

# Preliminary Damage Assessment Report

## Georgia – Tropical Storm Debby FEMA-4821-DR

### *Declared September 24, 2024*

On September 10, 2024, Governor Brian P. Kemp requested a major disaster declaration due to Tropical Storm Debby during the period of August 4-20, 2024. The Governor requested a declaration for Individual Assistance for eight counties, Public Assistance for 34 counties, and Hazard Mitigation statewide. During the period of August 13-22, 2024, joint federal, state, and local government Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted in the requested areas and are summarized below. PDAs estimate damages immediately after an event and are considered, along with several other factors, in determining whether a disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is Act.<sup>1</sup>

On September 24, 2024, President Biden declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Georgia. This declaration made Individual Assistance requested by the Governor available to affected individuals and households in Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Liberty, Long, and Screven Counties. This declaration also made Public Assistance requested by the Governor available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by Tropical Storm Debby in Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Cook, Echols, Effingham, Evans, Jeff Davis, Jenkins, Lanier, Long, Lowndes, McIntosh, Pierce, Screven, Tattnall, Thomas, Tift, Toombs, Ware, and Wayne Counties. Finally, this declaration made Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance requested by the Governor available for hazard mitigation measures statewide.<sup>2</sup>

### **Summary of Damage Assessment Information Used in Determining Whether to Declare a Major Disaster**

#### **Individual Assistance**

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:<sup>3</sup>                      672
  - Destroyed -                      54
  - Major Damage -                274
  - Minor Damage -                226
  - Affected -                        118
  
- Percentage of insured residences:<sup>4</sup>                      62.9% Homeowner's 9.4% Flood
- Percentage of poverty households:<sup>5</sup>                      42.6%

- Population receiving other government assistance such as SSI and SNAP: 6.9% SSI  
15.3% SNAP
- Percentage of ownership households:<sup>6</sup> 63.6%
- Pre-Disaster Unemployment: 6.8%
- Age 65 and older: 13.3%
- Age 18 and under: 24.4%
- Disability: 15.7%
- IHP Cost to Capacity (ICC) Ratio: 10.94
- Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: \$8,721,487

## Public Assistance

- Primary Impact: Damage to utilities
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: \$20,681,737
- Statewide per capita impact:<sup>7</sup> \$1.93
- Statewide per capita impact indicator:<sup>8</sup> \$1.84
- Countywide per capita impact: Appling County (\$8.32), Atkinson County (\$74.73), Bacon County (\$68.52), Berrien County (\$21.07), Brantley County (\$28.83), Brooks County (\$49.36), and Bryan County (\$55.85), Bulloch County (\$15.58), Burke County (\$17.30), Camden County (\$8.35), Charlton County (\$6.30), Candler County (\$43.26), Chatham County (\$5.75), Clinch County (\$7.41), Coffee County (\$11.05), Colquitt County (\$10.19), Cook County (\$24.46), Echols County (\$27.05), Effingham County (\$4.80), Evans County (\$53.47), Jeff Davis County (\$9.33), Jenkins County (\$61.01), Lanier County (\$7.59), Long County (\$51.79), Lowndes County (\$23.91), McIntosh County (\$39.43), Pierce County (\$34.61), Screven County (\$8.66), Tattnall County (\$6.81), Thomas County (\$9.23), Tift County (\$4.63), Toombs County (\$36.41), Ware County (\$8.65), and Wayne County (\$12.37)
- Countywide per capita impact indicator:<sup>9</sup> \$4.60

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<sup>1</sup> The Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and resulting needs of individuals, businesses, public sector, and community as a whole. Information collected is used by the State as a basis for the Governor’s request for a major disaster or emergency declaration, and by the President in determining a response to the Governor’s request (44 CFR § 206.33).

<sup>2</sup> When a Governor’s request for major disaster assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (Stafford Act) is under review, a number of primary factors are considered to determine whether assistance is warranted. These factors are outlined in FEMA’s regulations (44 CFR § 206.48). The President has ultimate discretion and decision making authority to declare major disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5170 and § 5191).

<sup>3</sup> Degree of damage to impacted residences:

- Destroyed – total loss of structure, structure is not economically feasible to repair, or complete failure to major structural components (e.g., collapse of basement walls/foundation, walls or roof);
- Major Damage – substantial failure to structural elements of residence (e.g., walls, floors, foundation), or damage that will take more than 30 days to repair;
- Minor Damage – home is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in short period of time with repairs; and
- Affected – some damage to the structure and contents, but still habitable.

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<sup>4</sup> By law, Federal disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance coverage. 42 U.S.C. § 5155 and 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(5).

<sup>5</sup> Special populations, such as low-income, the elderly, or the unemployed may indicate a greater need for assistance. 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(3).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(3).

<sup>7</sup> Based on State population in the 2010 Census.

<sup>8</sup> Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY24, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY24, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2023.