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Press Release
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President Declares Major Disaster bringing federal assistance to Transylvania County

Federal assistance has been approved for Transylvania County under the major disaster declaration issued today following weeks of local and state advocacy. This assistance is intended to supplement local recovery efforts from the damage sustained from Tropical Storm Fred in mid-August.

"Today we are thankful for the assistance from our local, state, and federal partners in advocating for the Official Disaster Declaration for Transylvania County and other Counties in NC. This Declaration will assist in Federal funds and assistance for our community as we attempt to rebuild from the recent damaging floods of this past August," Transylvania County Commission Chairman Jason Chappell said.

Two types of assistance have been approved including Individual Assistance and Public Assistance. Individual assistance will be managed on a case by case basis by FEMA representatives and can include grants and low cost loans depending on the individual circumstance. The latter will help repair public assets such as public roads and water/sewer infrastructure damaged by the storm. Individual assistance is intended to help individuals and business owners.

A White House Press Release issued today included instructions for those impacted, stating "Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance by registering online at <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice."

Governor Roy Cooper toured the damage on September 5 after issuing a request for the major disaster declaration on August 27. In a press release issued today, Governor Cooper stated, "This federal disaster declaration will help provide assistance for Western North Carolina communities to rebuild stronger and smarter, and I appreciate the president's approval of our request."

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