

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HURRICANE MATTHEW DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Columbia, S.C., March 7, 2017 – The South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office established Palmetto Disaster Recovery to conduct disaster case management for South Carolina citizens affected by Hurricane Matthew.

Palmetto Disaster Recovery Office will focus their efforts on meeting the disaster-caused unmet needs of citizens in the 24 FEMA Individual Assistance declared counties: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter, and Williamsburg. Disaster Case Managers will be available in Marion County beginning March 8. Service for the remaining counties will be available by the end of March.

In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew made landfall in South Carolina as a Category 1 storm. The State experienced heavy rainfall with powerful wind gusts, resulting in loss of life, electricity, and extensive damage to homes, buildings and roads. Immediately following Hurricane Matthew, the state responded to those in need. State and local government agencies, civic organizations and volunteers assisted residents with their basic needs such as shelter, food, water and medicine. For many citizens, Disaster Recovery is a long and tough process. Many of South Carolina's most vulnerable citizens are still in need.

Disaster Case Managers will guide eligible citizens through the process of developing and carrying out an Individualized Recovery Plan that identifies resources, support services, goals and step-by-step actions. They will help citizens find solutions to long-term recovery needs such as housing, financial services, health needs, and emotional or spiritual well-being. Case managers will also conduct follow-up activities to monitor the citizen's progress and serve as an advocate for the citizen.

To be eligible for the program, citizens must have a disaster-caused unmet need, such as a housing loss, as a result of the October 2016 Hurricane and own property or live in one of the 24 FEMA Individual Assistance declared counties. Eligibility, however, does not guarantee assistance. Palmetto Disaster Recovery will target the most vulnerable citizens and priority will be given to those who are unable to recover on their own and have other special needs. Some of the factors that determine citizen priority include income level, disability, and age.

For more information, contact the Palmetto Disaster Recovery Office by email at contact@palmettodisasterrecovery.com or call 1-888-860-7137.

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