

TOWN OF CARRBORO
NORTH CAROLINA
STORMWATER UTILITY

To: David Andrews, Town Manager
Mayor and Board of Aldermen

From: Joe Guckavan, Public Works Director
Randy Dodd, Stormwater Utility Manager
Heather Holley, Stormwater Specialist
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Cc: Arche McAdoo, Finance Director

Date: November 30, 2018

Subject: FEMA Public Assistance Opportunity

Background and Summary

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information related to Hurricane Florence FEMA Public Assistance funding that could be available to the Town. At this stage, staff are in the information gathering mode and it is preliminary to recommend or anticipate specific opportunities for these funds, and the level of support for the Town to seek. Staff are planning to obtain more information in December and January, and will plan to provide an update with more specific opportunities and recommendations after these initial steps.

Information

FEMA has declared Orange County as being eligible for Public Assistance associated with damages from Hurricane Florence. This particular FEMA program is intended to “provide funds to assist communities responding to and recovering from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. At the Public Works facility, Florence resulted in a flood elevation that exceeded any previous flood observed by Public Works staff.



One of the impacts at Public Works was the inundation of the fleet's fuel tanks which in and of itself presents a high risk situation.



In addition, the stream that runs between Smith Level Road and Public Works experienced excessive stream bank erosion immediately adjacent to these tanks, elevating the urgency of mitigative action.

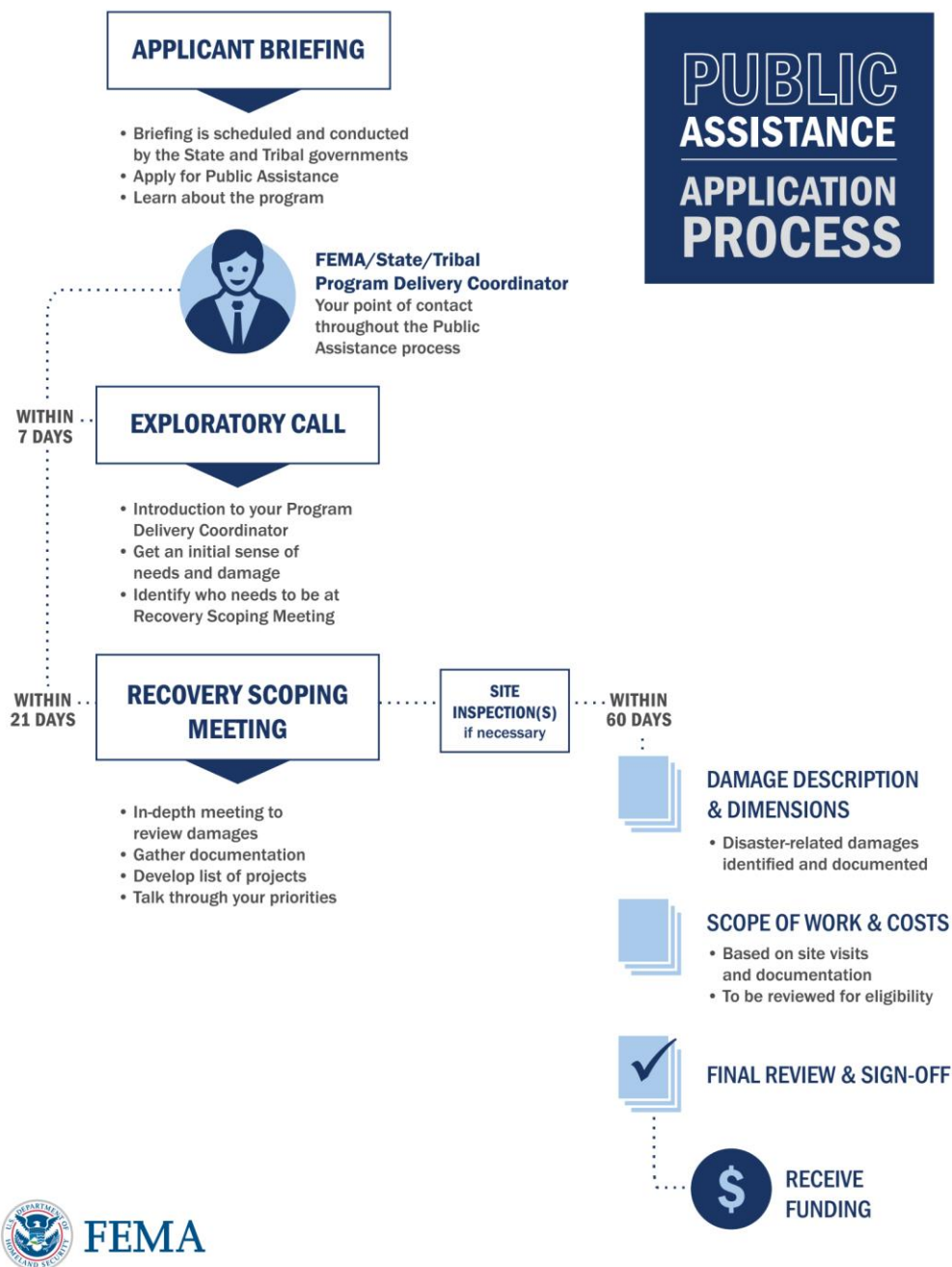


As an initial step, Public Works has asked Sungate Engineering for assistance in navigating the engineering design and permitting steps to consider in stream bank stabilization.

It is estimated that equipment/property damages associated with flooding at Public Works resulted in about \$200k of loss. Staff are in the process of submitting insurance claims for these losses; uncovered expenses associated with impacts from Florence may also be eligible for

Public Assistance, as well as reimbursement for staff time associated with emergency response and follow up. As a separate public infrastructure issue, the road was overtopped on Broad Street because of an undersized culvert. (This also happened during the June, 2013 storm.)

The Public Assistance application process is shown in the figure below. The applicant briefing meeting for all of Orange County occurred on November 1st.



At this initial meeting, staff were made aware of the potential scope of available funds that at its broadest cover funding for the relocation of the Public Works facility, due not only to the severity of impacts during Florence but also as part of the “Hazard Mitigation” Fund to address future risks and potential expenses associated with the nature of repetitive flooding and impacts. In the absence of funding at this scale, other mitigation and loss recovery expenses could still be eligible.

The next step in the process will be an exploratory call with a FEMA representative, currently planned for early in the first week in December. In preparation, staff have been gathering the information requested in addition to damages/insurance claims, such as:

- The scope of work and cost estimate for stream bank stabilization;
- Costs/backup documentation for staff time associated with Florence
- Data on age, size, historical flooding information, and flood map for PW facility.
- Broad Street culvert replacement cost estimate

At this call, staff will learn more about the scope of what the Town might be able to apply for. After this call we will be given 21 days to prepare for a “Recovery Scoping Meeting”. This meeting will outline all required information and documentation for all projects/reimbursements under the program. After this meeting, we will have 60 days to provide the documentation for all identified projects, damages, and expenses. If eligible, an award would be made at this time. Staff tentatively expect to be in a position to bring a more specific recommendation to the Board for approval sometime in January or February. An 18 month window for project completion using these funds exists, although it may be possible to extend that time frame for a major project.

Recommendation

Staff recommend that the Board of Aldermen receive this memo, direct staff to participate in the Recovery Scoping Meeting and follow up activities, and report back to the Board with recommendations.