

The National Society of Professional Surveyors Foundation, Inc. (NSPSF)

Disaster Relief Fund Policy

Background

The Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) originated after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 struck south Florida. An appeal was made to surveying societies, equipment suppliers, and surveyors nationwide for assistance for those surveyors, employees and family members of the surveying community affected by the disaster. The object of the DRF is to have sufficient funds ready and in place to minimize the time necessary to award financial grants upon approval of requests from members of the impacted surveying community.

Source of Funds

The DRF may accept financial donations suitable for investment from any source. Donations of tangible goods may be considered on a case by case basis. However, NSPSF has limited resources for the storage and distribution of these goods and donors are urged to make financial contributions. If a donor has tangible goods they wish to contribute, NSPSF will assist the donor in guiding the donation to the surveying society in the affected state, or other appropriate charitable relief organization.

Verification of Disaster

The fund may make distributions in response to requests following an official disaster as declared by a federal, state, or local government authority for specific geographic areas. Those requesting funds shall submit suitable information and or proof of the disaster declaration with their request. If an isolated disaster is not declared an official disaster by a government authority, other supporting evidence of the loss may be considered. NSPSF may request assistance from the State Surveying Society in determining if a specific location was in fact affected by a declared or isolated disaster.

Verification of Need

The individual requesting the grant shall provide sufficient information, including but not limited to the NSPSF Disaster Relief Fund Application, photos, etc. NSPSF may request assistance from the State Surveying Society or a Chapter of the State Surveying Society to verify that a need for assistance exists.

Factors NSPSF or the verifying agency may consider include the availability of other humanitarian aid, ability of individuals to pay, and the amount of funds currently available for distribution from the fund.

Eligible Expenses

Assistance from the fund is intended to help with the immediate daily living needs of members of the surveying community affected by a disaster. Distributions from the fund may be granted for short term assistance expenses such as food, clothing, lodging, medicine or other immediate needs, as well as repairs and replacements.

Eligibility

Persons eligible for assistance from the fund will include professional surveyors and any person employed or working in the surveying and mapping field. This may include registered surveyors, employees of registered surveyors or companies engaged in surveying, and surveying and mapping employees of public agencies.

Administration of the Fund

Any assets of the fund will be held, invested, and distributed by NSPSF.

Management of Assets

Money or assets received for the DRF will be invested until such time as they are needed for disaster relief. In order to provide quick response to needs which follow a disaster, varying amounts of the assets, as needs arise, will be moved from investment accounts into interest bearing accounts such as money market accounts, bank saving deposit accounts, or similar liquid arrangements. The trustees of the Foundation will have the responsibility to manage the investment of funds in a manner consistent with the investment policy of the Foundation. Both contributions and earnings on contributions will be available for distribution. To help ensure the on-going availability of funds, it is the long-term goal of NSPSF to build the principal of the DRF.

Method of Distribution

At the time of a disaster, distribution will be accomplished by direct application of the individual in need to NSPSF and an approval of the application by the NSPSF Board of Trustees.

If the state surveying society has a disaster relief distribution plan in place, NSPSF may consider working with the state surveying society provided that it is determined by the NSPSF Board of Trustees said arrangement will facilitate the distribution of the funds.

The chair will notify all Trustees of the disbursements in writing within seven calendar days of making the authorization. In the event that the Chair is unavailable, the Vice-Chair may act in the place of the Chair and issue funds with the approval of the NSPF Trustees.

Limit of Distribution

The maximum amount which can be distributed will be limited by the amount of money available in the fund. Distribution of funds will only be made when there is money in the fund.

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