to State and local governments and Indian tribes for repairing and/or operating an acceptable wastewater treatment facility caused by droughts. These mission assignments are 100% federally funded.
7. USACE may be issued a technical assistance mission assignment to provide state and local governments and Indian tribes the necessary technical advice and development of plans for constructing, repairing deeper wells or repairing existing potable water systems damaged due to soil pressure collapsing dry water lines.

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D. The American Red Cross (ARC):

Under its own authorities, ARC may provide the following:

1. Technical consultation and guidance to state and local governments when planning for water distribution to residents.
2. Establishing and staffing designated water distribution sites.
3. Coordinating voluntary agency activities designed to support local community response efforts.
4. Providing voluntary personnel to assist local government response actions, including providing limited potable water quantities.

ARC does not provide assistance to commercial, industrial or agricultural corporations with drought or water-shortage caused losses.

E. Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA):

1. With a Presidential Disaster Declaration, under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Section 403, Essential Assistance, Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) may be authorized to provide assistance in order to:
 - a. Save lives and preserves property.
 - b. Provide for the public health and safety, including provision of food, water, medicine, and other essential needs, including movement of supplies or persons.

These missions would be cost-shared at not less than 75% federal share.

2. Public Assistance (PA) assistance may be authorized to reimburse state and local applicants and Indian tribes for water resources they have contracted for and acquired for mass care purposes. These missions would be cost-shared at not less than 75% federal share.

F. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

EPA may be issued a technical assistance mission assignment to conduct environmental assessments of potable water situation, and provide guidance to state and local governments and Indian tribes for meeting safe water drinking standards. Technical assistance provided through the EPA is at no cost to the state.

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- G. Health and Human Services/Public Health Service (HHS/PHS):
1. HHS/PHS may be issued a technical assistance mission assignment to assess the public health situation at risk and make appropriate recommendations to state and local governments and Indian tribes to preserve public health and safety standards. Technical assistance provided through the HHS/PHS is at no cost to the state.
 2. HHS/PHS may be issued a DFA mission assignment to provide the necessary public health and medical assistance and commodities needed such as Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) or medical supplies if the state and local governments cannot provide them. Assistance provided during Presidential Disaster Declarations is subject to 75% federal cost sharing. Costs for assistance provided without of a Presidential Disaster Declaration are absorbed by the state.
- H. Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) may be provided to those applicants who lost their jobs due to the drought not to exceed 26 weeks of assistance after a disaster is declared.
- I. Fire Suppression Grants may be provided from the President's Disaster Relief Fund for use in a designed fire complex at the request of a Governor and concurrence from the USFS Principal Advisor to FEMA which threatens life and property and constitutes a threat of a major disaster. This is a reimbursement grant for a state's wildfire fighting costs. A state must first meet annual floor cost (5% of the state's average annual expenditures for firefighting) on a single declared fire. Then FEMA will pay 70% of costs for that declared fire and all subsequent declared wildfires. After a state's costs exceed annual average, FEMA will pay 70% of all costs for declared fire with no deduction for floor costs. After a state's costs exceed twice the annual average, then FEMA will reimburse 100% of a state's eligible costs.