

Supporting Disaster Impacted Communities: Leveraging EDA Resources for Recovery

EDA makes investments in distressed regions to support economic development.

- EDA grant assistance is available to eligible entities, defined as either a:
 - District Organization or a consortium of District Organizations;
 - Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
 - State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
 - Institutions of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; *or*;
 - A Public or private non-profits organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.
- EDA provides grant assistance to distressed regions to support specific economic development activities. All North Carolina counties designated by FEMA Designation 4285 as a result of Hurricane Matthew are eligible for EDA assistance under EDA's Special Need criteria.
- EDA grant assistance requires recipients to provide Matching Share, generally in amount of 50 percent of project cost. In order to apply, applicants must have matching funds that are available, unencumbered and committed to the project at time of submission of full application.
- Communities applying based on Special Need due to Hurricane Matthew need to define a clear nexus between the proposed project and the disaster impact.

EDA's diversified program portfolio provides customized investments that can help disaster-impacted communities access the wide range of services and assistance necessary to facilitate recovery.

- EDA provides grant assistance to support both construction and non-construction activities that can be leveraged in Hurricane Matthew-impacted communities to support specific economic development activities.
 - Construction may be defined as either construction of new public assets or renovation of existing public assets which support job creation or job retention and the broader economic development objectives of the region.
 - Non-construction activities are those that can be utilized to inform local economic development decision to aid in recovery and economic development efforts, and generally take the form of feasibility studies, data analysis, or similar studies/analysis.
- All EDA grant assistance is competitively awarded.

EDA's staff provide customized technical assistance to help communities with their economic development priorities.

- EDA field-based staff work collaboratively with a network of EDA-designated Economic Development Districts across the state to provide technical assistance on economic development priorities and project development. To discuss a potential project, feel free to contact Hillary Sherman, NC Economic Development Representative, at hsherman@eda.gov or 404.730.3013.
- EDA staff assist applicants in considering their project's alignment to broader regional economic development goals, as articulated in the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region (CEDs).

EDA grant process is designed to provide timely decisions to applicants.

- EDA utilized a two-stage application process which can be submitted at any time. The initial Proposal stage requires high-level project information and allows Applicants response on alignment with EDA funding prior to completing a full application. EDA's NC Economic Development Representative can assist communities throughout this process.

EDA has long history of making investments in disaster-impacted communities that have a solid return on investment.

- **Columbus Junction, Louisiana:** In 2010, the City of Columbus Junction experienced significant flooding, which adversely impacted the city's water treatment facility. As a result, 22 businesses and 75 employees were adversely impacted. EDA provided grant assistance to help relocate the water treatment facility outside of the floodplain to support retention of these businesses and jobs in the region.
- **Perryville, Missouri:** Significant flooding negatively impacted operations of New Bourbon Port, which had direct adverse impact on regional businesses and employment. EDA provided grant assistance to support construction of a high water dock facility which could be used during periods of flooding at the New Bourbon Park to ensure continuity of operations and preserve existing businesses and employment in the region.
- **Conway, South Carolina:** Following flooding in 2001, the City of Conway faced significant challenge due to adverse impacts in city sewer system. EDA provided grant assistance to support with upgrading and flood-proofing four of the City's sewer pump stations. The update and flood-proofing of these four pumps was selected as they had a dramatic impact on the city's economic development recovery: 382 businesses which supported 3,575 jobs relied on the reliability and effectiveness of these four pumps. The EDA assistance supported retention of these firms and jobs in the region.
- **Washington, North Carolina:** Following Hurricane Floyd, the City of Washington experienced significant flooding. EDA provided grant assistance to support resiliency of city infrastructure in order to retain existing jobs and firms. Specifically, EDA assistance was utilized to replace and improve four pump stations and associated wet wells and appurtenances/drainage improvements. The project helped retain eight businesses/industries with over 800 employees and a tax base of \$19.2 million in the area.