



FEMA

December 1, 2022

Melissa Shirah
Alternate Governor's Authorized Representative
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Re: Approval of the State of Florida's Second Request for Public Assistance (RPA) Extension for Hurricane Ian (DR-4673)

Dear Ms. Shirah:

On November 21, 2022, I received your request for a second extension of the RPA deadline for Hurricane Ian seeking an extension of the RPA deadline from December 2, 2022 to January 6, 2023. FEMA previously approved an RPA extension through December 2, 2022.

Pursuant to 44 C.F.R. §206.202(c), the time period to submit an RPA is 30 days from the date of the disaster declaration. However, 44 C.F.R. §206(f)(2) states, "The Regional Administrator may extend the time limitations shown in paragraphs (c) [*Request for Public Assistance*] and (d) [*Project Worksheets*] of this section when the recipient justifies and makes a request in writing. The justification must be based on extenuating circumstances beyond the recipient's or subrecipient's control."

Additionally, the Regional Administrator has delegated to me her "authorities under 44 C.F.R. pt. 206, Subparts C (Emergency Assistance), D (Federal Assistance to Individuals and Households), Subpart F (Other Individual Assistance), G (Public Assistance Project Administration), H (Public Assistance Eligibility), I (Public Assistance Insurance Requirements), K (Community Disaster Loans), and M (Minimum Standards)."¹ However, any requests to extend the RPA submission period for more than 30 days pursuant to 44 C.F.R. §206.202(f)(2) requires concurrence of the Regional Administrator.

The President declared DR-4673 as a major disaster on September 29, 2022. The current deadline is October 29, 2022.

In your current request, the State asserts multiple extenuating circumstances for a second RPA extension. First, the State and affected counties were forced to halt some activities and prepare for potential impacts of Hurricane Nicole. Second, the State remains in the response phase due to Hurricane Ian. Specifically, the State argues that "addressing the needs of the impacted communities and the volume of survivors affected by this historic event took precedence over

potential applicants submitting their Requests for Public Assistance (RPA).” Third, the State estimates that there is a large pool of potential applicants. The State claims that the number of current RPA applicants for Ian (at 668) represents only 45% of this historical figure and suggests that the impact of Nicole and the extended response phase has taken a toll on RPA numbers. The State argues “this will provide a unified deadline, avoid potential confusion, and aid in the State's continuing outreach efforts.”

Based on the written justification provided by the State, I recommended approving an extension until January 6, 2023, and the Regional Administrator agreed, approving the extension.

Therefore, the request is approved and the RPA submission deadline for the State of Florida is extended until January 6, 2023.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. McCool
Federal Coordinating Officer/
Disaster Recovery Manager
FEMA-4673-DR-FL