



City of Garfield City Hall

14655 South Wimpy Jones Road
Garfield, AR 72732
Telephone/Fax: 479-359-3652

April 30, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

As mayor of the city of Garfield I'd like to share my experience with you regarding ER Assist Inc, Disaster Funding Solutions.

I called ER Assist after receiving a postcard about their services in the mail. Our county had just been declared a disaster, and our town was affected by flood damage. Having processed the previous disaster myself, I knew an outside firm could be helpful. ER Assist came to our local city council meeting and explained their process. Our city council approved their contract and they got to work.

I estimated our initial damage around \$100,000. When it was all said and done, our approved grant dollars were over \$223,000. When I compare the dollars we received to those of previous disaster funding for similar damage, I know we made the right move by hiring a consultant who specializes in this type of work everyday. They knew how to ask for other things we needed, like clearing ditches- extra work that will help minimize the overall damage the next time we experience floods.

ER Assist not only completed the disaster grant work for the current flood, they also worked with the State of Arkansas and FEMA to update a previous flood grant. The result was receipt of additional money from a previous disaster, bringing much needed funding to our small town. The success of ER Assist strengthened city council's trust in my decision making. Even though I was told by some government personnel that I should "just let FEMA handle the work" and we "don't need a consultant", I was not deterred. Thanks to the work of Allison Wolf & the ER Assist team, the City of Garfield came out on top of this disaster.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Blackburn". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gary Blackburn, Mayor of Garfield