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Here is a draft announcing the Individual Assistance availability for Berkeley, Charleston and Chesterfield counties. This amendment is for individual assistance only... no additional Public Assistance from FEMA yet.

## Three More South Carolina Counties Now Designated for FEMA Disaster Assistance

**Columbia, SC (Tuesday, October 25)** - Homeowners, renters and business owners in **Berkeley, Charleston** and **Chesterfield** counties may apply for federal disaster assistance for Hurricane Matthew damages and losses in South Carolina.

Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Calhoun, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter and Williamsburg counties were previously designated for Individual Assistance.

Storm damage and losses from the hurricane and flooding must have occurred, as a result of Hurricane Matthew, beginning on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Survivors are encouraged to register with FEMA as soon as possible. If you have phone and/or internet access, you may register in one of the following ways:

§ Online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov)

§ Download the [FEMA Mobile App](#)

§ Phone **800-621-3362 (FEMA)**. Applicants who use **711** or Video Relay Service may also call **800-621-3362**. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a **TTY** may call **800-462-7585**.

§ The toll-free numbers are open from **7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week**.

§ Multilingual operators are available.

For those who do not have access to telephone or internet service, don't be discouraged. South Carolina Emergency Management and FEMA are coming to you. Teams of State and FEMA disaster survivor assistance specialists will soon be moving into affected communities to help people register for assistance. Additionally, disaster recovery centers are planned to open in the near future in affected counties.

Assistance for eligible survivors can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, and for other serious disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses or funeral and burial costs. Long-term, low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) also may be available to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

Survivors should contact their insurance company to file their insurance claim. FEMA is unable to duplicate insurance payments. However, those without insurance or those who may be underinsured may still receive help after their insurance claims have been settled.

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