Implementing emergency recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards to life or property created by a natural disaster.
Due to extreme rainfall on December 28, 2019, Tillatoba Creek in the Town of Charleston, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, had extensive flood flows which caused bank sloughing that endangered the main access road to the local hospital and other associated infrastructure.

After EWP repairs, the road shoulder was restored and the streambank stabilized to prevent further sloughing and danger to the traveling public on the hospital road.

The program can include purchasing floodplain easements. These easements restore, protect, maintain, and enhance the functions and values of the floodplain, including associated wetlands and riparian areas. They also conserve natural values including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, and ground water recharge, as well as safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the results of erosion.

EWP work is not limited to any one set of prescribed measures. NRCS completes a Damage Survey Report which provides a site-by-site investigation of the work necessary to repair or protect a site and protect life and property. NRCS will only provide funding for work that is necessary to reduce applicable threats. Should sponsors want to increase the level of protection, the sponsor will be responsible for paying 100 percent of the costs of the upgrade and additional work.

Eligibility
Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance but must be represented by a project sponsor. Sponsors include legal subdivisions of the State, such as a city, county, general improvement district, conservation district, or any Native American tribe or tribal organization as defined in section 4 of the Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Sponsor’s Obligations
Sponsors are responsible for:
• providing land rights to implement repair work,
• securing all necessary permits,
• furnishing the local cost share,
• accomplishing the installation of work, and
• performing any necessary operation and maintenance.

Criteria for Assistance
All EWP work must reduce threat to life and property; be economically, environmentally, and socially defensible; and be technically sound.

How Do I Obtain Assistance?
If your land has suffered severe damage that may qualify for the EWP Program, you should contact your local authorities and request assistance. City, county, state and governments, flood and water control districts, and soil and water conservation districts are the most common sponsors of EWP projects. More information is available from NRCS offices throughout the United States and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands areas.

Contact Information
Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information or: www.nrcs.usda.gov