

State and Local Programs and Initiatives

A significant number of current Federal, State, and local programs can provide technical assistance, planning support, and financing to eligible businesses, and local governments to help speed economic recovery and create sustainable business enterprises.

Programs that can be helpful to affected firms and municipalities are described in this Appendix; however, these programs are not necessarily available for all businesses and local governments. Therefore, affected firms should contact the Small Business Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Economic Development Administration, and other State counterparts for information regarding available assistance for the programs listed herein. Businesses interested in a particular program should use the contact information provided in each program description.

Virginia State Task Force

- The State Disaster Recovery Task Force includes representatives from a variety of State agencies working with community representatives to define redevelopment activities and identify Federal, State, and private resources to fund reconstruction and redevelopment within the disaster areas. Secretary of Economic Development DuVal chairs the Task Force. Currently, the Task Force is still gathering information about State funding sources. Contact: Inquiries should be directed to Bill Shelton, Department of Housing and Community Development at 804.371.7077 or Josh Lief, Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade at 804.786.7831.

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

- Governor Gilmore announced that he has approved the allocation of \$1.4 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to assist the City of Franklin and Southampton County (\$700,000 for each) in their redevelopment and flood mitigation efforts. The CDBG funds are Federal funds administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

Virginia Small Business Incubator Grant Program

- The Virginia Department of Business Assistance administers a grant program, providing matching funds to localities and/or local

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sponsoring groups to assist in studying, operating, or constructing small business incubators. The facilities must be planned and designed to offer space, with flexible lease terms, and business services such as business plan development, business counseling, research and advice on financing options, and centralized services such as common fax, mail handling, reception, board/training rooms, and secretarial services. Tenants must strive to exit the facility (graduate) and relocate in the immediate area, within a reasonable time period. The Virginia Department of Business Assistance also provides technical assistance to local groups considering the development of small business incubators. **Contact:** Virginia Department of Business Assistance, 707 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219, 804.371.8200 (phone) 804.371.2115 (facsimile).

Downtown Franklin Façade and Investment Matching Grant Program

- The Department of Downtown Development for the City of Franklin, Virginia has established a Façade and Investment Grant Program to provide financial assistance to new and existing businesses located within the Special Downtown Service District as identified by the City Council Resolution adopted July 22, 1985. The Façade Grant may be used for such projects as outside renovations, window repairs or replacements, signage, awnings, landscaping, design assistance, and/or other projects that enhance the property and which the Review Committee finds acceptable. The Investment Grant can be used for other purposes, including inside renovations and enhancement. The grants are available for up to 50 percent of the total cost of the project, to a minimum award of \$500 per project. The applicant will be reimbursed the amount of the grant after completion of the project. **Contact:** Franklin Department of Downtown Development for all grant requirements.

Federal Programs and Initiatives

Economic Revitalization and Community Assistance

Department of Commerce (DOC)/Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Federal assistance is provided on a cost-share basis, generally for 50 to 80 percent of the project cost.

- **DOC/EDA Planning Grants:** Grants to State and local governments to fund Economic Development Coordinators who:
1) assess economic injury and facilitate a locally developed, long-term economic recovery planning process for the impacted area;
2) provide a local on-site resource for effective economic development program coordination; and 3) carry out project

implementation activities consistent with the long-term economic recovery plan.

- ▣ **DOC/EDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF):** Funding for local short-term “gap” financing for business recovery in affected communities. Grantees may provide loan assistance to businesses that: 1) are declined loans by the Small Business Administration (SBA); or 2) need additional financing beyond SBA’s loan limits. Local RLF lenders have the flexibility to provide financing to: 1) supplement traditional lending; 2) set up a local micro-lending program; or 3) develop a local public/private infrastructure lending program to implement local business recovery initiatives.
- ▣ **DOC/EDA Technical Assistance Grants:** Grants to State and local governments for strategic recovery planning and implementation. Recovery plans focus on job retention/creation to help offset the economic impacts of disasters. Grants may provide technical assistance to address industry-specific economic dislocations, e.g., marketing/promotional activities to revive the tourism industry, economic development feasibility studies, or professional expertise to assist local communities in recovery efforts.

EDA Contact Information: Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the Virginia EDA Regional Office or Economic Development Representative to discuss the proposal and obtain additional EDA program information, application instructions, and forms. For the Virginia EDA Regional Office, contact Neal Noyes 804.771.2061 (phone) 804.771.8515 (facsimile), or call 202.482.2659 for EDA National Headquarters or visit EDA’s website at www.doc.gov/eda to begin the application process.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- ▣ **FEMA/Federal Insurance Administration (FIA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):** Enables homeowners, business owners, renters, and governments to purchase flood insurance coverage for financial protection of buildings and contents damaged by floods, mudslides, or flood-related erosion. The NFIP reduces Federal disaster expenses and requires wise floodplain management practices. Premium rates are generally lower than standard actuarial rates. **Contact:** *Local:* Contact FEMA Region III office, Liberty Square Building, 2nd Floor, 105 S. Seventh Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3316, 215.931.5500 (phone). *Headquarters Office:* Claims and Underwriting Division, FIA, FEMA, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472.
- ▣ **FEMA Community Disaster Loan Program:** Direct loans to local governments that have suffered a substantial loss of tax and other revenue as a result of a major disaster. The local government

must demonstrate a need for financial assistance to maintain local governmental functions such as police and fire protection, or water and sewer services. Loans not to exceed 25 percent of the local government's annual operating budget for the fiscal year in which the disaster occurs. **Contact:** *Local:* Applicant should contact FEMA Region III office, Liberty Square Building, 2nd Floor, 105 S. Seventh Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3316, 215.931.5500 (phone) or designated point of contact in the State for more information. *Headquarters Office:* Infrastructure Support Division, Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472.

Small Business Administration

- **SBA Business Physical Disaster Loan Program:** Low-interest, long-term loans made directly to businesses to repair or replace uninsured disaster damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and supplies. Businesses of any size are eligible. Nonprofit organizations, such as charities, churches, and private universities, are also eligible. Business loan amounts are limited to \$1.5 million. The actual amount of each loan is limited to the verified disaster loss minus any insurance or other recovery assistance. If a business is a major source of employment, the SBA has authority to waive the \$1.5 million statutory limit. Applicants must show the ability to repay all loans. Loan amounts may be increased by up to 20 percent for mitigation measures. The SBA requires borrowers to obtain and maintain appropriate insurance, including full hazard insurance for the life of the loan, especially if the borrower's property is located in a special flood hazard area. **Contact:** *Headquarters Office:* Office of Disaster Assistance, SBA, 409 3rd Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416. *Local:* Contact regional SBA Disaster Area Office.
- **SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL):** Loans are available for working capital to small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives to assist them through the disaster recovery period. The EIDL assistance is available only to applicants with no credit available elsewhere. Applicants must be eligible small businesses according to SBA size standards. Collateral is required on loans over \$5,000 and EIDL amounts are limited to \$1.5 million. The actual amount of each loan, up to the maximum, is limited to the actual economic injury as calculated by SBA, not compensated by business interruption insurance or otherwise. The \$1.5 million statutory limit for business loans applies to the combination of physical and economic injury, and to all disaster loans to a business. Borrowers whose property is located in a special flood hazard area must purchase and maintain flood insurance for the full value of the property for the life of the loan. **Contact:**

Headquarters Office: Office of Disaster Assistance, SBA, 409 3rd Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416. *Local:* Contact regional SBA Disaster Area Office.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture/Rural Business-Cooperative Development Service (RBS) Business and Industrial Loans:** The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program helps create jobs and stimulates rural economies by providing financial backing for rural businesses. This program provides guarantees up to 90 percent of a loan made by a commercial lender. Loan proceeds may be used for working capital, machinery and equipment, buildings and real estate, and certain types of debt refinancing. The primary purpose is to create and maintain employment and improve the economic climate in rural communities. Applicants must be in rural areas or in towns with populations under 50,000. Preference is given to applicants in open country, rural communities, and towns of 25,000 population and fewer. Assistance is subject to the availability of funds. **Contact:** Laurette Tucker, USDA Rural Development, Culpeper Bldg., Suite 238, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, VA 23229, Phone: 804.287.1594.
- **USDA/Rural Housing Service (RHS) Community Facilities Loans and Grants:** Loans and grants to develop community facilities for public use in rural areas. Community Facilities Loan funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services. Towns or incorporated areas with populations under 50,000 are eligible for direct and guaranteed loans, and towns or incorporated areas with populations under 20,000 are eligible for grants. Maximum loan limit is 40 years, or the useful life of the project. Loan rates are set by Secretary of Agriculture, and vary depending on poverty rate of the area. **Contact:** Virginia State Office, Rural Housing Service, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Culpeper Bldg., Suite 238, Richmond, VA 23229-5014, Phone: 804.287.1590.
- **USDA Water and Waste Grants and Loans:** Loans and grants to develop, replace, or repair water and waste disposal (including storm drainage) systems in rural areas or in towns with populations of 10,000 or fewer. Funds may not be used to pay interest on loans, operation, and maintenance costs or to acquire or refinance an existing system, and cannot exceed 75 percent of eligible costs. **Contact:** *Headquarters Office:* Assistant Administrator, Water and Waste, RUS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250-3200. *Local:* Contact the Rural Development county, district, or State office.

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Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

The IRS activates its Disaster Assistance Program when there is a presidential declaration of a major disaster or emergency under the Stafford Act.

- **Disaster Assistance Program:** Provides free income tax information and assistance to taxpayers whose property has been damaged or lost in a Federally-declared disaster area. They offer affected taxpayers the option to file an amended return for the prior year to obtain a refund of taxes already paid rather than wait to claim the disaster loss on the subsequent year's return. All individuals who have incurred damage to or loss of property as a result of a Federally-declared disaster are eligible for this assistance. A special post office box has been established by the IRS, Memphis Service Center, for amended refund returns related to Hurricane Floyd. This will expedite these returns being processed. Individuals should write the words *Hurricane Floyd* in red across the top of the amended return (Form 1040X) and also on the outside of the envelope. Send the signed 1040X to:

IRS Memphis Service Center
P.O. Box 2079
Memphis, TN 38101

Employment Assistance

Department of Labor (DOL)

- **DOL Disaster Unemployment Assistance:** Direct weekly payments of disaster unemployment assistance benefits and reemployment assistance services to help those workers who are unemployed as a result of a disaster and who are not otherwise eligible for unemployment benefits. It is available in Federally-declared major disaster areas. Proof of employment eligibility and earnings (used to determine benefits) are required. Self-employed workers, farm workers, farm and ranch owners, and others not covered under regular unemployment insurance programs are also eligible. **Contact:** *Headquarters Office:* Director, Unemployment Insurance Service, ETA, DOL, Washington, DC 20210 *Local:* State information and eligibility requirements are available from local employment offices.
- **DOL Job Training Partnership Act Title III Dislocated Worker Assistance:** Financial assistance to dislocated workers. Assistance is available up to \$12,000 in base wages for each participant. Individual participation is limited to six months. Participants will be working in a variety of recovery efforts, including debris removal, providing humanitarian assistance, clerical support, and activities related to eliminating health and safety threats. Workers employed in disaster recovery are enabled

to resume their regular employment, or, if they are permanently dislocated by the disaster and unable to find employment, offered retraining and job search assistance. **Contact:** *Headquarters Office:* Program Manager, Office of Worker Retraining and Adjustments Programs, ETA, DOL, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20210. *Local:* Local operations site, set up by the State Department of Labor.

Mitigation

Federal Emergency Management Agency

- **FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA):** Assistance to States and communities for cost-effective measures that reduce long-term flood risks to buildings insured under the NFIP. Flood mitigation planning that describes the activities to be carried out by the community is also funded. Assistance is provided through planning grants to States and communities to assess the flood risk and identify actions to reduce that risk. Project grants are given to States and communities to execute measures to reduce flood losses. And typical technical assistance grants are given to States to use to assist communities in developing viable FMA applications and implement approved projects. Annual funding is dependent upon the number of flood insurance policies in force under the NFIP. All costs associated with FMA is borne by flood insurance policyholders. The cost share is 25 percent local and 75 percent Federal. **Contact:** *Local:* Contact FEMA Region III office, Liberty Square Building, 2nd Floor, 105 S. Seventh Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3316, 215.931.5500 (phone). *Headquarters Office:* Director, Program Implementation Division, Mitigation Directorate, FEMA 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472.
- **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):** Grant assistance to State and local governments and private nonprofit organizations to implement cost-effective, environmentally sound, long-term mitigation measures that substantially reduce the risk of future damage and loss of life from major disasters. Grants can be used to implement State or local projects that have been previously identified in hazard mitigation plans. However, grants are most typically used to provide funding for mitigation measures that are implemented during immediate recovery from a disaster. Grants are cost-shared on a 75 percent Federal and 25 percent non-Federal basis. The amount of HMGP funds available for any disaster is limited to 15 percent of the total Federal share of assistance under the Stafford Act, less administrative costs. **Contact:** Applicants should apply for the program through the State Hazard Mitigation Officer.
- **Hurricane Program:** Provides grants that may be used to: 1) establish, enhance, and maintain basic levels of preparedness

and mitigation capabilities; 2) promote effective mitigation measures to reduce damage to public and private property; 3) conduct hazard identification and evacuation studies; 4) conduct post-storm analyses to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures; 5) conduct training and exercises; and 6) promote public awareness and education. Eligible States are identified by FEMA and NOAA as subject to hurricane storm-surge flooding.

Contact: *Local:* Contact FEMA Region III office, Liberty Square Building, 2nd Floor, 105 S. Seventh Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3316, 215.931.5500 (phone). *Headquarters Office:* Director, Program Support Division, Mitigation Directorate, FEMA, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- **CDBG Entitlement Communities Program:** Provides funds to be used for a wide range of activities including clearance, public services, public facilities and improvements (such as water and sewer facilities, streets, and neighborhood centers), microenterprise assistance and special economic development activities. HUD requires that activities meet certain requirements, including that it be eligible and meet one of the following broad national objectives: benefit persons of low- and moderate-income; aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or meet other community development needs of particular urgency. HUD has statutory authority to waive certain requirements for activities designed to address damage from Presidentially declared disasters. The HUD provides this grant money on an annual basis to metropolitan cities, urban counties, and States. For disaster mitigation, CDBG monies are typically passed through the State into individual counties and municipalities, and are used as the non-Federal matching funds for disaster mitigation projects. **Contact:** *Headquarters:* Entitlement Communities Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, HUD, Washington, DC. *Local:* State designated HUD office.
- **HUD Disaster Recovery Initiative (DRI):** Helps communities impacted by disasters by stepping in with gap funding for recovery activities, providing the money for unmet needs to pull together the full disaster recovery effort. Grantees must use the DRI funds for activities such as buyouts, relocation, long-term recovery, and mitigation related to a covered disaster. Activities include: debris removal; acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation of public facilities and improvements such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers; code enforcement in deteriorated areas, e.g. disaster areas; assistance to for-profit businesses to carry out economic development or recovery activities that benefit the public through job creation/retention; acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of

government damaged or destroyed as a direct result of Presidentially-declared disaster; and planning and administration costs up to 20 percent of the grant. Funds are provided directly to State and units of general government which experience a Presidentially-declared disaster through emergency supplemental appropriations. Amount varies depending on the magnitude of the disaster. Each State and local government applicant must prepare a Disaster Recovery Plan for HUD approval. A grantee must use more than 50 percent of its HUD DRI funds for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. The program is administered by the same regulations governing the CDBG program. **Contact:** Planning and Development division of respective HUD field office.

Small Business Administration

- ▣ **SBA Business Physical Disaster Loan Program:** When SBA approves a disaster business loan (see previous discussion on page A-4 regarding loan eligibility and contact information), the following additional costs may be added to the loan amount:
 - ▣ Mitigation measures intended to protect against similar disasters (up to 20 percent can be added to the loan amount).
 - ▣ Upgrading businesses during repair and replacement that may be required by applicable building codes.

The following are additional considerations under SBA business loan programs:

- ▣ If the local authority will not issue a building permit because a structure is significantly damaged or the building is located in a special flood hazard area, SBA will consider the facility a total loss even if the actual damage is less than the total value of the property.
- ▣ Conversely in “buyout” situations, if the amount of the buyout payment is insufficient to permit replacement of the damaged facility, SBA can lend the difference between the buyout payment and the replacement cost of the damaged facility.

In any event, it should be noted that flood insurance is required on any loan in which a flood caused the damage regardless of whether the property is in a special flood hazard area.

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Infrastructure Assistance

Department of Transportation (DOT)

- **DOT/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief Program:** Assistance for the repair of Federal-aid highways and roads on Federal lands. The State match generally varies from 10 to 20 percent depending on the class of Federal-aid highways. No State match is required for emergency repairs accomplished within 180 days of the disaster to restore essential travel. Otherwise, the Federal share is based on the Federal-aid highway on which eligible damage occurred. No State match is required for repair of roads on Federal lands. The estimated cost for repairs to Federal-aid highways must exceed \$500,000 for a State to be eligible to receive emergency relief funds. Grants are provided to State highway or transportation agency or another Federal agency, not to communities. **Contact:** *Headquarters Office:* Director, Office of Engineering, FHWA, DOT, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. *Local:* Contact local or regional office.

Department of Commerce

- **DOC/EDA Infrastructure Construction Grant Program:** Grants for local public infrastructure projects. Grants support job retention and job creation, leverage private investment, and directly contribute to the overall long-term economic recovery of the disaster area. Grant funding is cost-shared beginning at 50 percent Federal and 50 percent matching funds. **Contact:** *Local:* For Virginia EDA Regional Office, contact Neal Noyes 804.771.2061 (phone) 804.771.8515 (facsimile). *Headquarters Office:* Director, Economic Adjustment Division, EDA, DOC, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, DC 20230.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

- **FEMA Public Assistance Program:** Grant assistance to States and local communities for clearing debris; emergency protective measures to preserve life and property in response to the declared event on private and public lands; repair or replacements of public and certain private nonprofit structures and contents, such as buildings, utilities, roads and bridges, water-control facilities, and recreational facilities and parks. For insurable structures (primarily buildings) located in identified special flood-hazard areas, assistance from FEMA is reduced by the amount of insurance that could have been obtained under a standard NFIP policy. The FEMA Regional Director approves grants, based on applications from eligible applicants. States are responsible for distributing funds to subgrantees. Grants are generally 75 percent Federal funding and 25 percent non-Federal funding. These grants will cover the cost of meeting applicable

building codes and standards and can be used to fund approved mitigation for the damaged structures. **Contact:** *Local:* Contact FEMA Region III office, Liberty Square Building, 2nd Floor, 105 S. Seventh Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3316, 215.931.5500 (phone) or Disaster Recovery Center. *Headquarters:* Infrastructure Support Division, Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- **USDA Water and Waste Disposal Programs:** Grants and direct and guaranteed loans to develop water and waste disposal systems in rural areas. During an emergency, funds would be made available for loans or grants for the repair of rural water and waste disposal systems damaged by natural disasters. Funds cover any facility that did not receive assistance from other sources, so that impacted communities can continue to provide safe drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities. **Contact:** *Headquarters Office:* Assistant Administrator, Water and Waste, RUS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250-3200. *Local:* Contact the Rural Development county, district, or State office.

Agricultural Assistance

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- **USDA/Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program:** Voluntary program that offers farmers annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain conservation activities, and cost-share assistance to establish approved vegetation on eligible cropland. Available to individual farmers who agree to set aside and enroll environmentally sensitive land into the program for a 10- to 15-year period. As these agricultural lands have been planted in trees, grass and other types of vegetation, the result has been reduced soil erosion, improved air and water quality, and establishment of millions of acres of wildlife habitat. **Contact:** Local county FSA office.
- **USDA/FSA EM Program (Emergency Loans):** Emergency direct low-interest loans to family farmers and ranchers to cover production losses and physical damage. Loans can be used for operating expenses and other expenses necessary to return farming operations to a financially sound basis. Available to individual family farmers, or ranchers either tenant-operator or owner-operator who were farming at the time a disaster occurred. Applicant must have incurred substantial crop loss and/or physical property damage as a result of a designated natural disaster; be a citizen or legal resident alien of the U.S. who own more than 50 percent of the entity; be unable to obtain suitable credit from any other source; be able to project a realistic, feasible plan of operation; have the legal capacity to contract for the loan;

provide adequate collateral to secure the loan request; and have crop insurance. **Contact:** *Headquarters Office:* Director, Farmer Programs Loan-making Division, FSA, USDA, Washington, DC 20250. *Local:* Contact county or State FSA office.

- **USDA/FSA Emergency Conservation Program:** Provides assistance to rehabilitate farmland damaged by floods or other natural disasters. To be eligible, the natural disaster must result in new conservation problems which if not treated, would impair the land, materially affect the production capacity, and be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is required to return the land to productive agricultural use. Payments are available to individual farmers to perform emergency conservation and rehabilitation measures such as debris removal; fence restoration; grading and shaping of farmland; restoring structures; or water conservation measures, including providing water to livestock in periods of severe drought. Eligibility for Emergency Conservation Program assistance is determined by county FSA committees, based on individual on-site inspections, taking into account the type and extent of the damage. Cost share assistance of up to 64 percent is available. **Contact:** Local county FSA office.
- **USDA/FSA Tree Assistance Program:** Cost-share payments to orchardists, maple sugar producers, greenhouse operators, and vineyard growers who incurred losses due to damaging weather. Eligible trees are defined as maple trees for syrup, nursery tree stock, Christmas trees, and papaya trees or orchard trees grown for the commercial production of fruit and nuts. Eligible vines are defined as grape, kiwi fruit, or passion fruit vines grown for commercial production. Payments are authorized only for eligible owners who actually replant or rehabilitate eligible trees and vines. **Contact:** Local county FSA office.
- **USDA/Risk Management Agency (RMA) Federal Multi-Peril Crop Insurance:** These policies insure producers against losses due to natural causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, frost, insects, and disease. Coverage provides protection against low yields, poor quality, late planting, replanting costs and prevented planting. The farmer selects the amount of average yield he or she wishes to insure; from 50 to 75 percent (in some areas to 85 percent). The farmer also selects the percent of the predicted price he or she wants to insure; between 55 and 100 percent of the crop price established annually by RMA. If the harvest is less than the yield insured, the farmer is paid an indemnity based on the difference. **Contact:** Local county FSA office.
- **USDA/RMA Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program:** Provides coverage for crops, for which crop insurance is not available. It provides assistance for farmers who grow such crops, limiting their losses from natural disaster and helping to manage

their overall business risk. To be eligible for assistance in the event of a disaster, you must provide certain information to FSA annually, *before* a disaster occurs. Direct payments to reduce financial losses resulting from a natural disaster that causes production loss or prevents planting of crops grown commercially food or fiber for which Federal crop insurance is not available. Coverage, comparable to that offered under the Federal Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Program, is available to individual farmers.

Contact: Local county FSA office.

- **USDA/FSA Flood Risk Reduction:** established to allow farmers who voluntarily enter into contracts to receive payments on lands with high flood potential. In return, participants agree to forego certain USDA program benefits. These contract payments provide incentives to move farming operations from frequently flooded land. **Contact:** Local county FSA office.
- **USDA Farm Labor Housing Program:** Provides low-interest loans and grants to developers of affordable rental housing for farm workers. The Rental Assistance Program subsidizes the rents of tenants in rural rental and farm labor housing, so that residents pay no more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing. Approximately 90 percent of all farm labor housing units receive rental assistance. **Contact:** Local county FSA office.
- **USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Program:** Provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. This is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection beyond that which can be obtained through any other USDA program. **Contact:** Wetland Reserve Program Coordinator, USDA NRCS, Culpeper Bldg., Suite 209, 1608 Santa Rosa Rd., Richmond, VA 23229-5014
- **USDA/NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program:** Provides money for debris removal and repair of land damage. Also, provides money to reimburse farmers who choose to bury or compost their dead livestock. The NRCS is also providing technical assistance to farmers. Farmers can receive 2.4 cents per pound if they bury the dead animals on their property and 3 cents per pound if they bury them on someone else's property. **Contact:** Local NRCS office prior to burial and dispose of animals in accordance with State law in order to be eligible for payments.

Appendix A

Counseling and Mental Health

Federal Emergency Management Agency

- FEMA Crisis Counseling Program: Assistance to meet immediate and short-term crisis counseling needs of disaster victims. Provides 100 percent Federal funding to State for short-term crisis counseling services to relieve mental health problems caused by the disaster or its aftermath. Available in Federally-declared disaster areas. The person must have a mental health problem that was caused or aggravated by the disaster and/or its aftermath. Contact: *Local:* Contact FEMA Human Services Division in FEMA Region III office, Liberty Square Building, 2nd Floor, 105 S. Seventh Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3316, 215.931.5500 (phone). *Headquarters Office:* Human Services Division, Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- **HUD Housing Counseling:** HUD-approved housing counseling agencies are available to help renters, first-time homebuyers, and homeowners.