

**Society of American Archivists
Council Conference Call
October 6, 2017
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm EST**

**Promoting Availability of Disaster Recovery Funding
(Prepared by SAA President Tanya Zanish-Belcher)**

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

In September 2005, the Society of Southwest Archivists and the Society of American Archivists created the SSA-SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund—a fund established to address the stabilization and recovery needs of archival repositories affected by Hurricane Katrina. In October 2005, the Fund was expanded to include repositories affected by Hurricane Rita. Both SAA and SSA provided \$5,000 in “seed” money to establish the Fund. Working together, SSA and SAA expanded the original scope of the Fund to provide grants that support the recovery of archival collections from major disasters, regardless of region or repository type. [The National Disaster Recovery Fund for Archives](#) is housed within the SAA Foundation.

Any repository that holds archival records or special collections is eligible to apply for an NDRFA grant. The repository need not be a member of SSA or SAA. Grant monies may be used for the direct recovery of damaged or at-risk archival materials; such services as freeze drying, storage, transportation of materials, and rental facilities; supplies, including acid-free boxes and folders, storage cartons, cleaning materials, plastic milk crates, and protective gear; and to defray the costs for volunteers or other laborers who assist with the recovery.

The current maximum amount for an NDRFA grant is \$2,000. The current NDRFA Fund balance is \$76,900. Since 2005, the Fund has awarded \$63,756 in grants to 36 repositories.

We have not yet received applications for grants to recover from the recent series of hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes. This is not surprising, given that there is usually a time lag following such disasters as people are facing threats to their lives and homes and do not have access to water and power. Once recovery begins, there will be a need for this funding.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can the Council assist with raising awareness about applying to the NDRFA?
- How can the Council assist with raising awareness about donating to the NDRFA?
- The fund description is silent on whether grants may be made to repositories outside the U.S., and to date we have received no requests from non-U.S. repositories. This issue will be discussed at the Foundation Board meeting in November. What do Council members think?