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COUNTY MANAGER
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101 South Broad Street
Brevard, NC 28712

September 14, 2021

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

Subject: 2022 QAP comments

Ms. Hall,

On August 17, 2021, Transylvania County suffered extensive devastation from flooding resulting from Tropical Storm Fred, including many families losing their homes. The loss of housing units has been particularly challenging for our residents because our housing market is in dire condition for affordable and workforce units. The combination of the existing housing crisis and this disaster is leaving many of our families out of their homes and with no housing options.

President Biden approved a major disaster declaration on September 8, 2021 and ordered Federal assistance for areas affected by Tropical Storm Fred, including Transylvania County.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/08/president-joseph-r-biden-jr-approves-north-carolina-disaster-declaration-2/>.


The federal major disaster declaration follows and reinforces previous state and local disaster declarations. As Governor Cooper stated in his letter requesting a federal declaration, "It is expected that the recovery will be significantly more difficult for low-income individuals and other vulnerable populations..."

In consideration of the devastation resulting from this natural disaster, including disproportionate impacts to low-income families, please consider the following proposed revisions to North Carolina Housing Finance Agency's 2022 Qualified Allocation Plan:

- Add Transylvania County to QAP Section II.B.3.(b) "County Award Limits" such that no less than one award will be made in Transylvania County in the West region from the 2022 allocation.
- Add Transylvania County to the chart in QAP Section II.B.3.c. "Disaster Recovery Funds"

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 828-884-3100 or at jaime.laughter@tconc.org if I can answer any questions or provide additional information on this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaime Laughter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jaime Laughter, AICP, ICMA-CM
Transylvania County
County Manager