

For: CT, DE, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VA, and WV State and County Offices

**ECP and EFRP Fund Allocations for Counties
Declared as Major Disaster Areas for Hurricane Sandy**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

On January 29, 2013, the President signed into law the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Pub. L. 113-2) (Disaster Relief Act), which provides funding for ECP in the amount of \$15 million and EFRP in the amount of \$23 million to aid in Hurricane Sandy disaster recovery. These funds were specifically targeted for counties named in major disaster declarations according to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Pub. L. 93-288), as amended (Stafford Act), having eligible farmland and nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) damaged by the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

Note: Contiguous counties are **not** authorized to receive funds under this appropriation. State and County Offices can determine whether a county is named in a major disaster declaration by searching Federal Disaster Designations at FEMA’s web site at <http://www.fema.gov/news/disasters.fema>. Counties listed in either “Individual Assistance” or “Public Assistance” categories of the applicable declaration are eligible for this funding. Counties **not** listed in either category for the applicable designation will be funded by regular ECP or EFRP funds as they become available.

B Purpose

This notice provides State and County Offices with:

- alpha and numeric program accounting codes to be used for ECP and EFRP Hurricane Sandy funds associated with the Stafford Act
- State and County Office enrollment reporting requirements.

Disposal Date	Distribution
May 1, 2014	Above State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices, NRCS State Offices, and State Forestry Offices

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2 ECP and EFRP Alpha and Numeric Program Accounting Codes for Hurricane Sandy Stafford Act Funds

A Tracking Hurricane Sandy Stafford Act Allocations

ECP and EFRP C/S and technical assistance Hurricane Sandy Stafford Act funds will be tracked **separately** from regular ECP and EFRP funds or other ECP and EFRP Stafford Act funds. The alpha and numeric program accounting codes are listed in subparagraph B.

B Program Accounting Codes

The alpha and numeric program accounting codes are as follows:

- ECP Hurricane Sandy Stafford Act C/S:
 - alpha code: “**ECPSANDYSTAF**”
 - numeric code: “**4053**”
- ECP Hurricane Sandy Stafford Act Technical Assistance with NRCS:
 - alpha code: “**ECPSANSTATANRC**”
 - numeric code: “**4055**”
- EFRP Hurricane Sandy Stafford Act C/S:
 - alpha code: “**EFRPSANDYSTAF**”
 - numeric code: “**3347**”.

3 Program Implementation Activity Reporting Requirements

A Enrollment Deadline

County Offices in several States have been approved to implement ECP and EFRP and have initiated signup periods as a result of damage to farmland and NIPF by Hurricane Sandy.

The national Hurricane Sandy ECP and EFRP news release specifies the final enrollment date for producers and owners of farmland and NIPF sustaining damage from Hurricane Sandy is May 31, 2013.

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3 Program Implementation Activity Reporting Requirements (Continued)

B Reporting Requirements

Because the Disaster Relief Act provides funding of a great magnitude, all Federal departments and agencies must ensure that funds appropriated under the Disaster Relief Act are used for their intended purpose.

To that end, OMB is requiring agencies to implement internal controls and reporting requirements for all programs under the Disaster Relief Act to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of these funds.

To satisfy the increased reporting requirements of OMB, State and County Offices shall report ECP and EFRP implementation status as provided in Exhibit 1.

4 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices shall:

- notify applicable County Offices of the provisions of this notice
- notify State Forestry and NRCS offices of the requirement to track and invoice work performed in counties related to Hurricane Sandy separately from counties with other ECP and EFRP implementations

Note: No new Memorandums of Agreement are necessary for this funding.

- for ECP, if using NRCS services, create or modify, as applicable, AD-672 for reimbursement of technical services performed according to 1-ECP, paragraph 77
- summarize and report county ECP and EFRP activity to CEPD according to Exhibit 2.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- comply with the provisions of this notice
- load all ECP and EFRP requests into Cost Share Software (CSS)
- report ECP and EFRP activity to the State Office according to Exhibit 1.

County Office Reporting to State Office

Reporting Phase 1: Enrollment Status

By COB Wednesday, June 5, 2013, each County Office approved to implement ECP and/or EFRP for Hurricane Sandy shall provide the following report to the State Office.

Program	County Name	Number of Applicants <u>1/</u>
ECP		
EFRP		

1/ Total number of applicants, not applications.

Notes: Report shall include all counties administered by the County Office.

Signup deadline is May 31, 2013.

All applications shall be loaded into CSS by June 5, 2013.

Reporting Phase 2: COC Action on ECP and EFRP Applications

By COB Wednesday, October 2, 2013, each County Office approved to implement ECP and/or EFRP for Hurricane Sandy shall provide the following report to the State Office.

Program	County Name	Number of Applicants Approved <u>1/</u>
ECP		
EFRP		

1/ Total number of applicants, not applications.

Notes: Report shall include all counties administered by the County Office.

COC action on all applications shall be taken by October 2, 2013.

Reporting Phase 3: Final Performance and C/S Earned Reporting

By COB Friday, May 30, 2014, each County Office approved to implement ECP and/or EFRP for Hurricane Sandy shall provide the following report to the State Office.

Program	County Name	Number of Participants Paid <u>1/</u>
ECP		
EFRP		

1/ Total number of participants, not applications.

Notes: Report shall include all counties administered by the County Office.

County Offices shall adhere to practice expiration deadlines.

State Office Reporting to CEPD

Reporting Phase 1: Enrollment Status

By COB Friday, June 7, 2013, each State Office approved to implement ECP and/or EFRP for Hurricane Sandy shall provide the following report to CEPD.

State Name	Program	Number of Applicants
	ECP	
	EFRP	

Notes: Signup deadline is May 31, 2013.

All applications shall be loaded into CSS by June 5, 2013.

Reporting Phase 2: COC Action on ECP and EFRP Applications

By COB Friday, October 4, 2013, each State Office approved to implement ECP and/or EFRP for Hurricane Sandy shall provide the following report to CEPD.

State Name	Program	Number of Applicants Approved
	ECP	
	EFRP	

Note: COC action on all applications shall be taken by October 2, 2013.

Reporting Phase 3: Final Performance and C/S Earned Reporting

As each County Office reports final performance activity, State Offices shall provide the following report to CEPD.

State Name	Program	Number of Participants Paid
	ECP	
	EFRP	

Note: County Offices shall adhere to practice expiration deadlines.

State Offices shall ensure all final reports have been submitted to CEPD, no later than Friday, June 6, 2014.