

**EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW
OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN**

August 1, 2018

This is to give notice that the State of North Carolina has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential affect that its proposed activities in the 100-year floodplain (hereinafter referred to as the floodplain) for Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Homeowner Recovery and Rental Programs under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) will have on the human environment.

As specified in the *State of North Carolina CDBG-DR Action Plan* as amended by the *State of North Carolina CDBG-DR Action Plan Substantial Amendment 1*, the State has directed approximately \$14,500,000 from its total allocation of funds to the affected counties for Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts. Washington County has been allocated \$435,000. The State's priority for this funding is to address single-family housing recovery needs in municipalities in Washington County that were affected by Hurricane Matthew. The best available data suggest that 47 homes in Washington County sustained damage due to Hurricane Matthew and may seek funding through this program.

Proposed activities for single-family housing under the Homeowner Recovery and Rental Programs include repair/rehabilitation, elevation, reconstruction, and reimbursement of repair costs incurred by homeowners within one year of Hurricane Matthew. All homes reconstructed within a floodplain will be constructed on the same footprint and elevated.

While the process of confirming house locations within Washington County is currently in progress, some of the potential applications are anticipated to be located within the floodplain. There are approximately 23,559 acres of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-mapped floodplain within Washington County. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) may be viewed at <http://fris.nc.gov/fris/>. Land areas that are at high risk for flooding in Washington County are called special flood hazard areas (SFHAs), or 100-year floodplains. SFHAs in Washington County are designated on the FIRMs as Zones AE, A, AO, AH, AR, and A99.

Floodplains are areas of land adjacent to rivers, ponds, and lakes that flood periodically at different points in time. Under Executive Order 11988, management of floodplains is encouraged to achieve reduction in the risk of flood loss, minimization of flood impacts on human safety, health and welfare, and restoration and preservation of the natural and beneficial floodplain values.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an

important public education tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

This notice with request for comment has also been mailed to Washington County, FEMA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the Catawba Indian Nation.

All interested persons, groups, and agencies are invited to submit written comments regarding the proposed use of federal funds to support the proposed activity in a floodplain. Acting on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Commerce (NCDOC), which is the Responsible Entity for the proposed activity, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) will accept written comments during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM delivered to: John Ebbighausen, Assistant Director of Resiliency, NCEM, Attention: Disaster Recovery Comments, 4238 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4238. Alternatively, comments may be emailed to CDBGDR.Environment@ncdps.gov with “Attention: Disaster Recovery Comments: Washington County” in the subject line. The minimum 15-calendar-day comment period will begin the day after publication and end on the 16th day after publication. All comments must be received on or before August 17, 2018 to receive consideration. Further information can be found at the program website <https://rebuild.nc.gov/> or by contacting NCEM at 919-825-2500.