



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety Resilience Strategy Report

*March 2021*

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) is the primary state agency affected by or responsible for climate-related impacts to the Public Safety Sector. The NCDPS includes the Divisions of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) which includes the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR), North Carolina National Guard, State Capitol Police, and State Highway Patrol. NCDPS occupies or operates over 700 sites and 19 million gross square feet (GSF) of space and 32,000 acres spread throughout the State of North Carolina. NCDPS has 25,000 full-time employees and a general fund budget of \$2.2 billion.

There are several factors or climate stressors that are increasing vulnerability and risk to emergency management services, NCDPS Correctional Institutions, and NCDPS employee health and safety. Given the impacts of recent hurricanes, much attention has been on the drivers of riverine and overland flooding and storm surge. A recent example just occurred in February 2020 when Neuse Correctional Institute was evacuated as a precautionary measure due to potential flooding after heavy rainfall from a strong low-pressure system with an associated cold front. In the long run, sea level rise and tidal flooding will become larger drivers of permanent land loss, potentially affecting evacuation routes. Wildfire and extreme heat will also be major concerns. Drought and water shortages will require emergency responses.

As North Carolina is a geographically and climatically diverse state with a climate already defined by extreme and changeable weather it is highly likely that the climate impacts identified in this report will exacerbate the frequency and impact of natural hazard events across all regions of the state. It is important to note that response to extreme weather events and disasters are a routine part of NCDPS mission and services. Because of North Carolina's naturally variable climate, plans and protocols already exist for response to the existence of the natural hazards outlined in the Climate Science Report, including the North Carolina Emergency Operations Plan and the North Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan. Trainings are already offered on many of these hazards across each Division, and tabletop exercises allow the testing of responses to hazard scenarios. This effort needs to be strengthened through the addition of the Division of Prisons and Central Engineering.

The overall impact of climate change will then be shifts in the frequency, magnitude, duration, or scale of the responses to hazards North Carolina already experiences. Planning and process improvements will be needed to accommodate extreme events that occur more often, more intensely, last longer, or cover broader areas of the state.



## Agency Activities

### Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice

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The Department's Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice manages over 19 million square feet of space, mostly in the agency's 55 prison facilities. Many of the structures in our prison system have long been past their expected lifespan. The average age of our facilities is over 50 years; there are still dormitories in use that were constructed during the Roosevelt administration by the Works Progress Administration. These facilities were not constructed with utility and water efficiency in mind.

Most of the locations where prisons are sited were inherited by the State from counties. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, each county had its own prison, and the State had Central Prison in Raleigh for the most serious felons. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, many counties faced bankruptcy from the pressures of massive debt for maintaining roads, schools, and prisons. In the 1933 and 1935 sessions of the General Assembly, the State assumed responsibility for many of these functions, and took over the operation of the prisons. As such, there was never a comprehensive plan for where facilities were built.

The Division of Prisons has closed a number of small, mostly minimum custody facilities that were not cost-efficient since 1990 when the State operated about 90 facilities, but still operates 55 facilities throughout the State. Effects of climate change pose numerous risks for these prisons and the Department's ability to fulfill its mission to protect the public by incarcerating serious criminal offenders safely. In 2019, the Department sought \$25 million for a multi-year facility assessment that will provide a plan for using the Department's existing resources and real property and reconfigure where facilities are no longer sustainable. While this item was not funded, the Department is submitting a request for funding for \$15 million for the 2021-23 fiscal biennium for a more focused survey. The primary examples of unsustainable prison sites would be in the Coastal Plain region where hurricanes and flooding are an increasingly common occurrence. The Department must evacuate prisons in the path of a hurricane and place them in other facilities. This is an expensive and high-risk logistical problem for Prisons leadership. Furthermore, consistent flooding makes facilities uninhabitable, and as sea levels rise, our facilities will be affected more frequently. A comprehensive facility assessment will use climate data to target facilities that can be retired and also real property the Department currently owns that can be repurposed.

Another goal of a facility assessment would be to identify existing facilities where, through Repair and Renovation funds, significant improvements in water and utility efficiencies can occur. The Department has around \$300 million in deferred maintenance on facilities, and lack of attention to maintenance drives up all operating costs including water and utilities and escalates to becoming a Repair and Renovation request. Finally, the plan can identify designs for new construction that will mirror how we run prisons now and that will maximize operating efficiency. In the short term, the Division of Prisons has employed an energy manager to focus very specifically on utility cost containment.

In addition to seeking funds to assess facilities and employing an energy manager, the Department's Central Engineering Section has proposed seeking a legislative authorization

for an energy-savings capture program. Such a program, which is currently authorized for the University System, would allow the Department to retain savings of energy efficiency efforts and reinvest those savings into climate-friendly facility enhancements that would both save money and create less negative impact on the environment. The Department has submitted language to the legislature in the past for consideration, but has not been successful in getting the language enacted.

## North Carolina Emergency Management

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The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management engaged in several initiatives over the course of 2020 that have contributed to increased resiliency across emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation areas.

The Know Your Zone initiative was completed and rolled out to establish hurricane evacuation zones that can be operationalized during an event. Predetermined zones were established in the twenty coastal counties to simplify the evacuation process during an emergency. In addition to a user-friendly look up tool that allows individuals to identify their evacuation zone based on location, this initiative has provided updated hurricane preparedness guides and an updated digital toolkit to improve personal preparedness and resiliency efforts.

To improve the data collection capabilities of the Division and by extension the State Emergency Response Team, river gauges were purchased and installed at 71 additional sites statewide, as well as updating flood inundation libraries and risk assessments for these additional sites.

A major project was initiated to conduct dam breach analysis on the remaining 859 intermediate and high hazard dams in North Carolina that currently do not have dam failure inundation boundaries or building and road risk information. This work included development of rainfall runoff hydrological modeling for 287 dams, installation of gauges to monitor for dam failure for 130 critical state and locally owned dams, and integration of all data into a secure monitoring, alert, and warning system.

New flood mitigation studies were initiated for the Northeast Cape Fear River, Cape Fear River, Little River, and Cashier River Basins. In addition, building level risk assessments and mitigation strategy development for approximately 12,000 square miles of unstudied streams in the counties that were most impacted by the riverine flooding from Hurricanes Matthew and Florence were begun.

In partnership with the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency, a pilot flood insurance program was integrated into existing ReBuild NC programs supporting communities significantly impacted by Hurricanes Matthew and Florence.

Finally, the new federal pre-disaster mitigation program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), was released to the State. This program aims to categorically shift the focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience and requires extensive interagency coordination on funded activities.

## North Carolina National Guard

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The North Carolina National Guard is a component division of the Department of Public Safety, engaging the services of 11,000 volunteer Guard members across the State for a wide variety of tasks for both state and federal duty. The Guard operates out of a complex web of 95 readiness centers, or armories, in almost every county in the State. Because of this extensive footprint, the Guard has significant vulnerability to climate change and sea level rise.

The Construction and Facility Maintenance Office (CFMO) oversees the Guard's real property. The CFMO is charged with administering the Military Construction (MILCON) program that draws down federal money to build new armories more in keeping with contemporary demands than the Cold War era armories they currently manage. The Guard is shifting to a "Hub and Spoke" model of a few large Regional Readiness Centers with a network of smaller Readiness Centers surrounding them strategically. The CFMO applies sea level data and other resiliency information to its facility map to determine which current facilities are not sustainable into the future to prioritize MILCON projects going forward and deciding what properties can be retired. This process is expected to be ongoing over a period of decades as Congress makes more funds available to re-envision how the National Guard operates from a structural standpoint with climate resiliency always a critical element of decision making.

The members of the NC National Guard agree to a basic commitment of drill one weekend per month and some number of weeks depending on the nature of their assignment, but must be available for deployment when called up by the President or the Governor. Federal duty may require members of the Guard to go on deployment into active war zones across the world to represent the United States in international conflicts or in peace-keeping efforts. State active duty (SAD) assignments include, but are not limited to, maintaining order in periods of civil unrest, responding to natural disasters such as hurricanes or floods, and facilitating critical services during a pandemic. As the climate evolves and hurricanes and flooding become more frequent and more extreme, needs for SAD deployment will increase as well. This means that membership in the Guard becomes more demanding and impactful on a citizen's life and work, making the choice to commit a greater potential burden. Obviously, this would affect recruitment and retention of this critical resource for our State. Presently, the Guard does not have answers to the questions of recruitment and retention, but NC's Guard is part of a larger national conversation among all state Guards on this aspect of their future, and how to address it.

## North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency

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The North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) was established in 2018 to administer Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for Disaster Recovery in the aftermath of Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. Since then, NCORR has grown to manage nearly a billion dollars' worth of these US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants, as well as funding provided through the State Disaster Recovery Acts of 2017 and 2018 and the Storm Recovery Act of 2019. Much of this funding, as discussed further below, goes toward increasing North Carolina's resilience to severe storm events and

flooding by moving people out of the floodplain and into safer housing, repairing and elevating storm-damaged homes, and funding infrastructure improvements through loans and grants to local and tribal governments.

Additionally, NCORR is home to the State's Resiliency program, headed by the Chief Resilience Officer. The Resiliency program works to build a stronger North Carolina, where communities, economies and ecosystems rebound, adapt and thrive amid changing conditions and challenges, including disasters and climate change. Program staff lead the state's resilience efforts.

Collaboration and interaction among partners inside and outside of state government helps all entities leverage expertise throughout the state to build a more resilient North Carolina. Resilience program staff provide resilience expertise to state government across the executive and legislative branches and all state agencies. They facilitate strategic planning and support state agencies and offices by, among other activities, coordinating the State Disaster Recovery Task Force, and its subcommittees—the Recovery Support Functions—which bring together experts from many organizations and disciplines to advise state agencies on recovery and resiliency. The Resilience program also provides technical assistance and guidance to local governments looking to build resilience into their overall operations or specific projects. Several of these activities are discussed in more detail below.

## 2020 Climate Risk and Resilience Plan

In 2019 and 2020, NCORR's Resilience program provided significant steering committee level support to the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on Section 9 of Governor Cooper's Executive Order 80 on climate change. Section 9 required all state agencies to prepare climate adaptation strategies, assess climate risk across the state, and propose programs to address that risk. The Resilience Team had major authorship roles in the final 2020 Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan (2020 Plan), including lead authorship of Chapter 4 (Climate Justice), the Public Safety sector of Chapter 5 (Risk Assessment), and Chapter 7 (The Path Forward).

Chapter 7 of the Plan transitioned most coordinating responsibilities for major statewide resilience initiatives to NCORR from DEQ to reflect the cross-sector mission of NCEM and NCORR – climate resilience is an issue of social, economic, and environmental resilience, which are all touched through disaster response and recovery. Proposed programs, policies, and strategies in Chapter 7 were developed by authors from NCORR, DEQ, NC Department of Transportation, and the Governor's Office. The following provides an update on several of the programs called for under Chapter 7 of the 2020 Plan.

## NC Resilient Communities Program

The 2020 Plan recommended development of the NC Resilient Communities Program to address the need for local capacity building around long-term disaster recovery and resilience planning and program development. Concurrent with the drafting of the 2020 Plan NC DEQ Division of Coastal Management (DCM) and NCORR submitted applications to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Economic Development Administration

(EDA), respectively, for grant funding to develop two technical assistance and training programs, both of which received funding and have now been launched as pilot projects under the NC Resilient Communities Program umbrella.

DCM and NCORR collaborated on the two proposals and are working closely together to ensure they are both complementary and address the specific needs of the funding source. The two programs are NCORR's NC Rise—Regions Innovating for Strong Economies and Ecosystems, and DCM's RCCP—Resilient Coastal Communities Program. NCORR's Resilience Program has requested additional budget support to expand the NC Resilient Communities Program statewide.

*NC RISE—Regions Innovating for Strong Economies and Ecosystems (NCORR-led with funding from the Economic Development Administration)*

NCORR has partnered with the NC Rural Center (a co-applicant) through their Homegrown Leaders training program to develop and implement NC RISE, as well as the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government. The program is funded by a \$1.096 million EDA grant and a \$288,000 in kind match from NCORR. The project will provide training and capacity building, as well as technical assistance, to local community leaders. Part of the project includes developing and producing an "NC Resilience Guidebook," focusing on the process of setting goals, assessing risks, and establishing priorities for resilience, and which will include real-world examples of projects that are possible in North Carolina, with an emphasis on examples of social, economic, and environmental resilience in rural areas. The current project scope also includes \$425,000 to fund up to ten regional partnerships to conduct resilience assessments and develop priorities for resilience-building projects.

*North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program (DCM-led with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, State Disaster Recovery Act funding, and NCORR via CDBG-MIT planning funds)*

Although this pilot project is led by DCM, it is mentioned here both because DCM and NCORR staff are working closely together to ensure this program and NC RISE are complementary and benefit from both agencies' expertise, but also because NCORR has decided to provide supplementary funding for the program through an allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mitigation (MIT) planning funds. Other project collaborators include North Carolina Sea Grant and The Nature Conservancy of NC.

DCM's RCCP will fund 19 coastal governments (municipal or County) at \$30,000 each to conduct resilience assessments and develop resilience plans, and also provide partial funding to four municipalities that have already completed such assessments to develop prioritized project lists. Remaining funds would go toward construction of one green infrastructure project developed under the RCCP and for habitat restoration at the NC NERR Rachel Carson Reserve.

**Interagency Resilience Team**

Chapter 7 of the 2020 Plan called for the creation of an Interagency Resilience Team (IRT) to provide a structure for state staff coordination in tackling interagency resilience issues and to support the development of annual State Agency Resilience Strategy Reports. NCORR's Resilience program convenes the IRT, which includes at least one resilience lead from each state cabinet agency, as well as the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. The IRT began meeting this past fall and has thus far held three meetings, each focused on providing updates of state agency work on resilience and guidance for developing the first State Agency Resilience Strategy Reports.

### *State Disaster Recovery Task Force (SDRTF)*

The NCORR Resilience program manages the State Disaster Recovery Task Force (SDRTF), which supports and advises state agencies, including NCORR and NCEM, as they address long-term recovery and build resiliency. The SDRTF is made up of 12 committees, called Recovery Support Functions (RSFs). Six of the twelve RSFs have met in the past year (RSF 2: Communications and Intergovernmental Relations; RSF 3: Nonprofit and Volunteerism; RSF 6: Business and Workforce Development; RSF 7: Environmental Preservation; RSF 8: Housing; RSF 9: Agriculture), with the Environmental Preservation RSF having been particularly focused on climate resilience. State and local agencies, nonprofits and community organizations active in disaster recovery and resilience-building comprise the membership of the RSFs.

### *Recommendations for Use of CDBG Planning Funds*

In September of this year, the Environmental Preservation RSF issued a set of recommendations to NCORR to fund a series of state projects to improve North Carolina's resilience to climate change through both improved data collection and modeling and planning activities. NCORR leadership approved the following set of proposals and is currently coordinating with the respective state agencies to administer the funds:

- Funding for a consultant to NC Department of Transportation to update statewide data to incorporate current rain event frequencies (approximately \$470,000)
- Funding to the NC State Climate Office (at North Carolina State University) and/or the NC Department of Transportation to build on their pilot projects to use climate scenarios to establish future rainfall statistics (approximately \$350,000)
- Funding to NC DEQ to update Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) modeling (approximately \$500,000)
- Funding for DEQ's Division of Mitigation Services Inner Coastal Plain Flood Capacity Planning Project (approximately \$350,000)
- Funding for DEQ's Division of Coastal Management's (DCM) Resilient Coastal Communities Program (\$500,000) (discussed in greater detail above)

The Environmental Preservation RSF is currently drafting a recommendation that the state fund development of a Statewide Flood Resilience Framework. Such a Framework would drive efficient and effective funding decisions across federal, state, and local government to reduce flooding and improve economic, social and environmental outcomes across the state. Although not specifically called for under the 2020 Plan, a Statewide Flood Resilience Framework could be one of the "cross-cutting strategies" called for in Chapter 7. Development of a science-driven, watershed-based Flood Resilience Framework, supported

by robust stakeholder buy-in, would have multiple benefits, including directing investments to reduce flood risk, incentivizing housing and communities to be constructed away from risky areas, and enhancing water quality and restoring and protecting water-based ecosystems.

Although the Environmental Preservation RSF is still developing the details of this recommendation, states like Louisiana and Iowa have used state investments and their CDBG planning funds to develop these types of plans. Having a compelling framework for action before the next disaster hit enabled these states to qualify for more federal infrastructure funding post-disaster, including receiving larger federal awards.

### Natural Hazards Resilience: A Quick Start Guide for North Carolina Communities

In March 2020, the NCORR Resilience program published [\*Natural Hazards Resilience: A Quick Start Guide for North Carolina Communities\*](#). This publicly available *Guide* is intended to help North Carolina communities better plan for natural hazards and changing conditions, including climate change, by incorporating the concepts of resilience into the work they already do every day. It is written for local decisionmakers and community leaders, as well as interested members of the public. The *Guide* defines community resilience, outlines a way to incorporate community input on resilience into decision-making processes, and provides practical examples of local-level resilience building actions.

### Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities Program

In 2020 FEMA launched its new Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) program. BRIC represents a significant shift from the former Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program with a new emphasis on partnerships and a clear preference for natural and nature based solutions, building code requirements, and incorporating future conditions, including climate change, into project design.

Although BRIC, like PDM before it, is administered by NCEM's Hazard Mitigation Team, NCORR's Chief Resilience Officer worked closely with NCEM staff to help launch the program by providing a training webinar on the application process and educating applicants on the new program's requirements. The Resilience program worked with NCEM Hazard Mitigation to establish a Letter of Intent (LOI) review panel, which included partners from DEQ, DCM, and DOT.

Looking ahead to next year, the Resilience program hopes to continue to work closely with NCEM Hazard Mitigation to improve our state's competitiveness for BRIC funding, including finding ways to support project that would otherwise be highly competitive but may have difficulty securing BRIC's required 25% local match. Additionally, the NC Resilient Communities program, described above, is intended to help develop a pipeline of resilience projects, including ones that may be competitive for BRIC funding. Both NCORR's RISE and DCM's RCCP programs involve forging partnerships and providing communities and regions with risk assessments that can inform future conditions benefit-cost analysis under BRIC. State funds, including from an expanded statewide NC Resilient Communities program or even a resilience bond measure, could help fill the planning and design gap to get more projects "shovel ready."

## Resilience Through Recovery: ReBuild NC

NCORR administers ReBuild NC, North Carolina's long-term disaster recovery program, which is made possible through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding. In the years since Hurricanes Matthew and Florence, North Carolina has put more than \$3.5 billion on the ground repairing homes and multifamily housing, elevating homes, and moving people out of the floodplain and into safer, more affordable housing.

NCORR has also taken on administration of NC HOPE—Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions Program, a statewide initiative to provide rent and utility assistance to eligible low- and moderate-income renters experiencing financial hardship due to the economic effects of COVID-19. The program seeks to prevent evictions and utility disconnections to promote housing stability during the ongoing pandemic. Like ReBuild NC, the HOPE Program is funded through HUD's Community Development Block Grant program – Coronavirus, as well as the US Department of the Treasury Coronavirus Relief Funds.

## Strategic Buyout Program

One of the more significant ways NCORR works to strengthen North Carolina's resilience to future storm events and flooding is by helping homeowners move away from dangerous locations in the floodplain and into safer living situations through voluntary and targeted buyouts. In January 2020, the ReBuild NC Strategic Buyout Program began accepting applications from property owners in designated "Disaster Risk Reduction Areas" (DRRAs)—areas that NCORR and local government partners had prioritized for buyouts supported by NCORR's Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT). Throughout the spring of 2020, the program expanded to thirteen zones in five counties. By the end of 2020, there were 138 total property owners in the program.

To incentivize property owners to move out of dangerous, flood-prone housing, the program instituted policy changes to pay property owners current fair market purchase price, rather than pre-storm fair market purchase price, because NCORR's analysis showed that the property values in the DRRAs had recovered from Hurricane Matthew. This, paired with a much more generous incentive packages, is designed to encourage program participants to move to safe and affordable housing within their communities. These significant policy changes required a Substantial Action Plan Amendment to NCORR's HUD-approved CDBG-MIT Action Plan, which was published for public comment in December 2020 and submitted to HUD for consideration and approval in January 2021.

Looking forward, the program is currently undergoing extensive planning efforts with the support and input of local governments and other groups to identify DRRAs in communities more directly impacted by Hurricane Florence.

## Building New Affordable Housing

Much of North Carolina had an affordable housing shortage before Hurricanes Matthew and Florence that only grew worse when hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed in those two massive storms. As NCORR works to buy families out of dangerous housing in the floodplain through the buyouts program it is imperative that we also increase the availability of safe and affordable housing outside the floodplain for them to move to. A safe and affordable housing stock strengthens our state's resilience to future extreme weather events for all.

### Multi-Family Rental Housing

As part of the state's hurricane recovery, NCORR has partnered with the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) to provide funding to build affordable housing in Fayetteville, Lumberton, and Goldsboro. The McArthur Park II project in Fayetteville includes 80 affordable units for families, while the Adair Gardens project in Goldsboro and Windcrest project in Lumberton include units to house senior members of the community.

### Public Housing Restoration Fund

The state's initial Hurricane Matthew Community Development Block Grant program created the Public Housing Restoration Fund with \$5 million to relocate affordable housing that had been impacted by the storm. The intent of this program was to move some of our state's most vulnerable residents out of harm's way. Since then the fund has been increased by an additional \$6.24 million and is moving forward with providing matching funds for new affordable housing funded primarily by FEMA in the cities of Lumberton, Goldsboro, and Wilson. A few of these projects are described below.

#### *Housing Authority of the City of Goldsboro*

NCORR funding will help replace two public housing developments in the City of Goldsboro that were flooded by Hurricane Matthew with safe, resilient housing. The Housing Authority of the City of Goldsboro is rehabilitating an abandoned rental development to house existing public housing tenants and other low- and moderate-income families, as well as ten households needing permanently supportive housing. The new location features improved access to public transportation, park land, schools, and other amenities. The project has been designed to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—a national green building certification program) certification with a modest additional investment. Achieving LEED certification for a project to retrofit existing housing is a win in overcoming assumptions about how expensive it is to retrofit older, neglected buildings for energy efficiency.

#### *Wilson Housing Authority*

The Wilson Housing Authority (WHA) is combining an NCORR grant of CDBG-DR funding with Neighborhood Revitalization grant funds and other sources to move the first 32 units (out of a total of 75) from their current location in the floodway to a new, safer location. WHA has also partnered with the City of Wilson to submit applications under FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

grant programs to secure funds for relocating all 75 units to safe ground. After the existing vulnerable structures are demolished, the WHA proposes to turn the land over to the City as part of the proposed Hominy Creek Watershed project, which will employ nature-based solutions to address chronic flooding and drainage issues along the water while creating publicly accessible recreation areas.

#### *Housing Authority of the City of Lumberton*

After Hurricanes Matthew and Florence destroyed four developments owned by the Housing Authority of the City of Lumberton (HACL), as well as their administrative offices, HACL turned to NCORR for assistance through the Public Housing Restoration Fund program. The need for safe and affordable housing in Lumberton is great, as evidenced by HACL's decision to close their waiting list for public housing last year when it topped 1,000 households. NCORR-administered CDBG-DR funds are helping fund 72 new units outside of the floodplain, which will replace units lost in two of the developments destroyed by the storms. Nevertheless, despite receiving one of the first public housing allocations available, HACL is still trying to secure a site for the project because so much of the city's land is in the designated Special Flood Hazard Area.