

NC Governor Roy Cooper

Gov. Cooper Announces \$1.85 Million in Hurricane Matthew Recovery Help for Fair Bluff
Funding Will Help Repair Houses, Protect Town's Drinking Water Supply

FAIR BLUFF

Nov 2, 2017

The town of Fair Bluff will receive \$1.85 million to help rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew and improve the town's water supply, Governor Roy Cooper announced today.

Fair Bluff will receive \$1 million from North Carolina Emergency Management to help address long term housing needs. Fair Bluff will also receive \$850,000 from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to relocate one of the town's main drinking water supply wells out of the floodplain, easing the way for new affordable housing and making the town better able to withstand future floods.

"Hurricane Matthew flooded the heart of Fair Bluff and left homes and businesses in ruins, but step by step the town is moving toward recovery," said Gov. Cooper, who visited the town earlier this fall. "This funding is critical to helping this historic town rebuild and have a brighter future."

The funds are part of a coordinated effort across state agencies to address long-term needs of the communities hardest hit by Hurricane Matthew. As part of the cooperative effort, the Golden Leaf Foundation has agreed to contribute an additional \$100,000 to complete the drinking well project if needed.

Matthew inundated Fair Bluff, causing heavy damage to the town's residences, businesses and vital infrastructure. The \$1 million from North Carolina Emergency Management will help repair, rebuild and elevate single-family homes, as well as rehabilitate manufactured housing.

"We're working with Fair Bluff residents and leaders not just to reconstruct their community, but to rebuild homes and infrastructure in a way that they are better prepared for the next disaster," said Public Safety Secretary Erik Hooks. "Improving the community's resiliency will help ensure their future."

Relocating the drinking well, funded through the Disaster Recovery Act of 2016, will protect Fair Bluff's water supply from future storm damage. In addition, the project will ensure adequate water pressure for new affordable housing planned by the state Housing Finance Agency and the Lumber River Council of Government using Disaster Recovery Act of 2017 funding.

"DEQ is proud to be part of this effort to keep Fair Bluff on the road to recovery," said DEQ Secretary Michael S. Regan. "It's a great example of state government agencies using our specific expertise where and how we can to help North Carolinians the most."

Fair Bluff will soon be getting extra help from a team of volunteers from AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps). The volunteers are part of a group who will be joining the Governor's recovery effort in North Carolina beginning in November to help with ongoing work in storm-damaged communities for six months. Fair Bluff was selected as one of several sites to receive assistance from the volunteers. The team will work with the community to rebuild homes and businesses. Volunteers will also serve in Princeville, Lumberton, Kinston, Seven Springs and Windsor starting later this year.

Additionally, the Town of Fair Bluff is getting \$8.3 million to elevate, buy out or move 71 homes to prevent future flooding through the federal Hazard Grant Mitigation Program. Other assistance received by Fair Bluff and its residents to date includes: 177 home loans and 78 business loans from the Small Business Administration; \$1.8 million in FEMA Individual Assistance for residents; and nearly \$1 million

paid in claims from the National Flood Insurance Program. Columbus County is expected to receive more than \$2 million to repair public infrastructure.

"While progress is happening, there is much more to be done to help communities recover fully," said Governor Roy Cooper. "I will continue to fight in Washington and Raleigh for help for families, businesses and towns impacted by Hurricane Matthew." ##

Sep 15, 2017

Small businesses and workers in areas impacted by Hurricane Matthew will get more help to recover thanks to two programs, Governor Roy Cooper announced today.

The Governor's Recovery Office and the North Carolina Department of Commerce have awarded \$7.5 million to support small businesses still recovering from the storm that hit last October. The funds will be matched by private lenders to provide at least \$15 million in loans available to small businesses in Matthew-affected areas, especially in Robeson, Cumberland, Edgecombe and Wayne counties.

An additional \$4.9 million will be used to keep workers who lost their jobs due to Matthew employed doing storm cleanup and repair.

"Hurricane Matthew devastated families, small businesses and communities across half of our state," said Governor Cooper. "We're working to help these communities recover by getting small businesses and workers back to work."

Both sets of funds are provided through federal programs awarded to the NC Department of Commerce at the state's request. The funds were promised to North Carolina earlier in 2017 and 2016 and are just now becoming available.

Small Business Loans

The small business recovery program includes \$7.5 million from federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery funds awarded to North Carolina. Three non-profit, small business lenders will use the money to expand access to credit for small businesses in parts of the state hit by Matthew. The loans will help revitalize commercial activity in storm-affected communities.

The participating non-profit lenders are Carolina Small Business Development Fund, the North Carolina Community Development Initiative, and the Center for Community Self-Help. Public dollars will be matched by the lending institution or third-party funds to make at least \$15 million in loans available to small businesses.

NC Commerce will establish a web based portal where small business owners in affected communities can get more information about how to apply for loans.

Putting North Carolinians Back to Work

North Carolina will also receive \$4.9 million from the United States Department of Labor

to help people whose jobs were impacted by Hurricane Matthew continue to work. The funds are the second installment in a federal workforce recovery grant awarded in November 2016, bringing the state's total to \$9.8 million.

The funds created temporary jobs for North Carolinians who were thrown into unemployment – either temporarily or permanently – because of Hurricane Matthew. The temporary jobs boost local recovery efforts in disaster areas and provide workers for storm clean up and repair and humanitarian assistance jobs in counties impacted by the disaster. With the additional funds, workers employed by the program will be able to continue to do these jobs to help their communities recover from Matthew.

Workers from the following counties are employed doing storm recovery work through the program: Wake, Johnston, Cumberland, Wayne, Greene, Lenoir, Craven, Jones, Pamlico, Carteret, Duplin, Onslow, Richmond, Scotland, Hoke, Robeson, Bladen, Gates, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Washington, Tyrrell, Dare, Hyde, Hertford, Bertie, Martin, Pitt, Beaufort, Nash, Edgecombe, Wilson, Halifax, Northampton, Chatham, Lee, Harnett, and Sampson.

“Through these efforts, 500 people hurt by Matthew are back at work and now small businesses have a new source of recovery funds,” said Napoleon Wallace, N.C. Commerce Deputy Secretary for Rural Economic Development and Workforce Solutions. “Our mission is to create and support jobs – and these additional funds will help us continue meeting that goal while providing much needed help for regions still working their way back to full recovery.”

Hurricane Matthew caused an estimated \$4.8 billion in damage to 50 counties in North Carolina. So far, more than \$1.5 billion in state and federal relief funding has been allocated to the state and Gov. Cooper continues to work with federal and state officials to secure more help for North Carolina's recovery. ##

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