

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCTOBER 2015 SEVERE STORM APPLICANT PROCESS ENDS

Columbia, S.C., July 11, 2017 – The South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office (SCDRO) completed the intake portion of the October 2015 Severe Storm program on April 30. The program evaluated 3,755 completed applications and determined that 2,805 are eligible for assistance. While intake has closed, the construction phase will last for the next three years or until all available funding is exhausted. SCDRO is working diligently to reach citizens as quickly as construction allows.

The program goal is to serve as many eligible applicants as possible. After originally planning to reach 1,500 homes, SCDRO will be receiving additional federal funding that will allow the program to serve approximately 2,100 households. Should the program receive even more additional funds, SCDRO will continue to serve its most vulnerable eligible applicants until all funds are depleted.

Eligibility for the program was based on income, age dependency and disability. The highest priority was given to households with documented damage, homeowners who are 65 years old or older, persons with documented disabilities, or households with children five years old or younger. SCDRO 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.

“The size of the disaster is greater than the available taxpayer funding. We knew that before we started, and will make the funding go as far as possible,” said SCDRO Program Management Director J. R. Sanderson. “The program is designed to assist Low to Moderate income households, those who are most vulnerable, and cannot recover themselves.”

SCDRO will reach approximately 75 percent of the program’s eligible applicants with current federal funding. Unfortunately, due to limited funding, the program will not be able to reach every applicant. “No Service” letters are being sent to those the program will not be able to service.

Applicants may appeal this decision based on facts related to their priority level. To appeal the decision, applicants must submit a written letter to SCDRO by July 28. Appeals should include the applicant’s name, the address of the property, supporting documents, and reasons for the appeal. Applicants who need help with their appeal should contact their designated advocate.

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.

For more information about SCDRO, visit <https://www.scdr.sc.gov>.

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SCDRO DENIAL APPEAL FACTS

1. The eligibility priority table is designed to assist those who are in the low to moderate income community and who are age dependent (over 65 or have children under 5 yrs. of age), or are disabled, or who have multiple disabilities within the family.

HOUSEHOLD'S (AMI) AREA MEDIAN INCOME CATEGORY			
	30% AMI or BELOW	31% AMI to 50% AMI	51% AMI to 80% AMI
Applicant's Household Includes Both Age Dependent & Disabled, or Multiple Disabled Individuals	1st Priority	3rd Priority	5th Priority
Applicant's Household Includes <i>Either</i> Age Dependent or Disabled	2nd Priority	4th Priority	6th Priority
Applicant's Household Includes Neither Age Dependent or Disabled	5th Priority	7th Priority	8th Priority

2. To appeal the decision, citizens must submit a written appeal by July 28. The appeal must be in writing and mailed to SCDRO.
3. Each appeal form or letter must include:
 - Date of appeal;
 - Citizen's name;
 - Their current mailing address;
 - The street address of the property or primary residence listed on the application;
 - Their identification application number (included with the denial letter);
 - Copies of all supporting documentation the program should consider for the appeal;
 - The reasons for disagreeing with the decision.
4. Citizens who need help identifying information which might help their appeal should contact their disaster case manager or advocate if they have one.

5. Appeals should be mailed to the following address:
South Carolina Disaster Recovery Program
632 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, SC 29201