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Subject: SCDRO Press Release for 10-26-2016

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FYI – We will send out the following press release on Wednesday, October 26. The checklist will also be attached.

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SC STORM RECOVERY INTAKE CENTERS OPEN**

**Columbia, S.C., October 26, 2016** – The South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office (SCDRO) will open two fixed intake centers on November 1 to begin accepting individual applications for housing recovery related to the October 2015 storm. The storm brought unprecedented flooding and damage to 24 counties in South Carolina. On October 8 of this year, Hurricane Matthew swept the state, worsening the existing damage and devastating additional counties. More than half the state continues to battle the effects of these two major storms.

Applications related to the October 2015 storm will be accepted November 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017. The fixed intake centers are located at 318 E. Main Street in Kingstree and 725 Broad Street in Sumter. Each office will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SCDRO will open mobile intake centers on November 7. The first mobile offices will open on Monday in Clarendon, Charleston and Orangeburg counties. These offices will be set up at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church located at 105 Dinkins St. in Manning, Andrew Chapel Baptist Church located at 3670 Five Chop Road in Orangeburg, and North Charleston City Hall located at 2500 City Hall Lane in North Charleston. The mobile office locations will move to different locations each day of the week. For the mobile intake center schedule, citizens may visit the SCDRO website or call 1-844-330-1199 beginning November 1.

The goal is to serve as many citizens as possible, but all applicants will not be eligible. SCDRO intends to repair or replace approximately 1,500 homes affected by the October 2015 Storm. The program is deliberately designed to assist Low to Moderate income households and serve South Carolina's most vulnerable population. The highest priority will be given to households with documented damage and homeowners who are 65 years old or older, persons with documented disabilities, or households with children five years old or younger. The October 2015 Storm Recovery program focuses on the repair or replacement of homes for the most at risk citizens that do not have the resources to repair or rebuild their homes.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, citizens who contacted 211 and provided detailed information to Hearts and Hands Disaster Recovery will need to reapply for assistance. Citizens applying for assistance should prepare by collecting the correct documents before visiting the intake center. Finding the required documents can be difficult after a devastating event. The SCDRO has a list of acceptable documents on their website.

Housing repairs will meet construction standards, but upgrades will not be possible. SCDRO will provide citizens with safe, sanitary and secure homes. Citizens may be eligible for \$25,000 in assistance. Any previous funds for home repair received such as homeowner's insurance, FEMA or local charities, will be subtracted from the total. Households served by this program are required to accept a three year forgivable lien.

South Carolina received funding for the intake centers and housing recovery from a congressionally approved grant administered through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The \$96 million Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery is dedicated to 22 of the 24 presidentially declared counties affected by the October 2015 storm. The program does not apply to residents of Richland and Lexington County or the City of Columbia, as these jurisdictions received separate grant money. The 22 counties served by the program include Bamberg, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, Marion, Newberry, Orangeburg, Spartanburg, Sumter and Williamsburg, counties.

SCDRO also has \$1 million set aside to help rental property landlords repair their properties. However, the program is limited to a maximum of two properties per landlord and up to \$25,000 per property. Following the repairs, the properties will have a five-year lien. The landlord must rent the properties to Low-Moderate Income persons in a HUD program during this time.

For more information, please visit the SCDRO website, [www.scstormrecovery.com](http://www.scstormrecovery.com), which will be available on November 1, 2016.

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## WHAT DOCUMENTATION YOU NEED TO PROVIDE:



### STATE ISSUED ID

- Driver's License
- Passport
- Military ID
- Certificate of Naturalization or Permanent Resident Card
- Birth Certificate (65 and over)



### PROOF OF INCOME

- 2015 Tax Return OR
  - 2015 W2 or 3 Most Recent Paystubs
  - Unemployment Award Letter
  - Pension/Annuity Letter
  - Social Security Benefit Letter
  - VA Benefit Letter



### PROOF OF DISABILITY

- Social Security or VA Letter
- Parking Placard Registration
- Statement from your Doctor
- Disability ID or Visible Handicap



### HOME INSURANCE

- Homeowner's Insurance Policy Number
- Flood Insurance Policy Number

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