



September 25, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Escambia County, Florida needs your help and assistance. You are the only one who can answer this request by approving Individual Assistance, which is vital to recovery for our low-income and uninsured survivors. We do appreciate your support on September 23 of Public Assistance in all categories. Hurricane Sally, a Category 2 hurricane, hit the Florida Panhandle on September 16, 2020, with over 105 mph sustained wind and gusts up to 123 mph, over 30 inches of rain, and water inundation as high as 15 feet in the Perdido Key area. Many areas throughout the county flooded over three feet and it took several days for the area rivers to crest. There were hundreds of high-water rescues and those families have been displaced due to the floods.

Between the wind and flooding in Escambia County, our citizens have suffered \$100,000,000 of damage to their homes. The power company reported that 95% of our county was without power after the storm. Many areas were without power for almost a week, humidity and temperatures in the high 80s caused significant mold and mildew growth in walls, carpets and furniture. Other water damage includes wooden floors buckling, appliances shorted out and unusable, electrical damage requiring re-wiring, and the tragic loss of personal items.

Points of Distribution sites (PODS) serviced over 36,000 vehicles in which nearly 60,000 cases of water, 21,000 bags of ice and nearly 37,000 MREs were provided. We have over 4,000 volunteer workers from NGO disaster groups assisting with cleanup and more are coming in. Those organizations have provided nearly 80,000 meals to our citizens. Due to high wind and substantial flying debris damage to roofs, over 30,000 tarps have been provided.

Mr. President, we urgently need you to provide the Individual Assistance to Escambia County. The need is great here and resources are limited for our displaced and heavily

impacted families, damaged businesses, the elderly on a fixed income, and those in multi-family residences. Our community is working together to provide further documentation in video and photos to impress upon you and FEMA that our desperate plea is deserving of your attention and action.

We understand that individual assistance does not guarantee direct assistance to all, but it will provide our survivors the opportunity to apply. We are in need as the county currently has nearly 31% of our population at or below 185% of the poverty level, and 30.4% of our households are rent-burdened.

Again, we thank you for all categories of Public Assistance that we received in the Major Disaster Declaration, and in advance for your consideration and approval of the Individual Assistance Declaration for Escambia County.

Respectfully,



Steven Barry  
Escambia County, Chair



Robert Bender  
Escambia County, Vice-Chair



Jeff Bergosh  
Commissioner, Dist. 1



Lumon May  
Commissioner, Dist. 3



Doug Underhill  
Commissioner, Dist. 2



Grover Robinson  
Mayor, City of Pensacola



State Representative



Doug Broxson  
State Senator, District 1

Cc: The Honorable Marco Rubio, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Rick Scott, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Matt Gaetz, U.S. Representative  
The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor  
Peter Gaynor, FEMA Administrator

Gracia Szczech, FEMA Regional Administrator  
Jeff Coleman, FEMA  
Jared Moskowitz, Director, FDEM  
Kevin Guthrie, Deputy Director, FDEM