

# Hurricane Florence 2018

## Five Tips to Make Your Recovery More Effective

### Who is Hagerty Consulting?

Hagerty Consulting is one of the nation's leading emergency management consulting firms that helps clients prepare for and recover from disasters. Established in 2001, we have more than 450 consultants across the US supporting our clients to prepare for and recover from disasters. Since 2001, we have managed over \$40 billion in recovery grants through FEMA and HUD for clients nationwide.

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*As communities continue to respond to and begin to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Florence (<https://www.fema.gov/hurricane-florence>), we at Hagerty Consulting want to share five tips for your operations. These tips will position you well to receive federal funding, and maximize your potential assistance, under a Presidential Disaster Declaration.*

### Five Tips to Make Your Recovery More Effective

- 1. Document All Disaster-Related Damages:** Before your community makes any emergency repairs, document damages with photographs and measurements to prove repairs are disaster-related.
- 2. Document Donated Resources to Offset Local Share:** Your community is likely to receive many offers of help from volunteers. Donated resources (including volunteer labor) can be used to offset the local cost share required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). You can track those hours with something as simple as a dated sign-in sheet. This will make claiming those hours much easier in the weeks and months after the disaster.
- 3. Segregate Disaster-Related Work:** Use separate disaster accounting codes and/or related work orders to more easily segregate disaster-related from day-to-day work. This will help you compile labor and equipment usage for FEMA reimbursement.
- 4. Expedite and Carefully Track Debris Removal:** FEMA requires a "cradle to grave" accounting of all debris removed. In addition to labor and equipment, it is important to track debris locations, photographs (if possible), and load tickets to document debris removal. Also, FEMA pays more for expedited debris removal through the Debris Removal Alternative Procedures Pilot Program. The Pilot Program lowers the local cost share for debris removed within the first 30 and 90 days after a disaster. Contact us for information on this Program considering recent cost share increases that are not specific to this pilot that may affect your decision to engage in the pilot program.
- 5. Ensure Proper Procurement to Reduce the Risk of Lost Funding in an Audit:** If you think private sector services are required to support your recovery effort (consulting, architecture/design, construction, etc.), all work must be competitively bid and comply with federal regulations in 2 CFR Part 200. It is critical to understand the services promised before signing any contract. Be sure to include required FEMA and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) contract clauses for all disaster-related contracts.

### What's at Stake in a Disaster Recovery

- 1. FEMA Can Take Back Funding:** In an audit, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) can recommend that FEMA take back funding if projects are found to not comply with all federal requirements. **In the last 10 years, FEMA took back hundreds of millions from recovering communities.**
- 2. You Could Leave Money on the Table:** In the fog of a rushed recovery, unprepared or uninformed communities may not be knowledgeable on all FEMA reimbursement procedures and other disaster related grant programs to which they are entitled. Additionally, FEMA makes funding available to recover stronger and more resilient than before the incident but many communities fail to take advantage of these programs.