

Tropical Storm Fred Recovery Update

Answering the call for long-term recovery in Western North Carolina

Nonprofit community leaders realize disaster recovery is a long-term commitment. So much so, leaders in one Western North Carolina county are working to establish an umbrella organization specifically for long-term outreach. The group's name is still being discussed, but according to Chris Baker, who serves as FEMA's Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) Group Supervisor for Remnants of Tropical Storm Fred, the details should become public within a few weeks. Baker, in partnership with the State of North Carolina Bilingual Volunteer Agency Liaison Luz Sanabria-Reyes, has been meeting with the two dozen or so non-profits since early in the disaster. "This group of people work to improve people's lives every day and now it's about going above and beyond to help with recovery after all the damage from Tropical Storm Fred," said Baker. "It's not about the organization. It's about the client and they're all about that. They've got such heart."

Baker is one of many FEMA specialists working with community partners to outline the long-term recovery process and what that looks like. For example, he's made *Sequence of Delivery* presentations and provided examples of bylaws and mission statements to help the organization's leadership determine its direction. "*Sequence of Delivery* is especially important when providing assistance to survivors," explained Baker. "It establishes the order in which disaster relief agencies and organizations provide assistance. It is intended to prevent duplication of benefits, maximize available resources, and coordinate efforts to help disaster survivors navigate the recovery process."



Resource Fair at Cruso United Methodist Church for Tropical Storm Fred Survivors. NC VAL Liaison Luz Sanabria-Reyes pictured in blue polo.

FEMA supports a community approach for response as well as recovery. Federal assistance is provided to help survivors get back on their feet after suffering devastating loss, but it can never restore life as it was before the disaster. That's why community nonprofits, churches and even insurance coverage play such a



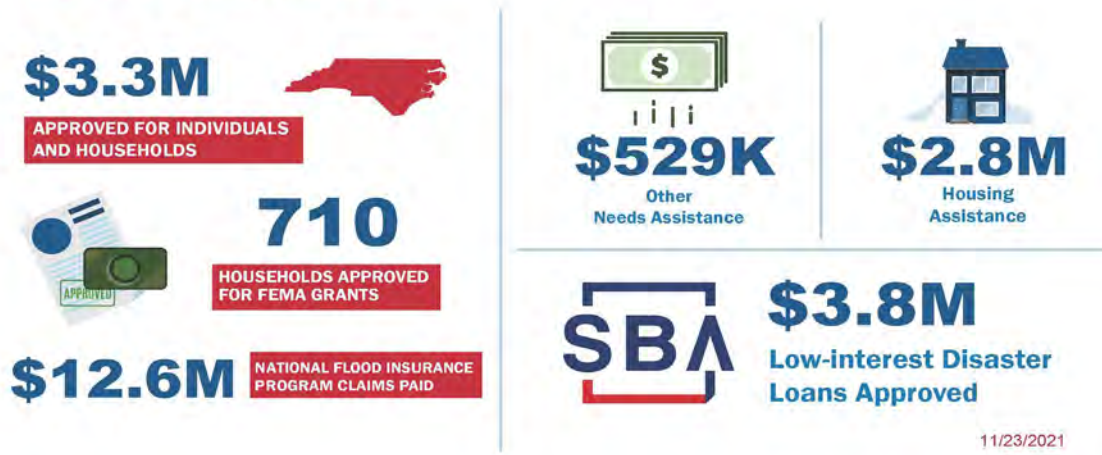
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vital role in what can be a tedious journey. FEMA’s mission is also to build back better/stronger, to support an even more resilient community. That’s the ultimate goal of long-term recovery.

The long-term recovery group is expected to meet after Thanksgiving to finalize specific organizational goals and discuss how to best serve survivors with referrals for unmet needs. But as that work takes place behind the scenes, the commitment to support flood survivors in real time is very much in the forefront. According to Baker, Cruso United Methodist, where Peter Constantian is the pastor, has made a difference to hundreds. The fellowship there began providing clothing, meals and clean-up kits right after the flooding. Clean-up kits were in scarce supply at the time and survivors welcomed them. The church also launched a case management effort strictly for Tropical Storm Fred survivors. In fact, the need there is so strong, the church is looking to hire a case manager dedicated to assisting Tropical Storm Fred survivors. The Church has also established a phone number for disaster survivors to call for assistance. That number is 828-230-2919.

“What is particularly special about this community and the groups involved, is that they are exemplifying the power of Whole Community,” said Baker. “They understand that coming together, with a shared vision of supporting those in need, is the best way to provide hope and healing to those impacted by Tropical Storm Fred.”

Tropical Storm Fred DR-4617-NC By The Numbers



Nearly 300 proposed projects seeking FEMA Public Assistance

FEMA has obligated nearly \$1,035,000 in Public Assistance (PA) grants to help 11 counties in Western North Carolina restore public facilities and infrastructure, as well as pay for emergency response needed in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Fred. But the process is far from over. There are still a number of projects under review for potential PA funding. The eleven counties eligible to apply for PA are Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Madison, Mitchell, Transylvania, Yancey and Watauga.

FEMA PA is a grant program which provides federal assistance to state and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations following a presidential disaster declaration. There are seven categories of PA (Categories A-G) in which FEMA pays 75 percent for eligible expenses, while the state/local cost-share is 25 percent. Here is a breakdown of PA categories, which the 11 counties may apply for:

Emergency Work

- Category A: Debris removal
- Category B: Emergency protective measures

Permanent Work

- Category C: Roads and bridges
- Category D: Water control facilities
- Category E: Public buildings and contents
- Category F: Public utilities
- Category G: Parks, recreational, and other facilities

To date, FEMA has received 40 Requests for Public Assistance, outlining a total of 291 potential projects in Western North Carolina to be considered for funding. FEMA continues to coordinate with the State of North Carolina on reimbursement for emergency services, debris removal, repair or replacement of damaged public infrastructure and funding to mitigate against losses from future storms.

Resources

Haywood County Storm Relief Hotline: 828-356-2022

Haywood storm recovery website: www.RecoverHaywood.com

Rapid Re-Housing Challenge: Haywood County's faith-based community, along with Mountain Projects, Recover Haywood and The United Way are working to restore housing for displaced households affected by Tropical Storm Fred. [Flood Relief Information – Mountain Projects](#)

Catholic Charities: 828-255-0146

Salvation Army: 828-456-7111

Insurance: Survivors who need help with their insurance claim or settlement may call the North Carolina Department of Insurance at 855-408-1212. For more information, visit [Assistance or File a Complaint | NC DOI](#).



United Way: Call 211 for the United Way of Haywood County hotline for flood recovery assistance.

Business Recovery: The Haywood Chamber of Commerce has established a web page to help businesses apply for disaster relief. Online at [Tropical Storm Fred Business Recovery - Haywood Chamber of Commerce](#).

Cleanup: North Carolina Baptist disaster relief volunteers, working through Baptists on Mission, are helping families in Canton clean out debris and repair damage. Visit [baptistsonmission.org/tropical-storm-fred](#).

N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Hotline: The toll-free number, 866-645-9403, is open 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. daily. Farmers can also find recovery resources on the department's disaster website: [www.ncagr.gov/disaster](#).

North Carolina Farm Bureau: Visit [www.ncfb.org](#) for information about disaster assistance for producers.

U.S. Department of Agriculture: [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index](#)

Disaster Legal Aid: Low-income individuals who need free legal services related to the disaster may call 866-219-5262. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Extended hours on Monday and Thursdays are 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. More information is available at [www.legalaidnc.org/](#).

Spanish language resources in North Carolina: [Hispanic organizations in NC](#)

Ukrainian language resources: [Ukrainian Association of North Carolina - Home | Facebook](#)