



FLORIDA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

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USDA Disaster Assistance Grants for Hurricane Irma

USDA Rural Utilities Service has **\$163,475,000** grant funds available for repairs to drinking water systems and sewer and solid waste disposal systems impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, see the announcement [here](#). Applications will be accepted on a continual basis *until funds are exhausted*.



What are the Disaster Grant amounts?

Grant amounts are based on Median Household Income (MHI) according to the American Community Survey (ACS) five-year data (2006–2010).

- 100% Grant, if population served is less than the poverty or 80% of State MHI
- 75% Grant, if population served is more than 80% or less than 100% of State MHI
- 45% Grant, if population served is more than 100% of State MHI

Who is eligible for Disaster Grant?

Systems applying must be public entities. This includes municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, Native American Tribes and corporations not operated for profit, including cooperatives, with up to 50,000 population and rural areas with no population limits. Applying system must demonstrate:

- A financial hardship impact to its operations and customers as a result of repairs.
- That they possess the technical, managerial, and financial capability necessary to consistently comply with pertinent Federal and State laws and requirements.
- Be current on the repayment of all debts at the time they are due.

What Disaster Grant uses are eligible?

Grant funds may only be used to repair damages to drinking water systems or sewer and solid waste disposal systems caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria. If repairs to a system are not economically feasible or cost-effective due to the extent of the damage caused by a hurricane, USDA will consider replacement (as opposed to repair) on a case-by-case basis.

Reimbursement must be justified by a clear demonstration of financial hardship to the system or its customers due to the use of its own funds or commercial credit to make such repairs or replacement. For such repairs and replacements already made to restore service, grants may be awarded to reimburse applicants for expenses incurred by the applicant. These expenses must have been incurred within two years from the date of the covered hurricane.

There shall be no reimbursement for repairs or replacements made or financed through the use of other Federal funds – *no double dipping*.

Are there any Disaster Grant Fund Restrictions?

Grant funds may NOT be used to finance:

- Repairs or replacement of facilities not directly impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria;
- Facilities which are not modest in size, design, and cost;
- Grant finder's fees;
- Any portion of the cost of a facility which does not serve a rural area as defined in this Notice;



- That portion of project costs normally provided by a business or industrial user, such as wastewater pretreatment;
- Rental for the use of equipment or machinery owned by the applicant; or
- Other purposes not directly related to operating and maintenance of the facility being repaired or replaced.

Will there be completion for Disaster Grant Funds?

In the event demand for funding is greater than the amount of funds available, a priority ranking scoring system will be used to determine which projects are funded. Agency officials will consider the priority items met by each application and the degree to which those priorities are met when funds are limited. Scores are awarded for population, income, health priorities, public bodies, Indian Tribes, matching funds, inability to secure commercial credit, etc.

Where are applications found and where are they filed?

Applicants can also apply through RUS' website for online applications, RDAApply at <https://rdapply.usda.gov>, or the Florida USDA Rural Development State Office, 4440 NW 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, (352) 338- 3400.

FRWA Circuit Riders are available to assist you in completing your application (gathering, preparing and submitting the required documents).

What documentation and applications must be filed?

Applicants will be required to submit the following items to the processing office, upon notification from the processing office to proceed with further development of the full application. The forms below are available on the RD website: (<https://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/welcomeAction.do?Home>):

- Description of repairs to systems caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria.
- Demonstration of financial hardship impact to operations and customers as a result of repairs
- [Florida State Clearinghouse](#)
- Form RD 442-7, "Operating Budget" or similar form
- Form RD 1910-11, "Application Certification, Federal Collection Policies for Consumer or Commercial Debts"
- Form RD 400-1, "Equal Opportunity Agreement"
- Form RD 400-4, "Assurance Agreement"
- Form AD-1047, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and other Responsibility Matters"
- Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Grants) Alternative I For Grantees Other Than Individuals;"
- Certifications for Contracts, Grants, and Loans (Regarding Lobbying)
- Certification regarding prohibited tying arrangement
- Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number
- Register in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to submitting an application
- Audits if expenses exceed \$750,000 or financial statements if expenses are less than \$750,000

Within 15 days of receiving your application, RUS will send you a letter of acknowledgment. Your application will be reviewed for completeness to determine if you included all of the items required. If your application is incomplete or ineligible, RUS will return it to you with an explanation. Applicants may resubmit applications deemed incomplete or ineligible after revising them in accordance with RUS explanation.

What are the application submission deadlines, dates and times?

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted.