



KENTUCKY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Andy Beshear
Governor

Department of Military Affairs
100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601-6168

Jeremy C. Slinker
Director

July 6, 2022

Melissa Forbes, PhD
Assistant Administrator, Recovery Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 10055
Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055

Through
Gracia Szczech
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV
3303 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Through:
Brett Howard
Federal Coordinating Officer
Delivered Via Email

Re: Request for Direct Housing Assistance for FEMA-4663-DR-KY

Dear Dr. Forbes:

On July 29, 2022, President Biden issued a Major Disaster Declaration authorizing Individual Assistance (IA) for the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a result of severe storms, flooding, mudslides, and landslides that devastated southeastern Kentucky. Since the activation of the Individuals and Households Assistance Program in the counties of Breathitt, Clay, Floyd, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike, and Whitley, we have worked closely with our local, Commonwealth, private sector, and federal partners to identify housing solutions for disaster survivors impacted by this disaster.

Data provided by the Kentucky Housing Corporation indicate that the 12 counties approved for FEMA Individual Assistance under FEMA-4663-DR-KY have a combined inventory of approximately 5,300 affordable commercial rental units. Assuming an occupancy rate of 90 percent, the maximum number of units currently available to survivors is approximately 530; well below the known number that have been destroyed or suffered major damage.

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The American Red Cross (ARC) has conducted damage assessments in eight (8) of the 12 counties. According to ARC, one thousand one hundred and ten (1,110) homes have sustained a level of damage considered major or destroyed. This figure will certainly rise. Taking into consideration the projected available inventory in the affected region, it is apparent that it will not shelter but a mere fraction of the displaced population.

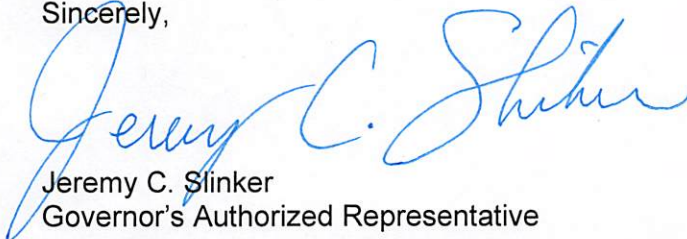
Given the extent of the flooding damage, the size of the displaced population, and the low availability of rental property, the Commonwealth does not believe that a reasonable increase (e.g., 125 percent) in fair market rent would have any significant impact on the availability of rental properties. The affected region is overwhelmingly rural and lacks the resources and infrastructure to supplement the existing rental market with new properties in a timely fashion.

While the Commonwealth and local governments have resources to provide temporary sheltering to some flooding survivors, those resources are insufficient to meet the sheltering needs of all eligible survivors quickly and for an extended period. Any assistance provided by voluntary organizations or other federal agencies is not expected to significantly improve this situation.

In consideration of the factors stated above, the Commonwealth requests FEMA to provide Direct Temporary Housing Assistance as necessary to support the displaced survivors in rebuilding their lives and transitioning to stable, permanent housing.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jeremy C. Slinker
Governor's Authorized Representative