

## Gov. DeSantis Announces Additional Reimbursement Assistance

Yesterday, Governor Ron DeSantis announced additional reimbursement assistance for communities impacted by Hurricane Michael.

Specifically, current law provides that, following a Presidential disaster declaration, the federal government shall reimburse counties and cities 75% of the costs for debris removal and emergency response work.



However, the law also gives the President discretion to increase the federal contribution to as much as 100%, when warranted. Following Hurricane Michael, the President authorized 100% reimbursement for these expenses for a 5-day period. Since that time, Governor DeSantis, working with the State Coordinating Officer, has visited the impacted counties on two occasions to assess the needs of these areas. Based upon these visits, and after speaking with community leaders, Governor DeSantis took appropriate action and requested that the President authorize 100% reimbursement for the first 45 days following the storm's landfall. On January 23, 2019, the President approved the Governor's request.

The fiscal benefit of this action to counties is immense. In Bay County, for example, the County Administrator estimated that this could translate into savings of \$60 million.

Additionally, this extra reimbursement funding not only benefit counties financially but will also result in significant assistance in the ongoing recovery efforts. Specifically, it allows:

- Debris removal to continue without interruption
- Workers to get paid overtime for their work
- Counties and local governments to restore their communities without having to raid other areas of their budgets

At the Association, we'd like to thank all the county commissioners, administrators, and staff that attended the news conference. Our presence there as an organization did not go unnoticed. By participating in events like these, we are further strengthening our relationship with state officials and bringing Florida's counties' priorities to light.



Wakulla County Commissioner and FAC 2nd Vice President, Ralph Thomas, introduces himself to Governor Ron DeSantis.



Jackson County Commissioner, Clint Pate, meets with Florida's Chief Financial Officer, Jimmy Patronis.



Warren Yeager, RESTORE Act Coordinator for Gulf County, mingles with Senator George Gainer before the news conference begins.



Commissioner Ralph Thomas converses with Senator Bill Montford.



Once again, thank you to all commissioners, administrators, and county staff in attendance!

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