

North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Roy Cooper, Governor Erik A. Hooks, Secretary Michael A. Sprayberry, Director Laura H. Hogshead, Chief Operating Officer

April 17, 2019

Ms. Tennille Parker, Director Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division Office of Block Grant Assistance U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development 451 7th Street, SW Washington, DC 20410

Dear Ms. Parker:

Thank you for your support of the State North Carolina and its residents impacted by Hurricane Matthew. This letter requests further assistance to assure that the remaining unmet needs of our citizens are addressed in counties that experienced severe distress from the hurricane.

Through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated the State of North Carolina \$236.5 million in response to Hurricane Matthew. Based on initial data from the storm following FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) intake and insurance claims, HUD defined the four Most Impacted and Distressed Areas (MID). The initial MID areas defined by HUD were Robeson, Cumberland, Edgecombe and Wayne counties. HUD requires the State to spend 80% of funds in the MID areas.

The State opened up an application period for the single-family rehabilitation/reconstruction program in November 2017 and maintains applicant data in a system of record, which allows for a detailed level of analysis on unmet needs. The applicant data collected through the State's CDBG-DR application intake process is a stronger indicator of remaining unmet need than initial FEMA IA and insurance claims. Based on this applicant intake, the State is requesting that HUD make an amendment to the MID calculation. Specifically, the State is requesting that HUD add Columbus County and Bladen County to the MID list to allow the State flexibility to serve a greater percentage of Matthew-impacted residents across the damaged areas.

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NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

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	County	FEMA IA Total	CDBG-DR Matthew Intake
Current MID Counties	ROBESON	1,042	982
	CUMBERLAND	516	320
	EDGECOMBE	410	311
	WAYNE	371	300
Requested MID Additions	COLUMBUS	232	288
	BLADEN	50	161

The chart shows the current MID Counties, the requested additions, the FEMA IA intake totals, and the State's CDBG-DR applicant intake totals. The chart represents the most impacted counties ordered by total CDBG-DR application intake. When we compare overall FEMA IA intake and CDBG-DR intake, the CDBG-DR intake is in line or less than FEMA IA intake, except for Columbus and Bladen Counties. Columbus County CDBG-DR applicant intake is 124% of the FEMA IA intake; Bladen County CDBG-DR applicant intake is 322% of the FEMA IA intake. With this new applicant intake data, which follows an extended applicant intake period and extensive public outreach, the State is requesting that HUD refine the MID list to include Columbus and Bladen Counties.

Please contact me at 984-389-7432 or John Ebbighausen, Chief Recovery Officer at 919-825-2301 with any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this request to serve the impacted victims of Hurricane Matthew.

Sincerely,

Lama X Hoghead Laura H. Hogshead

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