



BRUNSWICK COUNTY

P. O. Box 249
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DATE: October 1, 2018

TO: Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina

FROM: Brunswick County

RE: Shelter and Temporary Essential Power Pilot Program

Brunswick County respectfully requests that the State of North Carolina request that the FEMA Shelter and Temporary Essential Power (STEP) Pilot Program be authorized for the State of North Carolina by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as authorized in Title IV Section 403(b) Emergency Protective Measures of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

Brunswick County received wind gusts up to 105 MPH with sustained hurricane force winds of 90 mph during Hurricane Florence. More significantly, following the hurricane a damaging flooding event occurred. Hurricane Florence moved slowly through Brunswick County as a category 1 hurricane causing damaging winds, severe storm surge and rainfall that caused extensive flooding. This combination caused extensive damage to a significant number of properties within Brunswick County.

Based upon preliminary information gathered, it can be estimated 10% of Brunswick County housing stock was significantly impacted. As of 09/25/2018, 6,737 residents have registered for Individual Assistance (IA) with FEMA. Damage assessments are on-going throughout the county, however, rising flood waters and impacted roads have significantly slowed the recovery process and limited the ability to capture all of the damage sustained within the county. The citizens of Brunswick County are in immediate need of housing assistance. A survey of housing availability suggests that long-term sheltering options within Brunswick County is severely limited. There are currently only 270 rooms between the four hotels within Brunswick County (3 in Shallotte and 1 in Southport) that are eligible for the FEMA Transitional Shelter Assistance Program and all of these designated hotels are already at capacity and have limited future availability. The amount and availability of long-term rental properties is unknown.

Brunswick County has communicated with other counties and the Cape Fear Council of Governments within the Cape Fear Region and believe that the STEP pilot program will offer benefits to the survivors of Hurricane Florence. In addition to the authorization of STEP, Brunswick County also requests all available resources such as voluntary organizations and National Guard Units to assist in the "muck out" process of the impacted properties to reduce the likelihood of toxic substances being present during initial STEP assessments.