

March 3, 2025

## **Public Notice: Application to FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

Joint Federal, State, Local Public Notice

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) will receive Horry County's application for Federal grant funding through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP) – 4829 Hurricane Helene and 4835 Tropical Storm Debby. Notice is hereby given of FEMA's consideration to provide funding in the form of a Hazard Mitigation Grant.

This application was created to provide funding for permanent generators to power critical public safety infrastructure within Horry County during storm, wind, and/or flood events when power outages are possible. In order to alleviate loss of function during natural disasters and allow key Horry County Public Safety to be self-sustaining in times of disaster, generators will be needed for seven Horry County Fire Rescue (HCFR). Currently, during a power outage, these locations use smaller generators that can only provide power for limited portions of the station infrastructure.

The proposal is designed to provide permanent generators for the following locations: Horry County Fire Rescue HCFR Station 8, Battalion 3, located at 6700 Juniper Bay Road, Galivants Ferry, SC; HCFR Station 13, Battalion 1, located at 801 Highway 9 West, Loris, SC; HCFR Station 20, Battalion 2, located at 9620 Scipio Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC; HCFR Station 23, Battalion 2, located at 1589 Highway 544, Conway, SC; HCFR Station 24, Battalion 3, located at 670 Jordanville Road, Aynor, SC; HCFR Station 40, Battalion 1, located at 3316 Old Reaves Ferry Road, Conway, SC; HCFR Station 45, Battalion 2, located at 790 International Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Horry County will be responsible for facilitating and monitoring the proposed project. Interested persons may direct any comments or questions to Elizabeth Tranter at 843.915.7036 or [tranter.elizabeth@horrycountysc.gov](mailto:tranter.elizabeth@horrycountysc.gov). Comments must be received within 15 days of this notice.

## Statement of activities

### Introduction

Horry County Community Development (HCCD) is seeking funding in the amount of \$552,045.82 in FEMA HMGP Program to provide for the Acquisition of Generators for Critical Public Safety Infrastructure in Horry County, SC. The primary source of funding for such projects in Horry County is the Capital Improvement Fund, which will provide \$184,015.27 in matching funds to the proposed project. The entire project budget, to include FEMA funding and the County match, will therefore total \$736,061.10.

### Identify the problem:

Horry County is a coastal county located in the northeast corner of South Carolina with an estimated population of 383,101 (U.S. Census Population Estimate, V2022). 75% of the permanent population of County lives in unincorporated areas, which are the primary response area of Horry County Fire Rescue. The county has a total area of 1,255 square miles, of which 1,134 square miles is land and 121 square miles (313.4 km<sup>2</sup>) (9.66%) is water. Since 2015, Horry County has sustained significant damage due to Hurricanes Joaquin, Matthew, and Florence. In 2018, Horry County Emergency Operations Center was activated from September 8-October 5 due to Hurricane Florence and the ensuing flooding. During that time, more than 200 roads were closed due to flooding, including major transportation arteries such as Highway 22, Highway 90, Highway 905, Highway 701, and Highway 9. During the height of the flooding, only one lane east bound and west bound of Hwy 501 water available to cross the Waccamaw River, and the National Guard was required to build barricades to hold back the water. Other river crossings, such as at SC Highway 905, were impassible due to flood waters. During the flooding, a large percentage of the roads on the western side of the county were impassible due to stream flooding, road wash outs, and sinkholes.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, Horry County Police Department (HCPD) and Horry County Fire Rescue (HCFR), provided critical services for areas that were in close proximity to badly-flooded areas. None of the seven (7) HCFR stations six (6) of which are also EMS stations, however, have a permanent generator. Horry County is in the process of addressing generator needs for these HCFR stations. Apart for these planned generator acquisitions, 13 HCFR stations will still be lacking a back-up generators. HCFR currently relies on small portable generators that will power a very small portion of the station for essential functions only. During an event, it is highly likely that standard electrical service to the listed, largely rural facilities, will be adversely affected or disrupted. Because these buildings function as hubs for public safety in strategic locations within the county, it is crucial to have an adequate alternate power supply for each building. A reliable, sustained source of emergency power is not only a best practice, but vital to community resiliency in these three areas.

As the County experiences repetitive and historic levels of flooding, as well as areas that were cut off in Hurricane Florence, the need for generators supporting the HCFR stations #8, 13, 20, 23, 24, 40, and 45 in the county has become apparent.

**Project description:**

The project will encompass purchasing and installing seven permanent generators, at Station 8, Station 13, Station 20, Station 23, Station 24, Station 40, and Station 45 of the HCFR. There will be (7) 50 KW units installed. These diesel generators will be used to provide power for lights, HVAC, communications, recharging stations for equipment and computing equipment. These seven (7) Fire Stations are not located within a Special Flood Hazard Area. All stations are located in flood Zone X on the Firmette Maps attached to this package. Also there are 2 stations that are located within 200 feet of a retention pond. Station #8 is 54 feet from a retention pond, and Station #20 is 77 feet from a retention pond. None of the other stations are near any bodies of water.

A certified contractor, who is procured following all local, state and federal policies, will provide labor, materials, equipment and transportation to install diesel generators with twenty-four hour sub-base fuel tanks that are large enough to provide emergency power to the whole station based on the 2022 utility metering peak KW Demands. Contractor will also provide labor, materials, equipment and transportation to install Automatic Transfer Switches (ATS) and remove existing Manual Transfer Switches from service where applicable. The contractor will provide reinforced, pre-poured concrete generator foundations to be installed within ten feet of the ATS. Finally, the contractor will provide factory certified Start Up Testing and place the system "In Service".

These are sub base fuel tanks, so the generator is mounted directly on top of the tank. The tank and generator will sit on a 6" thick concrete pad. The 50 KW units have 100 gallon tanks. These units also have double wall fuel tanks with interstitial monitors. All the Fire Stations are equipped with spill containment equipment and materials onsite to handle any spills due to possible leaks. These units require heavy machinery to move so theft is not an issue. If they are near vehicular traffic there will be protective bollards placed around the unit.

**Horry County Fire Rescue (HCFR):**

HCFR responds out of 40 different stations covering 1,252 square miles. HCFR divides the response capabilities in the county into four (4) geographically-distributed battalions where an on-duty Battalion Chief is housed at the station designated as the Battalion Headquarters. The Battalion Chief is a critical component in the response management, logistics and hazard mitigation in that geographic area. The need for such full-functioning stations is critical during disasters. HCFR intends to install backup generators capable of powering the entire station in times of extended power outages caused by natural or manmade disasters. The generator will be hardwired to the station and would be an automatic system that starts when grid power is interrupted. It will also have the necessary safety devices to protect utility workers from feedback into the power grid.

**Battalion 3, Station 8**, located in Galivants Ferry and is ideally suited for rapid emergency deployment of services to the central area of the County. Strategically located between Highway 501 and Pee Dee Highway. This location provides critical services and will reduce response times to isolated areas in the central region of the county.

**Battalion 1, Station 13**, located in Longs and is part of the eastern portion of the county close to Highway 905. This proximity will allow for rapid response to affected areas in this region.

**Battalion 2, Station 20**, located off of Holmestown Road which intercepts Highway 707 and US 17. Strategically located in the southern area of the county only 3 miles northwest of the Atlantic Ocean, offers provision of critical services in times of major storms where coastal areas readily flood.

**Battalion 2, Station 23**, located in Conway on Highway 544. His station covers a large college community and the college itself. Highway 544 is also one of the main arteries that feeds into Highway 501 which is the evacuation route in case of natural disasters.

**Battalion 3, Station 24**, located in Aynor, covering the western most region with nearby access to Highway 501. This location provides critical services and will reduce response times to isolated areas in the central region of the county.

**Battalion 1, Station 40**, located in Hickory Grove is located along Highway 905 with nearby access to Highway 22. During Hurricane Florence, the area experienced heavy flooding, and access to the area was limited by impassible roads. Simpson Creek, fed by the Waccamaw River, lies on the perimeter of the area.

**Battalion 2, Station 45**, located west Myrtle Beach and east of Conway, in a heavily populated quickly expanding area. Also, the station is roughly 1 mile from a major artery, US 31, which connects Highway 57 in Little River to Highway 707 in Socastee. In case of natural disasters this centrally located station can be utilized.

The project will be implemented by Horry County Maintenance Department and will be beneficial for all hazards including but not limited to winter storms, high winds, floods, hurricanes and terrorist or cyber-attacks.