



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
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
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Re: Request for Increased Federal Cost Share for
Hurricane Irma

Dear Mr. President:

This letter serves as my administration's formal request for you to increase the federal cost share for Hurricane Irma eligible costs for emergency and permanent work under the Public Assistance Program from 75% to 90%.

On September 10, 2017, Hurricane Irma made landfall in Cudjoe Key as a Category 4 hurricane. Irma then made a second landfall on Marco Island with sustained winds near 120 miles per hour. At the time, it was the strongest tropical system observed in the Atlantic since Hurricane Wilma, the state's first billion-dollar storm. The massive destruction caused by Hurricane Irma up and down the entire Florida peninsula resulted in over \$50 billion in damages.

Per 44 C.F.R. §206.47(b), an increase in the federal cost share is recommended when a disaster is so extraordinary that actual federal obligations meet or exceed the disaster threshold (\$2,632,183,400.00). As of August 14, 2019, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) obligated over \$2.6 billion for Public Assistance, Mitigation, and Human Services for Hurricane Irma recovery, meeting the threshold for a cost share adjustment.

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As we approach the two-year anniversary of Hurricane Irma, the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and FEMA continue to make great strides in providing disaster recovery assistance to survivors and local governments. But even after two years, affected communities require increased support.

With your approval of this request, you will provide much needed security and financial relief at both the state and local levels of government. This adjustment in cost share will save the state and affected local governments over \$160 million. This support will also assist Florida in our ongoing response to more recent declared disasters, like Hurricane Michael, which continues to take a substantial financial toll.

I hereby designate Jared Moskowitz, Director of FDEM, as the State Coordinating Officer for our continuing response and recovery from Hurricane Irma. Director Moskowitz has the authority to provide any further information, assurances or justifications for this request as necessary.

On behalf of the state of Florida, thank you for your unwavering dedication and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ron DeSantis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ron DeSantis
Governor