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FEMA TRAINING HELPS NON-PROFITS PREPARE FOR DISASTER
Public Assistance seminar teaches ins and outs of making claims to the state



Public Assistance Grants Manager Willie Mae Cox (center) shares the ins and outs of filing for public assistance following a disaster.

RICH SQUARE, N.C – Have you ever wondered what your non-profit would do if a disaster struck? Where would you turn for help? For many, the natural answer would be the federal government, but knowing how to navigate through the paperwork can be a daunting task.

That's why The Roanoke Center thought it would be helpful to host the Public Assistance Training Course.

Constructed by FEMA and the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management, the training provided

participants with an overview of public assistance as well as document and eligibility requirements.

The training detailed how issues like insurance could affect the scope of work and funding of a project and emphasized the importance of effective floodplain management and hazard mitigation. It also encouraged giving adequate consideration to historic properties and other federal laws and regulations like the Clean Water Act and grants, loans and licenses.

Public Assistance Grants Manager Willie Mae Cox and Senior Grants Manager Andy Innis described the importance of complying with local, state and federal program procedures. The trainers instructed the group on how to formulate objectives for projects of various sizes, how to determine the scope of the work, how to develop damage descriptions and construct cost estimates.

They also provided practical guidance on the project management process, which included identifying roles and responsibilities, working effectively with the applicant, dealing with time restrictions and maintaining proper records during the process.

Attendees were also informed on cost effective action they could take to prevent or reduce the threat of future repetitive damage (hazard mitigation) and contractual services during the course of procurement.

For more information on this topic, visit http://www.fema.gov/txt/government/grant/pa/pa_briefing.txt or contact The Roanoke Center at 252-539-2236.