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# Rock Island City Council Presentation American Rescue Plan Act Long Term Community Recovery Plan

*RFQ No. 2021-01-Exec*

*13 September 2021*

Presented By:

*Ernie Cychosz - Brendan John - Paul Ricciuti*

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# Agenda



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## ***What we offer:***

- Invested Corporate Commitment
  - Highly Relevant Disaster Recovery and Federal Grant Management Experience
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Based Approach
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# Introduction



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## *Brendan P. John Sr.*

- STGS Program Manager, FEMA Public Assistance – Technical Assistance Contract (PA-TAC IV)
- Oversaw deployment of +70 Disaster Recovery professionals over 20 FEMA Disaster Recovery Task Orders
- Trained in the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Delivery model

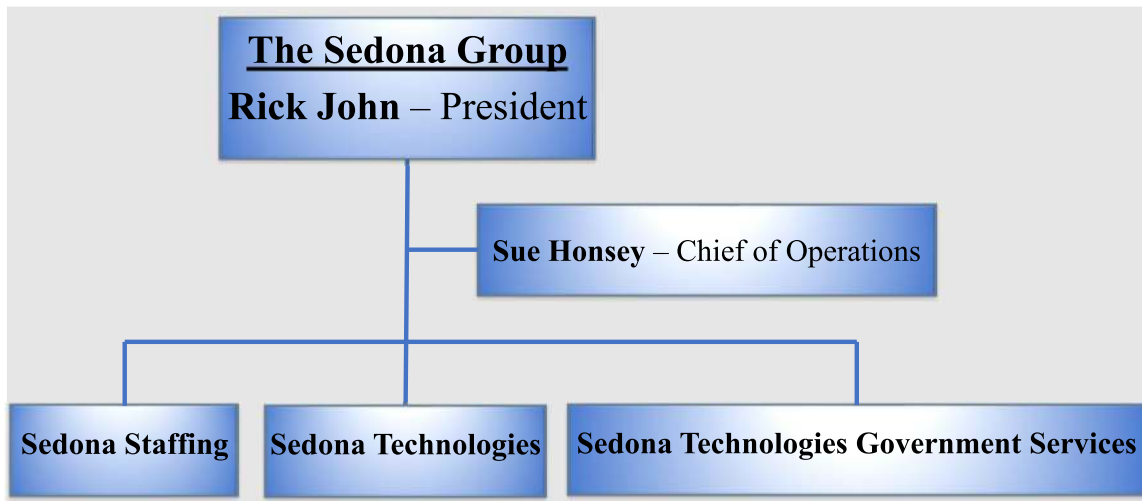
## *Ernie A. Cychosz III*

- STGS President - Senior leader and manager of all government contracts
- 10+ years of government contracting experience

## *Paul J. Ricciuti*

- Former “Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO)” – a presidentially appointed position
  - Former FEMA “Director for Recovery Operations” Region 5
  - Led the development of 13 Long-Term Community Recovery Plans (LTCRP)
  - Architect of FEMA Public Assistance Delivery Model
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# Invested Corporate Commitment



- Founded in 1986
- Family-Owned and Operated
- Headquarters in Moline, Illinois
- Total Workforce Management Solutions\*
- IT Service Provider\*
- Government Contractor\*

\* *nation-wide practice*

# Invested Corporate Commitment



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## **Sedona Technologies Government Services (STGS)**

- Consolidated all government-focused business under separate LLC
- *Scope of Services:* Wide scope of services
  - Disaster/Emergency Recovery, Information Technology, Acquisition Strategy and Support, Advisory and Assistance Support, Administration Services, Project Management – Cyber Security Auditing practice
- *Contract Customers:* Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – US Army – US Airforce – Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) – Peace Corps
  - Secretary of Air Force, RIA Army Sustainment Command & Network Enterprise Center
  - California, Georgia, Illinois (RIA and Chicago), Maryland, New York, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington DC, and many more
- ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System



# Invested Corporate Commitment

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## ***Financially Sound City Providing High Quality Services and Infrastructure***

- We rely on these services and infrastructure.

## ***Expanding Local Economy***

- We support (and are supported) by the local Rock Island economy.

## ***Revitalization of Strategic Locations***

- This improves our quality of life.

## ***Increase Population Through Livable Neighborhoods***

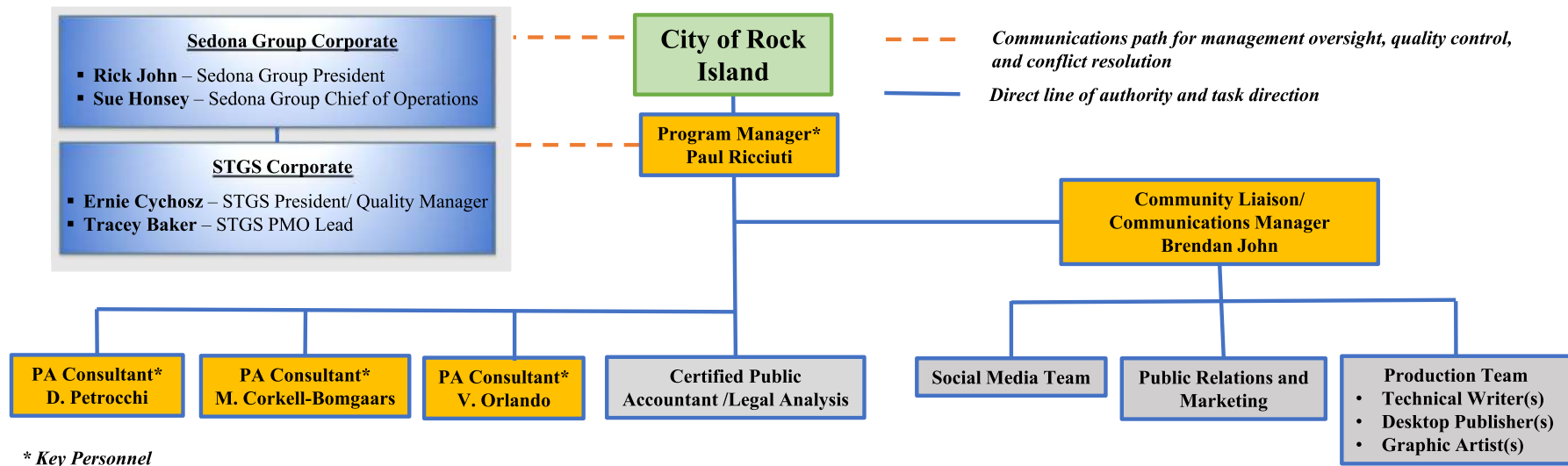
- We live in these neighborhoods – we benefit from population growth.

***Your goals are our goals – your recovery is our recovery***

# Invested Corporate Commitment



## Local Corporate Ownership and Leadership - Local Project Management and Leadership



# Invested Corporate Commitment

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**Benefit:** Our history of working and living within Rock Island (and operating across the Quad Cities) gives us a broad, in-depth level of community understanding and insight – which can be applied directly to LTCRP development.

- Improves our ability to identify and engage with key stakeholders at all levels of the community to gain input, feedback, recommendations, and concurrence.
  - Improves our ability to target and collect data relevant to plan development .
  - Improves the effectiveness of our risk, cost, and impact analysis.
  - Allows us to leverage in place relationships/resources to maximize outreach.
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# Relevant Disaster Recovery and Federal Grant Management Experience



**FEMA Public Assistance (PA) -Technical Assistance Contract (TAC) IV** – We support FEMA’s Office of Response and Recovery (ORR) Directorate in:

- **Providing guidance, leadership, and oversight** to build, sustain, and improve the **coordination and delivery of federal support** to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments.
- **Engaging with local communities** on administration of the **grant process for obtaining funding**.
- **Aiding communities to quickly respond to and recover** from major disasters or emergencies.
  - Provide education, resources, and continual assistance needed to take advantage of available federal funding
- **Bringing real world operational understanding and experience applying intricacies of the federal PA governance** which serves as the basis for the for the ARPA implementation model.
  - Laws, regulations, policies, timelines, requirements, processes, and systems that govern eligibility and reporting requirements for FEMA, the U.S. Department of Treasury (DOT), Internal Revenue Services (IRS), and other agencies

# Relevant Disaster Recovery and Federal Grant Management Experience



## STGS Corporate Public Assistance Program Contract Experience - \$18B

STGS has deployed +70 Disaster Recovery Professionals in Support of Federally Declared Disaster Areas	Obligated PA Grant Funding
DR-4559-LA <b>Hurricane Laura/Delta</b>	\$409,112,235
DR-1603-LA Holly Cross: <b>Hurricane Katrina</b>	\$13,566,309,142
DR-1786-LA <b>Hurricane Gustav</b>	\$714,425,819
DR-4277-LA Severe storms and flooding	\$678,443,533
DR-4416-TX Severe storms and flooding	\$48,643,833
DR-4424-OH Severe storms, flooding and landslides	\$14,726,960
DR-4332-TX <b>Hurricane Harvey</b>	\$2,119,748,851
DR-4440-SD Severe winter storm, snowstorm, and flooding	\$12,746,123
DR-4442-MN Severe winter storm, straight-line wins, and flooding	\$13,689,347
DR-4447-OH Severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, flooding, landslides, and mudslides	\$5,049,677
DR-4477-WI Severe Winter Storm and Flooding	
DR-4459-WI Sever storms, tornados, straight-line winds, and flooding	\$7,456,272
DR-4462-LA Flooding	\$8,746,317
FEMA CRC East (Winchester, VA) and CRC Central (Denton, TX) in addition to DRs above performed management oversite of DR-4383-WI, DR-4402-WI, DR-4408-PA, DR-4428-KY, DR-4427-TN, DR-4397-NY, DR-4444-ND, DR-4447-OH, and DR-4461-IL.	\$210,087,970

# Relevant Disaster Recovery and Federal Grant Management Experience



Sample of STGS Roster Public Assistance Programs Contract Experience			
DR-1609-FL ( <b>Hurricane Wilma</b> )	~\$ 500M	DR-4145-CO	~\$500M
DR-1763-IA	\$1B	DR-4149-PA	~\$35M
DR-1960-IL	\$20M	DR-4229-CO	~\$20M
DR-4086-NJ ( <b>Super Storm Sandy</b> )	~\$15B	DR-4273-WV	~\$500M
DR-4186-SD	~\$25M	DR-4337-FL ( <b>Hurricane Irma</b> )	~\$1.7B
DR-4365-DE	~\$500K	PD-128-SD	~\$20M
DR-4407-CA	~\$1B	DR-4010-KS	~\$23M
DR-4035-KS	~\$30M	DR-4063-KS	~\$200M
DR-4020-NY	~\$1B	<b>Total Obligated Funds</b>	<b>~\$21.5B</b>
Other PA Projects: DR-1976-KY, DR-1918-WV, DR-1905-WV, DR-1903-WV, DR-1881-WV, DR-1893-WV, DR-1868-KS, DR-1860KS, DR-1849-KS, DR-1838-WV, DR-1833-GA, DR-1739-NE, DR-1727-IA, DR-1694-NJ, DR-1696-WV, DR-1684-PA, DR-1649-PA, DR-1558-WV, and EM-3324-KS.			

# Relevant Disaster Recovery and Federal Grant Management Experience

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- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and FEMA Public Assistance:
  - Provide financial and technical support to State, County, Tribal, City, Private nonprofits, and Territorial units of government.
  - Provide funding and technical assistance to respond to and mitigate health and economic impacts of Covid-19.
  - Provide funding and technical assistance to sub recipients as eligible under 2 CFR Part 200 - uniform administrative requirements, cost principals, and audit requirements for federal awards.
  - Fund infrastructure projects including water, sewer, and broadband internet access.

# FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Based Approach



Approach is built on a broad and deep level of experience understanding and applying Federal Disaster Recovery operations and practices

- *LTCRP Best Practices Guidebook, LCTRP Planning Process – Self Help Guide, FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG), and the FEMA Public Assistance Delivery Model (PADM)*

**Primary Benefit** – We have the capability to be flexible in adapting and applying Federal governance to the needs of the local communities

## Key Principles

- *Community Driven*
- *Based on public involvement*
- *Locally controlled*
- *Project-oriented*
- *Incorporates mitigation approaches and techniques*
- *Partnership among local agencies, jurisdictions, and all levels of government*
- *Focus on projects that most contribute to community recovery from the disaster*

# FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Based Approach



**What does our FEMA PA-TAC-IV experience really mean? It means we can:**

- ***Expertly apply FEMA LCTRP Planning Process – Self Help Guide, PAPPG, and PADM***
  - Coordinate plan development (and execution) to ensure gathering of requirements and gain consensus within applicable stakeholders and community leaders during every phase
- ***Understand the law, guidance, and flexibility of the ARPA and how to apply it effectively***
  - Goal: Provide vital relief, services, and support to the community (e.g. public organizations and employees, small businesses, workers, families) in an expedited manner
- ***Determine eligibility*** as it applies to public health, negative economic impacts, lost public sector revenue, hardest-hit communities/families, premium essential worker pay, or city infrastructure.
- ***Establish an ARPA Management Plan*** (e.g. actions, resources milestones, deliverables) to implement response strategy for maximizing Rock Island ARPA funding by December 31st, 2024.
- ***Establish an oversight and a visible vetting process*** to ensure priority needs of the community are being met with no appearance of external influence, favoritism, or conflicts of interest.

# FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Based Approach



## Long-Term Community Recovery Plan (LTCRP) Development

**Step 1: Assessing the need**

**Step 2: Selecting overall leader and outlining LTCR program**

**Step 3: Securing outside support**

**Step 4: Establishing a public information campaign**

**Step 5: Reaching a consensus**

**Step 6: Identifying the LTCR issues**

## Answers the Questions:

***Do we need a LTCR planning?***

***Where do we begin?***

***Where can we get help?***

***How to keep the community informed/involved in the process?***

***How to secure community buy-in to move forward?***

***What are our opportunities?***

*Provides the starting point and guiding structure for developing a recovery plan tailored to the challenges, requirements, and desires of the local community.*

# FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Based Approach



## Long-Term Community Recovery Plan (LTCRP) Development

***Step 7: Articulating a vision and setting goals***

***Step 8: Identifying, evaluating and prioritizing the LTCR projects***

***Step 9: Developing a recovery plan***

***Step 10: Choosing project champions***

***Step 11: Preparing a LTCR funding strategy***

***Step 12: Implementing the plan***

***Step 13: Updating the plan***

## Answers the Questions:

***What will strengthen and revitalize our community?***

***What makes a good project?***

***How do we put it all together?***

***Who will provide leadership for each project?***

***Where do we get the funding for these projects?***

***How do we make it all happen?***

***When are we finished?***



# FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Based Approach



## ***Community Outreach through Focused Communication Plan Development***

***LCTRP Development and execution is extremely data driven*** - All Disaster Recovery Public Assistance governance (e.g. *LCTRP Planning Process – Self Help Guide, PAPPG, PADM*) **enforces** inclusion of a wide scope of community participation in plan development and execution via deliberate set of two-way communication activities captured in a comprehensive Communications Plan.

**Communication Strategy.** For every phase and step of plan development and execution we must

- **Determine Requirement and Purpose:** Collect data, request input, feedback, and/or recommendation, to notify or educate, to gain concurrence consensus, or approval - aligned to process workflow and plan milestones and actions.
- **Target Applicable Stakeholders:** Community leaders, citizens, businesses, social service agencies, financial and philanthropic organizations, and any other applicable stakeholders.
- **Identify Message, Format, and Delivery Mechanism(s):** Tailored to audience (e.g. community role, age, language, literacy level, background), requirement, and objective.
  - *Traditional Media* – partnering local media partners in print, radio, and television
  - *Technology and Automation* – Electronic emails and newsletters, centralized web-based information sites, on-line surveys/comment forums, Social Media Strategy (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok), dashboards, etc.
  - *Direct Outreach* – Mailers, door-to-door canvassers, town halls, weekly status meetings, one-on-one (e.g. individuals, businesses, interest groups) engagements.

# Summary



## ***ARPA Recovery RFQ 2021-01-Exec Qualifications***

- ✓ **Five (5) or more years of related experience - we know how to apply/navigate federal PA grant process**
  - +3 years of corporate assisting communities in obtaining federal funding to support local disaster recover operations (\$1.8 B)
  - Key personnel with over 10 years of similar experience
  - PA-TAC IV roster of over 300 FEMA trained people with additional experience
- ✓ **Experience working in the Quad Cities area is a plus – we know how to operate within the community**
  - Headquartered in Quad Cities for ~35 years
  - Our clients include: John Deere, KONE, Arconic, Sterlite, Tri-City Electric, Modern Woodmen, RIA, Augustana College, etc.
  - Active member in local community associations and government organizations
- ✓ **Experience working with municipal and regulatory entities - Primary focus of PA-TAC IV and our support**
  - Assisted **hundreds** local communities across 10 states recover from 20 federally declared disaster areas
  - Worked with local and nationwide municipalities as part of other corporate operations
- ✓ **Extensive experience working with public outreach including effective communication with citizens, businesses, social service agencies, financial and philanthropic organizations, and any other applicable stakeholders – Critical component of all Public Assistance disaster recovery operations**
  - PA-TAC IV relies on community engagement to develop and implement plan for obtaining disaster recovery funding.
  - Corporate Quad Cities focused marketing and public relations – corporate and community services

Thank You



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Questions?

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# Backup Slides

# Backup Slide – Public Assistance Delivery Model (PADM)



## **Public Assistance Delivery Model (PADM)**

- Provides structured guidance for development of clear targets for recovery, a path to achieving stated goals and objectives, and clearly defined critical success factors (CSF) and key performance indicators (KPI) to evaluate project status and impact of plan execution.
- Phase-based framework with specific objectives, deliverables, tasks, milestones, metrics, and expectations for each phase to drive development and execution of Public Assistance activities. Specifically, this includes
  - **Phase I Operational Planning** focused on identifying disaster impacts and recovery priorities,
  - **Phase II Damage Intake and Eligibility Analysis** for capturing all related damages,
  - **Phase III Scoping and Costing** to develop PA grant projects for final processing,
  - **Phase IV Obligation** to obligate projects and surrounds them all with a set of continuous improvement activities.
- These phases and other activities, tasks, and milestones are broken out in a master project plan that integrates stakeholder activities.
- Output includes recommendations on funding allocations, program goals, objectives, and schedules, and program direction as well as study, analyze, and provide recommendations on requirements, acquisition strategies, program documentation, program transition plans, supplemental information, and program execution.

# Backup Slide – FEMA Training



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- 0201 Debris Technical Specialist Course
  - 0239 406 Hazard Mitigation Course
  - 0371 Public Assistance Eligibility Course
  - 0378 Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment Course
  - 0381 Project Specialist Course
  - 0382 Public Assistance Coordinator Crew Leader Course
  - 0383 PAC Crew Leader Refresher Course
  - 0479 Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Course
  - 0480 Public Assistance Cost Estimating Format Course
  - 0632. Introduction to Debris Operations Course
  - 0634 Introduction to FEMA's Public Assistance Program Course
  - 0719 Insurance Specialist Course
  - 0776 Project Specialist Refresher Course
  - 0777 Project Worksheet Development Course
  - 0865 Public Assistance Site Inspector Course
  - 0866 Public Assistance Scoping and Costing Course
  - 0867 Public Assistance Document Review and Validation Course
  - 0868 Public Assistance Document Integrity Course
  - 0869 Public Assistance Program Course
  - 0480 Public Assistance Cost Estimating Format Course

# Backup Slide – Scope of PA-TAC IV Services (1 of 3)



STGS is currently a contractor on the FEMA PA-TAC IV. In support of this contract, we maintain a readiness roster of over 300 professionals who have been pre-vetted and trained by FEMA to support their Public Assistance program by providing a wide range of skills which span +85 labor categories. Depending on the needs of each project and support community, we provided a variety of Public Assistance services relevant to ARPA to include:

**Strategy Development and Planning.** Our team possesses the senior level technical expertise necessary to assist communities in the development and implementation of strategies for maximizing federal assistance and increase effectiveness of recovery operations. We provide expert programmatic and policy advice on federal disaster relief programs required to enhance planning and coordination of all recovery efforts. We will work with Government and community leaders to create a strategy which will stabilize operating budgets, return to normal services, and build a bridge to an equitable economic recovery. A strategy which emphasizes the need for Immediacy, Inclusivity, Future Prosperity, and Complementarity. We operated with a heavy reliance on application of the FEMA PADM which follow a structure framework and set of activities build around the following phases and their primary objectives:

FEMA PADM Lifecycle Phases	
<i>Phase</i>	<i>Objective</i>
Phase I – Operational Planning	Identify applicants' disaster impacts and recovery priorities.
Phase II – Damage Intake and Eligibility Analysis	Capture and document all of the incident-related damages.
Phase III – Scoping and Costing	Further develop PA grant projects for final processing.
Phase IV – Obligation Objective	Obligate projects.
Continuous Improvement	Early identification and mitigation of risk through continuous cycle of metrics gathering, analysis, and improvement.

**Education and Training.** As with our FEMA PA support, our team will provide training on all applicable aspects of ARPA implementation. This includes familiarizing government employees with recovery responsibilities and on FEMA (and other government) processes and requirements. We also provide individual training and assistance to transition grant requests through the reimbursement process.

# Backup Slide – Scope of PA-TAC IV Services (2 of 3)



**Compliance Monitoring.** STGS is well versed in serving a role which provides oversight and guidance necessary to mitigate risk of losing funds due to failure to properly identify and adhere to applicable government laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and other publications. We operate with insertion of monitoring and oversight into planning activities, product reviews, and workflow transition points to identify both compliance issues and opportunities to better maximize leveraging of ARP benefits. Special attention is placed on preparation and performance of internal control risk assessments, capture of eligibility verification, and costs for auditing and reporting purposes. Our support of the FEMA PA program requires us to operate daily with the understanding and ability to simultaneously apply many relevant sources of governance to include the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §5121-5207, Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide, Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Guides and Standard Operating Procedures, 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 6 CFR – Domestic Security, 29 CFR Part 1910 – Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standards, 36 CFR—Parks, Forests, and Public Property, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508—Protection of Environment, 41 CFR Part 301—Public Contracts and Property Management, 44 CFR—Emergency Management and Assistance, 48 CFR—Federal Acquisition Regulations System, 50 CFR Part 402, and Wildlife and Fisheries.

**Process Administration and Documentation Support.** Like the FEMA Public Assistance program, the ARP depends heavily on very specific processes at the Federal, State, and Local levels to instill structure into the workflow within and between agencies to ensure the proper management of all activities and timely submission and quality of deliverables. Therefore, we will work with the Government to develop, socialize, and administer the processes used to manage and implement recovery operations. This includes defining procedures, workflows, and interfaces which align to all ARP requirements and influence governance. This process will be adapted to Government organization and needs, provide end-to-end visibility, and streamline assessment, monitoring, and reporting, as well as management and administration of grants. Our processes will align directly with workflows and cross-agency dependencies of all external stakeholders. It will also clearly define schedules, milestones, and documentation requirements. We understand the critical importance of various types of documentation used at every stage of the recovery process – particularly in initiating requests and maintaining an audit trail for compliance purposes – and know how failure to document properly can pose great risk in maximizing the benefits offered by the ARP. We will identify, prepare, socialize, and review all associated documentation and reports for accuracy, format, content, completeness, and compliance and ensure timely distribution and submission. Also, STGS can leverage our other corporate resources to provide technology solutions to automate ARP workflows and track progress of funding distribution strategy, as well as storing documents in a controlled environment.



# Backup Slide – Scope of PA-TAC IV Services (3 of 3)



**Stakeholder Engagement.** Recovery activities are not done in isolation and must be supported with deliberate identification and engagement with all internal and external stakeholders. We will develop communication plans to ensure mechanisms for deliberate, consistent, timely, and valued communication, coordination, and collaboration are performed to advance all stated government objectives. We will stress all-inclusive engagements to create synergies within local communities for consistency in administration of ARP funding. We will represent the local government and attend meetings with FEMA, U.S. Treasury, or other agencies as may be necessary. We will serve as centralized point for receiving and resolving requests for information, justification, audit findings, and eligibility appeals. We will leverage communication flows and interface points to resolve disputes with FEMA, U.S. Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, and other government agencies, as well as external auditors, community partners, service providers, and others as necessary to include preparation of appeals.

**Cost Management and Contract Support.** We are ready to support the full scope of activities involved in the controlled dispersal of federal funds to support COVID-19 recovery to include identification, tracking, reporting, and auditing of long-term ARP related cost exposures and expenditures. We are capable of reviewing and assisting with prioritization of government spend, processing payment requests, determining allowable costs, and applying for, aggregating, and packaging materials for reimbursement. All costs will be tracked and managed from identification of requirements through grant/funding close-out services to ensure funding is retained and full visibility is maintained in how funds are justified and dispersed within the community. This includes loans, grants, direct cash transfers, and individual assistance to workers, families, and small businesses and investment in public sector support, health services and programs, essential workers, and infrastructure. As the transition of funding to the local community is often delivered in the form of contracts and purchasing documentation, our team will assist in completion, review, and submission of all documentation to ensure cost recovery and compliance of expenditures using federal funds.