



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

September 28, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Gracia B. Szczech, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IV
Federal Emergency Management Agency
3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

RE: Request for Major Disaster Declaration
Hurricane Ian

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"), as implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I request that you issue a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Florida as a result of Hurricane Ian and authorize and make available all categories of Individual Assistance and Public Assistance, including Hazard Mitigation. This request is timely under 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(a).

Based upon updated forecasts and modeling, I request a Major Disaster Declaration for all counties in the State of Florida¹ and both the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. I further request Direct Federal Assistance ("DFA"), Public Assistance Category A (debris removal), Public Assistance Category B (emergency protective measures), Categories C-G (permanent work), and all available categories of Individual Assistance because the severity and destructiveness of Hurricane Ian extend well beyond the capability of the State and affected tribal and local governments.

¹ These include Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Levy, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington Counties.

I request that the incident period for this disaster start on September 23, 2022, the beginning date for EM-3584-FL. The Major Disaster Declaration should include all 67 counties, as well as the two tribal jurisdictions, listed above.

I. Current Situation and Forecasted Meteorological Impacts

At 7:00 AM EDT on September 28, 2022, the National Hurricane Center reported that Hurricane Ian had strengthened to a Category 4 hurricane with 155 mph maximum sustained winds and was located approximately 60 miles southwest of Punta Gorda, Florida. Ian's eyewall is approximately 50 miles wide and made landfall as a strong Category 4, potentially Category 5, hurricane on the afternoon of September 28 in the Charlotte County area. Due to the forecast intensity and size of this major hurricane, this system poses a significant risk of dangerous storm surge, strong winds, catastrophic flooding, hazardous seas, and isolated tornadic activity for much of the State of Florida.

Hurricane Warnings are in place for 18 counties in central and southwest Florida, with Tropical Storm Warnings in effect for an additional 25 counties. Tropical Storm force winds extend up to 175 miles from the center. Due to the path and forecast forward movement of the storm, tropical storm conditions could last as long as 24 hours, which, when combined with saturated soils, poses a significant risk of downed trees and property damage. Multiple tornadoes have been confirmed by the National Weather Service and additional tornadoes are possible across the Florida peninsula through Thursday, September 29, 2022.

Storm Surge

A storm of this magnitude on the forecast track is expected to produce 12-18 feet of storm surge above normally dry ground along the coast of Charlotte and Lee Counties, 8-12 feet along the Collier County coastline, 6-10 feet along the Sarasota and Manatee County coastlines, 4-6 feet in and around Tampa Bay, and 3-5 feet for the Northeast Florida coast, including the St. Johns River. This has required evacuations from multiple coastal and some inland counties. Storm surge of 6 feet could reach inland by up to 2 miles in some impacted areas. Storm surge of 3 feet could reach inland by up to 3 miles.

Flooding

Widespread, life-threatening and catastrophic flash, urban, and river flooding is expected across central and northeast Florida through Wednesday, September 29, and the coming days.

Rainfall amounts of 10-20 inches, with isolated amounts of up to 30 inches, are forecasted from the National Weather Service for much of the northern and central Florida peninsula over the next 3 days. Rainfall amounts over the past 2 weeks have been well above normal for this time of year across the majority of the State, particularly along the Florida peninsula. Due to the saturation level of the ground, a tropical system affecting this region of Florida could quickly create rapid-onset flooding and riverine flooding conditions. The combination of additional heavy rainfall and overall wet antecedent conditions would leave these areas especially vulnerable to any new

additional rainfall. River ensemble forecasts indicate that there is potential for significant river flooding for over 16 Florida rivers, particularly in the central and northern Florida peninsula basins where some rivers are already above flood stage. Evacuations are already taking place along the St. Johns River, Little Wekiva River in Seminole County, and Black Creek in Clay County.

Comparison to Hurricane Michael

The hurricane-force winds of Hurricane Ian currently extend outward up to 40 miles from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 175 miles. These metrics are similar to Hurricane Michael in 2018, where hurricane winds extended 45 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extended 175 miles from the center.

The wind intensity of Hurricane Michael was 145-155 mph prior to landfall (and was later upgraded to Category 5), which is similar to Hurricane Ian's current windspeed. However, while Hurricane Michael's forward speed was 14 mph, Hurricane Ian is currently moving forward at 10 mph and is forecast to slow to 7 mph as it moves through the central Florida peninsula, which will result in significantly more rainfall and flooding.

In short, Hurricane Ian appears to be similar in strength to Hurricane Michael but is moving approximately 50% slower and impacting a significantly larger geographic area within the State.

II. The Disaster Is So Extraordinary That a Higher Federal Cost Share Is Warranted – 44 C.F.R. § 206.47

Given the size, strength, and track of the storm, and given the fact that Florida communities are still recovering from multiple events from the last five years, to include Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Michael, and Hurricane Dorian, I specifically request the following:

- 100% Federal cost share for Categories A and B (Debris Removal and Emergency Protective Measures) for the first 60 days, with a 90% Federal cost share thereafter, *see* 44 C.F.R. § 206.47(d); and,
- 90% Federal cost share for all other categories of Public Assistance (Permanent Work Categories C-G), *see* 44 C.F.R. § 206.47(b).

III. Field Damage Assessments Are Not Necessary to Determine the Requirements for Supplemental Federal Assistance Because the Disaster Is a Catastrophe of Unusual Severity and Magnitude – 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(d)

For this disaster, there is no need for damage assessments. The destruction from a major hurricane with 155 mph sustained winds and up to 12 feet of storm surge should be more than sufficient to satisfy any, per capita threshold for State or county damages.

As mentioned above, there are many similarities between Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Michael. However, the damages from Hurricane Ian will impact a much larger geographical area within the State. To date, the total amount of Federal obligations for Hurricane Michael has almost

reached the CY 2018 per capita threshold of \$ 2,688,587,330 to warrant a cost share adjustment to 90% federal funding. This threshold is calculated using the Federal obligations from Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, Mitigation, and Operations. With the vast number of expected survivors that would qualify for Individual Assistance and the exponentially higher expectations of infrastructure damage, it is reasonable to estimate that the Federal obligation for this event exceeds the current per capita thresholds necessary for an increased Federal Cost Share. Furthermore, the needs of the survivors in those counties should paint a sufficient picture for an Individual Assistance Declaration.

Consequently, the risk that a lightly impacted county would receive unnecessary Federal assistance is minimal, at best. Given these considerations, damage assessments would be a clear waste of resources during a time of critical need.

IV. The Situation Is of Such Severity and Magnitude that Effective Response and Recovery Is Beyond the Capability of the State and Affected Local Governments - 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(b)(1)

Debris Estimates

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Hurricane Ian Advisory #24 shows an estimated 19.6 million cubic yards of debris resulting from initially impacted counties. Through discussions with USACE and FEMA staff at the State Emergency Operations Center, we have determined that estimated costs for this debris removal will easily exceed \$600 million. As the hurricane moves inland and across the State, these very preliminary figures will dramatically increase due to riverine flooding and sustained tropical force winds.

Significant beach erosion is occurring at this time, and eligible costs will be significant. Impacted coastal communities from Glades to Monroe County currently have over \$56 million in obligated Public Assistance funding for beach renourishment activities and many of these communities will be impacted once again.

Uninsured Home and Property Losses

The direct impact of Hurricane Ian is likely to create additional instability in an already difficult insurance marketplace. These challenges, combined with widespread residential damage, will further strain the fiscal resiliency of Florida's population. All of which will contribute to the need for additional Federal Recovery Assistance. In many locations, there are many uninsured and underinsured.

Additional Economic Factors Affecting Individuals and Families

Average consumer prices in the United States have risen 8.3% over the past year. This increase has not only affected the cost of household goods, but also rent and construction

materials, which have increased exponentially above the Consumer Price Index in Florida. Hurricane Ian's landfall in Florida could significantly contribute to economic disparity and slow recovery in the impacted area due to the inability to purchase necessary supplies, the inability to rapidly rehouse renters, and the inability to repair residential structures.

Additionally, an ongoing shortage of truck drivers will only be exacerbated by a major hurricane. A lack of freight transportation will hamper local economic activity and delay the delivery of recovery resources from the public and private sector. Federal aid through the Individuals and Households Program will help alleviate these household budget shortfalls.

Impact to Community Infrastructure

Within the evacuation zones of Hurricane Ian's projected impact area, there are at least 2,357 identified critical facilities. These facilities include both public and private infrastructure and serve a wide gamut of community needs for emergency services, medical care, childcare, recreation, government function, mass transit, and utilities.

Hurricane Ian's landfall as a major storm event is likely to bring widespread damage or destruction to many of these critical facilities. For the populations who rely upon these facilities every day, impacts and suffering will be felt immediately.

Casualties

While the exact figures will not be known until after the event, the landfall of Hurricane Ian is likely to bring with it loss of life. Despite intense efforts by emergency services to preserve life safety and message protective actions, in 2021 alone, hurricanes caused 68 confirmed deaths in the United States. It is impossible to put a dollar value on human life. But every soul lost in a storm has a permanent effect that echoes through both family and community.

Historic Event Comparison

For reference, Hurricane Irma's 2017 landfall in Southwest Florida saw 329,516 homeowners and 444,733 renters approved for FEMA Individual Assistance. During Irma's recovery, a combined total of \$1,020,684,850 in Individuals and Households Program (IHP) assistance was approved for Floridians. Based on a combination of changing economic conditions, statewide increases in population, and the forecast severity of this event, the State of Florida believes Hurricane Ian will bring an even greater need for federal aid than Hurricane Irma.

County	Total Population Estimate (July 2021)	Persons Under 18 years	Persons 65 years of Age or Older	Persons With a Disability <65 years, Percent	Persons in Poverty, Percent	Estimated # of Mobile Homes
Alachua	278,468	47,742	326,210	10.7%	19.8%	9,557
Baker	28,259	6,733	34,992	17.3%	15.4%	3,671
Bay	175,216	38,949	214,165	19.5%	13.4%	13,133
Bradford	28,303	5,418	33,721	19.9%	19.5%	3,621
Brevard	606,612	107,753	714,365	15.6%	11.0%	21,170
Broward	1,944,375	410,180	2,354,555	11.0%	12.6%	23,112
Calhoun	13,648	2,902	16,550	22.0%	21.3%	2,311
Charlotte	186,847	22,216	209,063	21.9%	11.1%	11,841
Citrus	153,843	21,545	175,388	21.4%	15.2%	17,968
Clay	218,245	49,705	267,950	13.6%	8.8%	10,312
Collier	375,752	64,594	440,346	11.4%	10.6%	10,696
Columbia	69,698	15,179	84,877	19.5%	17.3%	10,548
DeSoto	33,976	7,209	41,185	14.1%	26.1%	4,426
Dixie	16,759	3,002	19,761	24.5%	24.7%	4,705
Duval	995,567	212,052	1,207,619	13.5%	14.5%	18,976
Escambia	321,905	65,613	387,518	15.0%	14.7%	9,984
Flagler	115,378	18,832	134,210	16.0%	10.3%	2,418
Franklin	12,451	1,898	14,349	21.8%	22.8%	1,854
Gadsden	43,826	10,043	53,869	20.1%	23.6%	5,799
Gilchrist	17,864	3,737	21,601	21.0%	16.8%	3,790
Glades	12,126	2,080	14,206	20.4%	20.1%	3,606
Gulf	14,192	2,538	16,730	18.6%	20.3%	1,926
Hamilton	14,004	2,732	16,736	22.6%	27.6%	2,518
Hardee	25,327	7,111	32,438	10.1%	27.0%	2,762
Hendry	39,619	10,982	50,601	12.7%	24.0%	5,846
Hernando	194,515	34,415	228,930	19.1%	14.1%	14,492
Highlands	101,235	17,772	119,007	20.4%	20.8%	14,161
Hillsborough	1,459,762	319,660	1,779,422	11.5%	14.7%	40,307
Holmes	19,653	3,794	23,447	24.0%	23.9%	2,877
Indian River	159,788	25,295	185,083	16.6%	10.7%	6,141
Jackson	47,319	8,940	56,259	19.6%	23.5%	6,284
Jefferson	14,510	2,307	16,817	16.4%	17.9%	2,462
Lafayette	8,226	1,899	10,125	17.2%	21.0%	1,463
Lake	383,956	66,910	450,866	16.4%	11.5%	29,454
Lee	760,822	131,552	892,374	13.8%	12.1%	36,778
Leon	292,198	54,215	346,413	11.4%	20.7%	10,204
Levy	42,915	7,947	50,862	19.9%	16.1%	10,055
Liberty	7,974	1,376	9,350	24.5%	23.8%	1,679
Madison	17,968	3,462	21,430	19.1%	22.8%	3,534
Manatee	399,710	71,335	471,045	14.1%	10.4%	29,337
Marion	375,908	65,983	441,891	18.1%	15.1%	34,754
Martin	158,431	26,275	184,706	15.2%	10.7%	7,755
Miami-Dade	2,701,767	553,263	3,255,030	10.1%	16.0%	13,070
Monroe	82,874	11,455	94,329	11.1%	12.0%	6,849
Nassau	90,352	16,559	106,911	16.0%	10.4%	6,930
Okaloosa	211,668	45,251	256,919	15.2%	12.7%	5,208
Okeechobee	39,644	8,882	48,526	15.2%	21.5%	6,967
Orange	1,429,908	301,720	1,731,628	10.9%	15.6%	19,726
Osceola	388,656	86,668	475,324	14.4%	13.4%	11,179
Palm Beach	1,492,191	281,775	1,773,966	12.3%	12.2%	19,012
Pasco	561,891	106,798	668,689	16.2%	12.6%	46,795
Pine Hills	959,107	158,263	1,117,370	15.3%	11.7%	47,017
Polk	725,046	152,859	877,905	15.4%	15.7%	62,122
Putnam	73,321	15,710	89,031	18.0%	18.8%	16,179
Santa Rosa	273,425	53,415	326,840	15.9%	9.9%	7,484
Sarasota	329,226	62,684	391,910	15.5%	6.6%	11,853
Seminole	188,000	38,600	226,600	10.3%	12.1%	7,664
St. Johns	434,006	60,382	494,388	11.3%	9.5%	21,817
St. Lucie	470,856	97,626	568,482	15.7%	10.3%	5,321
Sumter	129,752	9,090	138,842	19.6%	9.3%	10,833
Suwannee	43,474	9,571	53,045	19.5%	19.3%	9,971
Taylor	21,796	4,321	26,117	22.7%	21.6%	3,558
Union	16,147	2,922	19,069	15.4%	20.6%	2,124
Volusia	553,543	95,179	648,722	17.0%	13.2%	22,640
Wakulla	33,764	6,862	40,626	16.2%	11.9%	3,673
Walton	75,305	13,933	89,238	16.6%	11.4%	6,887
Washington	25,318	4,792	30,110	19.6%	22.8%	4,167
TOTAL	21,538,187	4,182,462	25,720,649			837,333

V. Federal Assistance Under the Act Is Necessary to Supplement the Efforts and Available Resources of the State, Local Governments, Disaster Relief Organizations, and Compensation by Insurance for Disaster-Related Losses - 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(b)(2)

As of the date of this request, the State of Florida has requested the following forms of Direct Federal Assistance through Resource Request Forms (RRFs):

- Life Sustainment Mass Feedings
- Disaster Medical Assistance Team
- AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team
- Multi Agency warehouse needs
- Florida Emergency Mortuary Operations Response System
- Florida Medical Examiner Districts
- Fatality Management Assessment Team
- 100 Ambulances consisting of: 4 type VI ADA Transit, 10 Type V Minibuses, 6 type III Transit Buses, 10 Type II Minibuses Para transit, 10 Type 1 Sedan/Minivan, 2 Type II ALS 2+ pts, night ops Rotor-wing, 1 Type IV- ALS 1pt, night VFR, 1 Neonatal Specific Rotor Wing Aircraft From FEMA
- 100 truckloads of water and 40 truckloads of food
- 200 Ambulances (120 ALS and 80 BLS), 2 Type VI ADA Transit (at least 80 seats), 4 Type V Minibuses (at least 100 seats), 2 Type III Transit Buses (at least 60 seats) & 5 Type II Minibuses Paratransit vehicles (at least 50 seats)
- 500,000 tarps
- Federal Hazmat Team Request
- FEMA White Team IST
- Request FEMA US&R assistance Virginia 1, 2 and Ohio 1
- Request FEMA US&R assistance Virginia 1, 2 and Ohio 1
- Request Texas TF1 and Indiana TF1 US&R Type III with swift-water capability to be assigned to Florida IMT Gold team to support
- RRF for 3 USACE Generator packs from FEMA/USACE
- RRF for FEMA-provided Ladders for FLNG
- SLRC and LSA Commodities
- USGS- High Water Mark Collection

Additionally, the State of Florida anticipates requirements from other Federal Agencies, however the extent and scope are unknown at this time.

VI. Confirmation That the Governor Has Taken Appropriate Action Under State Law and Directed the Execution of the State Emergency Plan - 44 C.F.R. §206.36(c)(1)

On September 23, 2022, I issued Executive Order No. 22-218 which directed the State Coordinating Officer to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in accordance with Section 501 of the Stafford Act. This order was amended through Executive Order No. 22-219 to include the entire State, all 67 counties.

I have directed the activation of the State Emergency Operations Center in response to Hurricane Ian and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is coordinating preparation and response measures across the State.

VII. Nature and Amount of State and Local Resources Which Have Been or Will Be Committed to Alleviate the Results of the Disaster - 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(c)(3)

As of the date of this request, the State of Florida has expended close to \$400 million on response costs alone, widespread closures of State offices, activation of 10,000 Florida National Guard personnel, and the opening of at least 224 shelters across the State of Florida. Additionally, I have requested the following resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact:

- Two CH-47 Cargo Aircraft & Crews from Mississippi
- Two CH-47 Cargo Aircraft & Crews from New York
- UH-60 Cargo Aircraft & Crews from Louisiana
- UH-60 Cargo Aircraft & Crews from Tennessee
- UN-060 Cargo Aircraft & Crews from Mississippi
- Type 3 All Hazards Incident Management Teams from Ohio
- Two Person AHIMT Operations Support
- Ambulance Strike Team from Tennessee
- COMC from North Carolina
- Mass Care Coordinator from California
- TF1 DSAR from Missouri
- PSC from Tennessee
- State Emergency Operations Chief from California
- Type 3 All Hazards Incident Management Teams from Colorado
- Type 3 All Hazards Incident Management Teams from Maryland
- Type 3 All Hazards Incident Management Teams from Montana
- Type 3 All Hazards Incident Management Teams from New York
- Type 3 All Hazards Incident Management Teams from Virginia
- Type III EMAC A Teams from Colorado
- Type III EMAC A Teams from Tennessee
- Type III EMAC A Teams from Texas

- Mental Wellness Incident Management Team Support
- Region 7 Incident Management Team
- Five Urban Search and Rescue Teams Task Force Teams
- FFS Gold Incident Management Team
- FFS Gold Incident Management Team
- State FM Field Liaison Teams
- Type II MARC Units Gold Incident Management Teams

VIII. Certification by the Governor That State and Local Government Obligations and Expenditures for the Correct Disaster Will Comply with all Applicable Cost Sharing Requirements of the Stafford Act 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(c)(5)

Please see enclosure, FEMA Form 010-0-13.

IX. Conclusion

I have designated Kevin Guthrie, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, as the State Coordinating Officer for this emergency. He is authorized to provide any further information, assurances, requests, or justification on my behalf. I have designated Kevin Guthrie, Luke Strickland, James Bujeda, Melissa Shirah, and Ian Guidicelli as Governor's Authorized Representatives.

Sincerely,



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Enclosures:

FEMA Form 010-0-13