

October 13, 2021

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency
Attn: Tara Hall
3508 Bush Street
Raleigh, NC 27609

Subject: 2022 QAP comments

Ms. Hall,

We are writing in our roles as leadership of the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium to reinforce the proposal to preference counties impacted by Tropical Storm Fred in your 2022 Qualified Allocation Plan for federal Low-income Housing Tax Credits. Two of the three counties are a part of our regional housing consortium, and were already strapped for safe, affordable housing for both renters and homeowners. These counties were severely impacted by flooding when Tropical Storm Fred brought devastation through the region on August 17, 2021. Six people lost their lives in the flooding, and hundreds of families lost their homes in our three-county region. In addition to state and local disaster declarations, a federal major disaster declaration was issued on September 8, 2021 that includes Individual Assistance for affected residents of the three counties: (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/08/president-joseph-r-biden-jr-approves-north-carolina-disaster-declaration-2/>).

In consideration of the devastation resulting from this natural disaster, including disproportionate impacts to low-income families, please consider adding back the Disaster Recovery section that was removed in the 1st draft of the 2022 Qualified Allocation Plan with the following proposed revisions:

- Revise QAP Section II.B.3.(a) “Additional Tax Credits” such that Ten percent (10%) of tax credits available will be added to the West region before the Rehabilitation Set-Aside and before any allocations under the New Construction Set-Aside.
- Add Buncombe, Haywood, and Transylvania Counties to QAP Section II.B.3.(b) “County Award Limits” such that no less than two awards will be made in Buncombe County in the Metro region and no less than one award each will be made in Haywood and Transylvania Counties in the West Region.
- Add Buncombe, Haywood, and Transylvania Counties to the chart in QAP Section II.B.3.c. “Disaster Recovery Funds”

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sage Turner

Sage Turner
Chair, Asheville Regional Housing Consortium
Asheville City Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin L. Merrell".

Robin Merrell
Vice Chair, Asheville Regional Housing Consortium
Immediate Past President, NC Housing Coalition