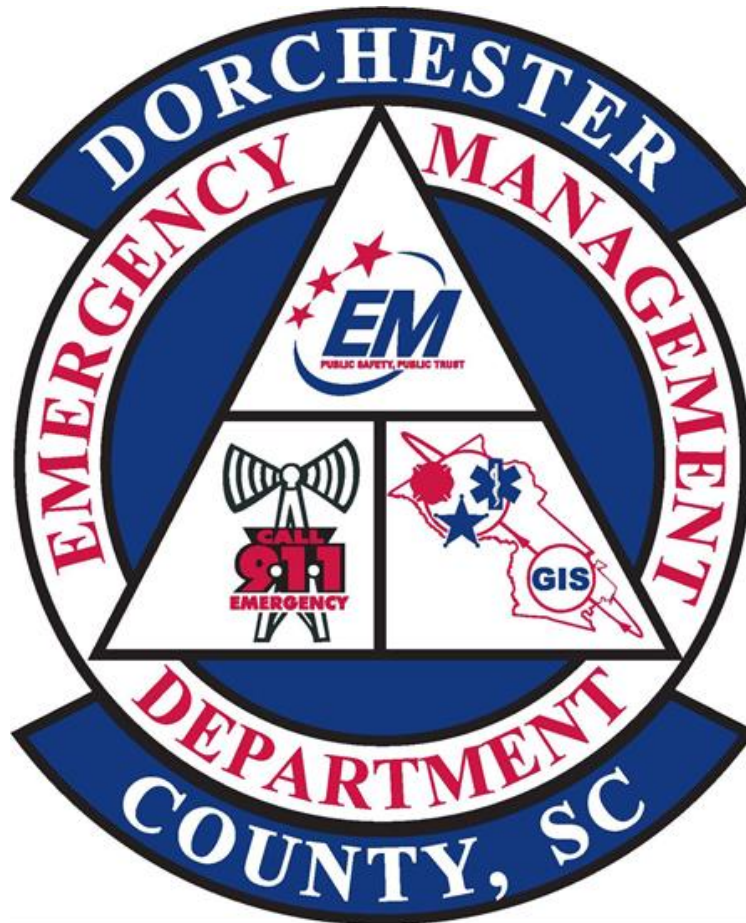


Dorchester County, South Carolina
Disaster Recovery Plan



Dorchester County Emergency Management Department

October 2020

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The Dorchester County Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) is an attachment to the Dorchester County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and will facilitate the necessary actions to be taken during the recovery process.
- B. Recovery is the act of restoring and returning the community back to the pre-event or “new normal” state. The recovery process is a complex continuum and involves a range of activities and many participants. Recovery starts with activities to restore vital life support systems and extends through the rebuilding and redevelopment process. Short-term recovery overlaps with the response phase, and long-term recovery incorporates the principles of hazard mitigation.
- C. Recovery is locally driven. The process of managing the recovery will be the responsibility of the whole community. It is of great importance that there is a strong focus on the identification and implementation of mitigation projects and programs to reduce future disaster damage.
- D. The Dorchester DRP establishes a framework for county supported recovery activities in alignment with the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) and the South Carolina Recovery Plan. Both documents exist to coordinate resources to support local recovery goals.

II. PURPOSE

- A. Serve as a guide during the recovery phase of a natural or man-made hazard. Recovery phase activities are outlined within this DRP and the County’s Emergency Operations Plan.
- B. Provide organizational structure to expedite a coordinated recovery effort throughout the multiple phases of the disaster recovery process. This process will return the county to normal or new-normal operating conditions as quickly as possible.

III. SCOPE

- A. The Dorchester County DRP is a scalable recovery framework that can be used to guide recovery efforts of varying levels of complexity to address impacts resulting from any type of hazard.
- B. The DRP applies to all departments and agencies that have a role in the recovery process.

IV. SITUATION & ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Dorchester County is in the Low-Country Region of South Carolina. The county measures approximately 575 square miles and has a population of 160,647 according to the (2018) U.S. Census. It is one of the fastest growing counties in South Carolina and ranks high in growth rate throughout the nation (see **Table 1** for population Census Data).
2. Dorchester County is comprised of mostly rural land with 70% of the county being covered by forest. Farmland and swamps take up a large part of unincorporated areas in the county. The rural land is interrupted by six incorporated areas that are densely developed when compared to the rest of the County: The town of Summerville, the Town of St. George, the town of Harleyville, the Town of Reevesville, the Town of Ridgeville and the City of North Charleston. Summerville and North Charleston cross county boundaries and can be found in Dorchester, Berkeley, and Charleston County.
3. According to the 2018 U.S. Census, approximately 64% of the population of Dorchester County was in the labor force, with approximately 4% unemployed, and 36% not in the labor force. The per capita income for Dorchester County in 2018 was \$27,317. The median household income was \$58,685. Approximately 10%, of all individuals were considered below the poverty level (see **Table 2** for business and economic Census Data).
4. Dorchester County is threatened by various natural and man-made/technological hazards. These hazards endanger the health and safety of the population of the counties, jeopardize the economic vitality, and imperil the quality of the environment (see **Table 3** for a list of hazards).

B. Assumptions

1. Dorchester County has ultimate responsibility for managing recovery efforts.
2. A catastrophic disaster may overwhelm Dorchester County's ability to provide resources to facilitate effective and efficient recovery.
3. State and Federal assistance may be constrained based on the magnitude and scope of the disaster.

4. Critical infrastructure may be damaged, disrupting transportation services, telecommunication and fiber networks, impairing communication among agencies, governmental organizations, and citizens who rely on these services. Severe damage may occur to homes, public buildings, and critical facilities. Debris may make streets and highways impassable. Public utilities may be damaged, rendering them partially or fully inoperable. Citizens may be forced from their homes, and large numbers of deaths and injuries could occur.
5. Medical facilities and medical support systems may be damaged . Damage may limit access to medical services, increase public health threats, and increase the need for behavioral health support. Healthcare and social service networks may be overwhelmed by the needs of survivors after a disaster.
6. Recovery efforts may require support from the public and private sector. This is especially true when reconstituting the necessary communications and infrastructure required for life saving and safety.

Table 1: Dorchester County Population Census Data

Population Quick Facts	Dorchester County
Population Estimate, July 1, 2018 (V2018)	160,647
Population change, April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2019, (V2019)	18.0%
Persons under 5 years	6.1%
Persons under 18 years	24.4%
Persons over 65 years	14.1%
Female population	51.4%
White alone	68.5%
Black or African American alone (a)	25.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone (a)	0.7%
Asian alone (a)	2.0%
Native American and Other Pacific Islanders alone (a)	0.2%
Two or More Races	2.8%
Hispanic or Latino (b)	5.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	64.0%
Veterans, 2014-2018	15,851
Foreign born persons	4.4%
Housing Units, July 1, 2018	61,647
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2014-2018	71.4%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2014-2018	\$186,300
Median selected monthly owner costs - with a mortgage, 2014-2018	\$1,448

Median selected monthly owner costs - without a mortgage, 2014-2018	\$443
Median gross rent, 2014-2018	\$1,069
Building permits, 2018	696
Households, 2014-2018	54,549
Persons per household, 2014-2018	2.82
High school graduate or higher, persons age 25 years+, 2014-2018	90.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher, persons age 25 years+, 2014-2018	27.9%

(a) Includes persons reporting only 1 race

(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories

Table 2: Dorchester County Business & Economic Census Data

Business & Economic Quick Facts	Dorchester County
Median household income (in 2018 dollars), 2014-2018	\$61,698
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2018 dollars), 2014-2018	\$28,704
Persons in poverty	11.0%
Total employer establishments, 2017	2,361
Total employment	30,217
Total annual payroll, 2017 (\$1,000)	1,113,202
Total employment, change 2016-2017	13.0%
Total nonemployer establishments, 2017	10,519
All firms, 2012	9,713
Men-owned firms, 2012	5,220
Women-owned firms, 2012	3,613
Minority-owned firms, 2012	2,535
Nonminority-owned firms, 2012	6,923
Veteran-owned firms, 2012	1,353
Nonveteran-owned firms, 2012	7,874
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	132,411
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	271,019
Total manufacturers' shipments, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	2,026,405
Total merchant wholesaler sales, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	215,300
Total retail sales, 2012 (\$1000) (c)	973,162
Total retail sales per capita, 2012 (c)	\$6,829

(c) Economic Census – Puerto Rico data is not comparable to U.S. Economic Census data

Table 3: Dorchester County Hazards

Natural Hazards		Man-Made/Technological Hazards
Hurricane/Tropical Storm	Flood	Hazardous Material
Tornado	Severe Thunderstorm	Transportation
Winter Storm	Earthquake	Terrorism
Wildfire	Drought	Civil Disorder

V. RECOVERY OVERVIEW

A. Recovery Continuum

1. Recovery is divided into three broad and overlapping phases – short-term, intermediate, and long-term recovery. However, for a community faced with significant and widespread disaster impacts, preparedness, response, and recovery are not and cannot be separate and sequential efforts.
2. Decisions made and priorities set pre-disaster and early in the recovery process have a cascading effect on the nature, speed, and inclusiveness of recovery.

B. Short-Term Recovery

1. Short-term recovery lasts days to weeks following a disaster. This phase overlaps emergency response and will address and provide for the necessary and immediate needs of the community.
2. Short-term recovery activities include but are not limited to:
 - a. Impact assessment of immediate emergency needs and as required, request for State/Federal assistance.
 - b. Damage assessment of homes, business, critical infrastructure, lifelines, supply chains, and services.
 - c. Restoration of critical functions, services, infrastructure, and facilities.
 - d. Dissemination of accurate emergency instructions and information to the public.
 - e. Clearance of debris from primary transportation routes, debris removal, and general cleanup.
 - f. Provision of mass care, including sheltering, food, water, and other essential commodities for those displaced by the incident.

- g. Provision of essential services to include law enforcement, security, fire service, search and rescue, public health, and medical assistance.
- h. Provide accurate and timely disaster relief information to the public as needed.

C. Intermediate Recovery

1. Intermediate-recovery lasts weeks to months following a disaster. This phase will build upon the progress made during short-term recovery and will focus on existing social needs.
2. Intermediate recovery activities include but are not limited to:
 - a. Provide accessible short-term housing and plan for long-term housing solutions.
 - b. Provide access and functional needs assistance to preserve independence and health.
 - c. Reconnect displaced population with essential health and social services.
 - d. Facilitate reentry of displaced population and businesses into affected areas if appropriate to do so.
 - e. Coordinate the identification, procurement, and distribution of emergency resources and materials.
 - f. Manage/coordinate volunteers and the distribution of donated goods.
 - g. Continue to provide Disaster Relief information to the public.
 - h. Continue debris removal as needed.

D. Long-Term Recovery

1. Long-term recovery lasts months to years following a disaster. This phase prioritizes returning the community to its pre-disaster condition. During long-term recovery it is important to increase resiliency by exposing existing vulnerabilities and mitigating identified hazards.
2. Long-term recovery activities include but are not limited to:
 - a. Redevelop and revitalize damaged area(s).
 - b. Rebuild social, economic, and educational systems.
 - c. Implement permanent housing strategies.
 - d. Address recovery needs of the local economy and community.
 - e. Identify and implement mitigation strategies, plans, and projects.

VI. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Activation

1. The Dorchester County DRP is activated during a full activation of the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC). However, the DRP could be activated upon the request of the EOC Commander when the EOC is not fully activated.
2. As response objectives shift toward short-term recovery objectives the EOC will continue to coordinate and facilitate the short-term recovery phase.
3. A handful of Emergency Support Functions (ESF's) will have ongoing responsibilities in the short-term recovery phase of a disaster. This transition cannot be specifically identified as to all ESF's required in short-term recovery until the situation has been evaluated.

B. Recovery Support Functions (RSF's)

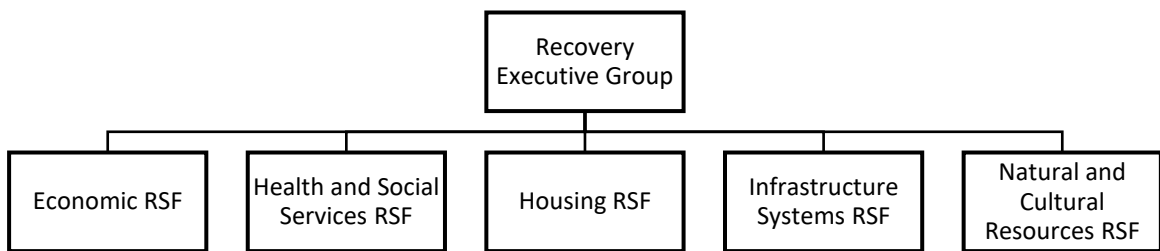
1. Dorchester County has five RSF's to guide the recovery process. RSF's are like ESF's except their missions are designed to foster coordination between stakeholders and improve access to recovery resources.
2. Dorchester County has the following RSF's:
 - a. RSF 1: Economic
 - b. RSF 2: Health and Social Services
 - c. RSF 3: Housing
 - d. RSF 4: Infrastructure Systems
 - e. RSF 5: Natural and Cultural Resources
3. Dorchester County RSF's integrate with both State and Federal ESF's to simplify coordination.
4. RSF's should be part of the EOC organizational structure. Early involvement in the EOC encourages better coordination of response and recovery activities.

C. Recovery Task Force (RTF)

1. The RTF is organized into the Recovery Executive Group and the agencies of each RSF.

2. The Recovery Executive Group is responsible for the functions identified in the Federal Community Planning and Capacity Building RSF, and coordination across the other five Dorchester County RSF's (see Figure 1.).
3. The RTF should meet regularly to engage in steady-state recovery planning.

Figure 1. Dorchester County Recovery Task Force Organization



VII. RSF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Recovery Executive Group

1. The purpose of the Recovery Executive Group is to assist in recovery activities by coordinating resources and making policy decisions in support of recovery objectives.
2. If appointed by the County Administrator, the Local Disaster Recovery Coordinator (LDRC) will lead the Recovery Executive Group. If appointed, the LDRC will serve as the point of contact with the State and Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinators to explore and resolve unmet recovery needs.
3. If a LDRC is not appointed, the Recovery Executive Group will lead coordination of recovery efforts.
4. Responsibilities of the Recovery Executive Group include but are not limited to:
 - a. Promote and enhance multi-jurisdictional coordination
 - b. Develop policy and strategy.

- c. Communicate local recovery priorities to the State/Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinators.
- d. Develop a unified communication strategy with State/Federal partners.
- e. Define community capacity building needs and identify post disaster resources to fulfil those needs.
- f. Provide interface to the media and public.

Dorchester County Recovery Executive Group	
Primary Agency	Dorchester County Administrator’s Office
Support Agencies	Dorchester County Emergency Management Department Dorchester County Public Information Office Dorchester County Business Service Department Dorchester County Attorney’s Office
Related ESF’s	ESF 5: Information & Planning ESF 7: Resource Support ESF 14: Long-Term Community Recovery & Mitigation ESF 15: Public Information

B. Economic RSF

1. The purpose of the Economic RSF is to return economic and business activities to a healthy state. New business opportunities that result in an economically viable community should be developed.
2. Responsibilities of the Economic RSF include but are not limited to:
 - a. Collect and analyze data associated with economic and business recovery.
 - b. Work with impacted areas to develop economic opportunities.
 - c. Coordinate the development and implementation of strategic plans for economic recovery needs.
 - d. Coordinate with State/Federal partners to obtain necessary resources to sustain and rebuild businesses and employment.
 - e. Oversee the counties effort in applying for, receiving, and documenting federal disaster assistance.

Dorchester County Economic RSF	
Primary Agency	Dorchester County Economic Development
Support Agencies	Greater Summerville-Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce Dorchester County Emergency Management Department Dorchester County Public Information Office Dorchester County Business Services Department Tri-County Chamber of Commerce Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Department
Related ESF's	ESF 5: Information & Planning ESF 14: Long-Term Community Recovery & Mitigation ESF 15: Public Information ESF 18: Donated Goods & Volunteer Services ESF 24: Business & Industry

C. Health and Social Services RSF

1. The purpose of the Health and Social Services RSF is to coordinate and monitor the restoration and improvement of health and social services capabilities and networks to promote the resilience, independence, health, and well-being of the whole community.
2. Responsibilities of the Health and Social Services RSF include but are not limited to:
 - a. Assess community health and social service needs, prioritize those needs, and develop a recovery timeline.
 - b. Restore public health and social services.
 - c. Improve the resilience and sustainability of the health care system and social service capabilities.
 - d. Coordinate with Dorchester Counties PIO and share information about crisis counseling and other services.

Dorchester County Health and Social Services RSF	
Primary Agencies	SC DHEC / Lowcountry Region Dorchester County Department of Social Services
Support Agencies	Dorchester County Emergency Management Department Dorchester County Public Information Office Dorchester County Emergency Medical Services Dorchester County Fire Rescue Dorchester County Sheriff's Office Dorchester County Coroner's Office American Red Cross Palmetto Region South Carolina National Guard
Related ESF's	ESF 5: Information & Planning ESF 6: Mass Care ESF 8: Health & Medical Services ESF 10: Hazardous Materials ESF 11: Food Services ESF 12: Energy & Utilities ESF 14: Long-Term Community Recovery & Mitigation ESF 15: Public Information ESF 18: Donated Goods & Volunteer Services

D. Housing RSF

- 1) The purpose of the Housing RSF is to coordinate and facilitate the delivery of resources to implement housing solutions that effectively support the needs of the whole community and contribute to its sustainability and resilience

- 2) Responsibilities of the Housing RSF include but are not limited to:
 - a. Assess preliminary housing impacts and pre- and post-disaster needs, identify available options for temporary housing, and support the development of local plans for permanent housing.
 - b. Support community resiliency by working with private partners to support housing solutions that are available, affordable, accessible, attainable, and meet acceptable quality standards for residents in need of sustainable, permanent housing.
 - c. Identify strategies to improve the housing market.
 - d. Integrate disaster mitigation measures into community design and development to improve disaster resilience.

Dorchester County Housing RSF	
Primary Agency	Dorchester County Emergency Management Department
Support Agencies	Dorchester County Building Services Department Dorchester County Public Information Office Dorchester County Planning and Zoning Department Dorchester County Public Works Department Dorchester County Geographic Information Systems Dorchester County Water and Sewer Department Dorchester County Business Services Department Dorchester County Department of Social Services American Red Cross Palmetto Region Salvation Army
Related ESF's	ESF 5: Information & Planning ESF 6: Mass Care ESF 7: Resource Support ESF 11: Emergency Food Services ESF 14: Long-Term Community Recovery & Mitigation ESF 15: Public Information ESF 18: Donated Goods & Volunteer Services

E. Infrastructure Systems RSF

- 1) The purpose of the Infrastructure Systems RSF is to facilitate the restoration of infrastructure systems and services to support a viable, sustainable community and improves resilience to and protection from future hazards.

- 2) Responsibilities of the Infrastructure Systems RSF include but are not limited to:
 - a. Facilitate the restoration and sustainment of essential services (public and private) to maintain community functionality.
 - b. Monitor disaster-specific events and activities to create a timeline for developing, redeveloping, and enhancing community infrastructure to contribute to resilience, accessibility, and sustainability.
 - c. Provide systems that meet the community needs while minimizing service disruption during restoration within the specified timeline in the recovery plan.
 - d. Provide mitigation opportunities that leverage innovative and green technologies.

Dorchester County Infrastructure Systems RSF	
Primary Agencies	Dorchester County Public Works Department Dorchester County Water & Sewer Department
Support Agencies	Dorchester County Emergency Management Department Dorchester County Public Information Office Dorchester County Building Services Dorchester County Facilities & Grounds Department Dorchester County Fleet Maintenance Dorchester County Information Technology Department Dorchester County Sherriff's Office Private & Cooperative Utilities
Related ESF's	ESF 1: Transportation ESF 2: Communications ESF 3: PW & Engineering ESF 5: Info & Planning ESF 12: Energy & Utilities ESF 14: Long-Term Community Recovery & Mitigation ESF 15: Public Information ESF 16: Emergency Traffic Management

F. Natural and Cultural Resources RSF

1. The purpose of The Natural and Cultural RSF is to support the protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties through appropriate response and recovery actions. Preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, and restore them consistent with post-disaster community priorities and in compliance with applicable environmental and historical preservation laws and Executive orders.

2. Responsibilities of the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF include but are not limited to:
 - a. Facilitate measures to protect, stabilize, and assist in the recovery of culturally and historically significant records, artifacts, buildings, structures, objects, and sites.
 - b. Conduct and assist in preliminary assessments of the impacts to natural and cultural resources. Identify protections and stabilization and mitigation measures that need to be in place through recovery.
 - c. Develop a timeline that includes consideration of available human and budgetary resources for addressing these impacts in a sustainable and resilient manner.

- d. Support and promote the preservation and restoration of natural and cultural resources as part of overall community recovery.

Dorchester County Natural & Cultural Resources RSF	
Primary Agency	Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Department
Support Agencies	Dorchester County Emergency Management Department Dorchester County Public Information Office Dorchester County Fire Rescue South Carolina Forestry Commission Dorchester County Community Services Department
Related ESF's	ESF 4: Firefighting ESF 5: Information & Planning ESF 10: Hazardous Materials ESF 14: Long-Term Community Recovery & Mitigation ESF 15: Public Information ESF 17: Animal Emergency Response

VIII. LOCAL ORGANIZATION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Coordinating Agency

1. Emergency Management Department

- a. Prepare and coordinate response and recovery activities in Dorchester County during emergency activations.
- b. Ensure the appropriate RSF's are identified and activated.

B. Lead Agency

1. Administrator's Office

- a. Coordinate with Dorchester County Council to aid in policy-level decision making.
- b. The administrator or his/her designee will serve as the county's Incident Commander during EOC activations.
- c. The administrator serves as the liaison between Dorchester County Council and Emergency Operations Center Staff.

C. Primary Agencies

1. Public Information Office

- a. Promote transparency, accountability, and efficiency by reporting information on recovery efforts in a timely manner.
- b. Process and disseminate disaster welfare and family reunification information and any other relevant press releases.
- c. Anticipate and plan for the arrival of South Carolina Emergency Management Department/FEMA, ESF-15 personnel in the EOC, and the Joint Field Office (JFO).

2. Public Works Department

- a. Coordinate repairs and protective measures for public facilities and monitor restoration operations until the community is back to normal or new-normal operations.
- b. Coordinate with Emergency Management Department and other agencies to review operational priorities and establish long-term recovery goals.
- c. Assist with damage assessment primarily related to infrastructure eligible for reimbursement through Federal Public Assistance.
- d. Direct debris management operations on public and private property as needed.
- e. Coordinate with SCDOT, Towns and Debris Contractor(s) for emergency road and public areas clearing.
- f. Maintain labor, equipment, and material costs/records for possible federal reimbursement.

3. Water & Sewer Department

- a. Monitor and coordinate the restoration of public utilities, including water distribution and sewer services.
- b. Coordinate the temporary/alternative sources of emergency water/sewer until services are restored to normal or new-normal operations.

4. Planning & Zoning Department

- a. Administer and enforce zoning ordinances.
- b. Support permitting needs associated with the temporary housing mission.
- c. Coordinate with supporting agencies to identify solutions for contractor/construction supply shortages.

- d. Encourage implementation of mitigation strategies in residential reconstruction.

5. Assessor's Office

- a. Provide personnel to conduct damage assessment.
- b. Analyze damage assessment data.
- c. Assist with the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment.
- d. Inform County Council on impacts associated with property claims that could affect property value.

6. Building Services Department

- a. Coordinate with Assessor's Office and Public Work's to perform damage assessment.
- b. Coordinate with the Assessor's Office to appoint inspectors. Inspectors will partner with appraisers to estimate real property damage and whether dwellings are safe for occupancy.
- c. Perform substantial damage estimates on flooded properties.
- d. Maintain a list of repetitive loss properties.
- e. Monitor illegal construction practices, including unlicensed contractors, and failure to apply for a permit.
- f. Provide basic inspection of potential temporary housing sites.

7. Facilities & Grounds Department

- a. Coordinate all activities to assist with facility maintenance and restoration.
- b. Perform damage assessment on county buildings.
- c. Coordinate the ordering, delivery, installation, and maintenance of emergency generators at county buildings and shelters.

8. Business Services Department

- a. Ensure all county departments are compliant with current procedures when identifying or selecting contractors and vendors, soliciting cost estimates, monitoring, and tracking construction activities, and submitting invoices and other required documents.
- b. Coordinate the procurement/distribution of emergency contracted services, donated funds, and State/FEMA Public Assistance or reimbursement activities.

- c. Provide guidance to county employees regarding emergency hours worked because of the disaster.
- d. Provide guidance on all costs incurred as a direct result of the disaster, including equipment/material usage for resources provided through mutual aid.
- e. Oversee the application process for all FEMA related projects, initially as the Applicant Agent for Public Assistance.

9. Economic Development

- a. Implement procedures to restore the county's economy following a disaster.
- b. Identify eligibility for available grants that can be used to support economic recovery.
- c. Serve as the contact for private sector resources.
- d. Assess impact on businesses throughout the county.
- e. Push info/resources out to the business community regarding disaster recovery.

10. Sheriff's Office & Municipal Law Enforcement

- a. Carry out the laws, criminal investigations, and other public safety duties within their jurisdiction.
- b. Make recommendations on emergency ordinances to assist in maintaining public order and safety.
- c. Provide and coordinate security for the VRC, PODs, Disaster Recovery Center, designated mass care shelters when requested by DSS and/or ARC, Recovery Warehouse, and other areas and routes as needed.
- d. Support and provide traffic control/management.
- e. Provide security for designated areas, including critical facilities.
- f. Provide escort of essential relief supplies and material necessary.

D. Supporting Organizations

1. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

- a. The Trident VOAD is Dorchester Counties local VOAD.
- b. Trident VOAD is a group of local non-profit organizations that can supply services to the community before, during, and after a disaster.

- c. Maintain a list of available resources throughout member organizations. County departments should communicate resource needs to the Emergency Management Department.
- d. Communicate with the Recovery Executive Group to stay informed on local needs throughout the disaster recovery process.

2. Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

- a. The Dorchester County COAD is a group of community organizations (mainly churches) who are willing to lend assistance during and after a disaster.
- b. Missions include feeding, donations distributions, and private property debris removal.
- c. Emergency Management Department maintains a list of COAD's willing to provide aid after a disaster and what primary mission they will perform.

IX. FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. The Federal Declaration Process

1. The Stafford Act (§401) requires that: "All requests for a declaration by the President that a major disaster exists shall be made by the Governor of the affected State."
2. The Governor's request is made through the regional FEMA office. State and Federal officials conduct a preliminary damage assessment (PDA) to estimate the extent of the disaster and its impact on individuals and public facilities. This information is included in the Governor's request to show that the disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the local governments and that Federal assistance is necessary.
3. Normally, the PDA is completed prior to the Governor's request for assistance however, in an obviously severe or catastrophic event, the Governor's request may be submitted prior to the PDA. In this case the Governor is still the person who makes the request for assistance. Included in the Governor's request is an estimate of the type and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act.

4. Based on the Governor's request, the President may declare a Major Disaster Declaration or an Emergency Declaration, thus, activating an array of Federal programs to assist in the response and recovery effort.
5. A declaration does not imply that all programs are activated for every disaster. The determination of which programs are activated is based on the needs found during damage assessments and any subsequent information that may be discovered.
6. There are two basic programs offered through FEMA for disaster assistance in a presidentially declared event. The two programs are Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation Assistance.

B. Individual Assistance

1. Once a presidential declaration is made, funds are available through a series of disaster relief programs to assist in rebuilding communities within the disaster area.
2. The IA mission ensures disaster survivors have timely access to a full range of authorized programs and services to maximize recovery through partnered coordination of state, territorial, tribal and local government, as well as other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.
3. FEMA assists individuals and households through the coordination and delivery of IA programs including:
 - a. **Mass Care and Emergency Assistance (MC/EA):** Mass Care is composed of seven services known as activities: sheltering; feeding; distribution of emergency supplies; support for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs; reunification services for adults and children; support for household pets, service, and assistance animals; and mass evacuee support. In addition to the seven activities, MC/EA also supports the National Mass Care Exercise (NMCE) training program and offers partnerships through the following programs: Blue Roof Program and Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA).
 - b. **Individuals and Households Program (IHP):** IHP Assistance provides financial assistance and direct services to eligible individuals and households who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses

and serious needs. IHP Assistance is not a substitute for insurance and cannot compensate for all losses caused by a disaster; it is intended to meet basic needs and supplement disaster recovery efforts. IHP Assistance is not considered income or a resource when determining eligibility for welfare, income assistance, or income tested benefit programs that the federal government funds, such as Social Security benefits or disability income. IHP Assistance is also exempt from garnishment or seizure, but this exception does not apply to FEMA recovering assistance received in error or fraud.

- c. **Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP):** CCP provides eligible State, Territorial, Tribal, and local governments, and non-governmental organizations with supplemental funding to assist disaster-impacted individuals and communities in recovering from the major disasters through the provision of community-based outreach and psycho-educational services. The goal is to aid survivors in recovering from the adverse reactions to disasters and to begin to rebuild their lives.
- d. **Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA):** DUA provides unemployment benefits and re-employment assistance services to eligible survivors affected by a Presidentially declared major disaster. These services are under the responsibility of the U.S. Department of Labor and administered by the state, territorial, tribal, and local government emergency management officials of the affected area(s). DUA is only available to those eligible survivors who are not eligible for regular state unemployment insurance.
- e. **Disaster Legal Services (DLS):** DLS provides legal aid to survivors affected by a Presidentially declared major disaster through an agreement with the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the American Bar Association. DLS is put into effect during Presidentially declared disasters and is available to survivors who qualify as low-income.
- f. **Disaster Case Management (DCM):** DCM is a time limited process that promotes partnership between a case manager and a disaster survivor to assess and address a survivor's verified disaster-caused unmet needs through a disaster recovery plan. This disaster recovery plan includes resources, decision-making priorities, providing guidance and tools to assist disaster survivors.

C. Public Assistance

1. FEMA's PA Grant Program, oriented to public entities, can fund the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility or infrastructure, which is damaged or destroyed by a disaster.
2. Eligible Applicants include state and local governments, and any other political subdivision of the State, to include Native American Tribes. Certain private nonprofit (PNP) organization may also receive assistance. Eligible PNPs include educational, utility, irrigation, emergency, medical, rehabilitation, and temporary or permanent custodial care facilities (including those for the aged and disabled), and other PNP facilities that provide essential services of a governmental nature to the general public. PNPs that provide "critical services" (power, water, including water provided by an irrigation organization or facility, sewer, wastewater treatment, communications, and emergency medical care) may apply directly to FEMA for a disaster grant.
3. All PNPs must first apply to the Small Business Administration (described later) for a disaster loan and if declined or if the loan does not cover all the eligible damages, the applicant may re-apply for FEMA assistance.
4. **The Applicant Briefing:** Immediately following the declaration, the State, assisted by FEMA, conducts the applicant briefing for state, local and PNP officials to inform them of the assistance available and how to apply.
5. Applications must be filed with the State within 30 days after the area is designated eligible for assistance.
6. **The Kickoff Meeting:** The Kickoff Meeting is conducted where damages will be discussed, needs assessed, and a plan of action put in place. Federal, state, and local public assistance coordinators proceed with project formulation.
7. Project Formulation is the process of documenting the eligible facility, the eligible work, and the cost for fixing the damages to every public or PNP facility identified by state or local representatives.
8. **Project Worksheets:** Project Worksheets contain a description of the damage, scope of work to repair or replace the damaged site and an actual or estimated cost for the project. The project worksheets are reviewed and approved by FEMA and they obligate the federal cost share (which cannot be less than 75

percent) to the state. Appeals can be made when disagreements arise on project worksheets such as cost eligibilities.

9. Projects fall within one of the following categories:

- a. **Category A (Emergency Work):** Debris Removal
- b. **Category B (Emergency Work):** Emergency Protective Measures
- c. **Category C (Permanent Work):** Road Systems and Bridges
- d. **Category D (Permanent Work):** Water Control Facilities
- e. **Category E (Permanent Work):** Public Buildings and Contents
- f. **Category F (Permanent Work):** Public Utilities
- g. **Category G (Permanent Work):** Parks, Recreational, and Other

10. **Small Projects:** Projects falling below a certain cost threshold are considered small projects. Thresholds are set by FEMA in the Federal Register Notice for each federal fiscal year. The threshold is adjusted annually for inflation. Payment of the federal share of the estimate is made upon approval of the project and no further accounting to FEMA is required.

11. **Large Projects:** Large Projects are defined by a cost threshold set in the same Federal Register Notice as stated above. For larger projects, payment is made based on actual costs determined after the project is completed, although interim payments may be made, as necessary. Once FEMA obligates funds to the state, further management of the assistance, including disbursement to sub-grantees (such as the County) is the responsibilities of the state.

X. OTHER DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. Small Business Administration (SBA)

1. The SBA can make federally subsidized loans to repair or replace homes, personal property or businesses that sustained damages not covered by insurance. For many individuals, the SBA disaster loan program is the primary form of disaster assistance. Three types of disaster loans are offered to qualified homeowners and businesses:

- a. Home disaster loans: For homeowners and renters to repair or replace disaster-related damages to home or personal property.
- b. Business physical disaster loans: For business owners to repair or replace disaster-damaged property, including inventory, and supplies.

- c. Economic injury disaster loans: Provide capital to small businesses and to small agricultural cooperatives to assist them through the disaster recovery period.

B. Community Development Block Grant

1. The U.S. Department of housing and Urban Development provides flexible grants to help communities recover from presidentially declared disasters, especially in low- income areas.
2. Funds are subject to the availability of supplemental appropriations made by Congress. Grantees may use these funds for recovery efforts involving housing, economic development, infrastructure, and prevention of further damage to affected areas, if such use does not duplicate funding or services available from FEMA, the SBA, or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

C. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG)

1. HMPG provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of HMPG is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable the implementation of mitigation measures during immediate recovery from a disaster. To reduce damage caused by future natural or man-made hazards, FEMA encourages making these improvements while repairing disaster damage.
2. Hazard mitigation takes place both in advance of and in response to a natural or man-made hazard. The process of hazard mitigation planning helps to reduce or eliminate the loss of life, injuries, and property damage associated with a natural or man-made hazard through the organization of resources, assessing risks, development of mitigation strategies, and implementation of mitigation strategies.

D. Natural Resources Conservative Service

1. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, which responds to emergencies created by natural disasters. It is not necessary for a national emergency to be declared for an area to be eligible for assistance.

2. The program is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. EWP is an emergency recovery program. All projects undertaken, except for the purchase of floodplain easements, must have a project sponsor.
3. NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. Funding is subject to Congressional approval.
4. The NCRS is a program provided by the United States Department of Agriculture which is responsible for the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP). EWP's purpose is to undertake emergency measures for runoff retardation and soil erosion on a watershed whenever fire, flood, or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of the watershed. It is not necessary for a national emergency to be declared for an area to be eligible for assistance.

E. Department of Transportation

1. The Federal Highway Administration administers the Emergency Relief (ER) program through that can be used to repair disaster-related damage on federal aid-eligible local roadways.
2. Depending on the type of work, cost may be reimbursed from 80% for permanent repairs to 100% for some emergency work. Match requirements are the responsibility of the municipality. The minimum cost threshold for the program is \$5,000.
3. FEMA does not provide public assistance to federal aid roadways, so this program may be the only funding source for work on such roadways. Municipalities must contact their district office to start the process.

XI. PLAN MAINTAINANCE

- A. The Dorchester County Emergency Management Department will review this plan annually or as necessary following a drill, exercise, or actual event.

- B. Not all annual reviews will result in a total plan revision. Changes and updates made to the Disaster Recovery Plan following any review will include any relevant lessons learned

XII. AUTHORITIES & REFERENCES

A. Federal

1. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
2. Public Law 93-288, Title VI as amended
3. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 44, as amended
4. National Response Framework (NRF), as amended
5. National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), as amended
6. Presidential Decision Directive-63, Critical Infrastructure Directive, May 1998
7. 44 CFR, Part 13-Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements
8. Public Assistance Policy Digest
9. Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide
10. Public Assistance Applicant Handbook
11. Debris Management Guide

B. State

1. South Carolina Code of Laws, 25-1-420 through 25-1-460.
2. SC Regulation 58-101, State Government Preparedness Standards, Code of Regulations.
3. Governor's Executive Order 2003-12
4. South Carolina State Recovery Plan

C. Local

1. Dorchester County Hazard Mitigation Plan
2. Dorchester County Emergency Operations Plan
3. Dorchester County Logistics Plan

XIII. ATTACHMENTS

The following attachments are maintained in a separate location. Some attachments such as the Continuity of Operations Plan are considered For Official Use Only (FOUO) due to the sensitivity (e.g. individual contact information) of the content.

- A. Dorchester County Damage Assessment SOP
- B. Dorchester County Debris Management Plan
- C. Dorchester County Points of Distribution Plan
- D. Dorchester County Neighborhood Distribution and Information Points SOP
- E. Dorchester County Continuity of Operations Plan
- F. Dorchester County Re-entry Plan
- G. Dorchester County Disaster Housing Strategy (Draft)