

Citizen Advisory Committee Public Meeting

July 25, 2025

Descriptive text for the title slide: Logo for the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. CDBG-MIT Citizen Advisory Committee Public Meeting. July 25, 2025.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Good morning everyone. My name is Jennifer Holmes. I'm the compliance director with the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. I'll be assisting with facilitation today, and I'd like to thank you all for joining us for this public meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee, or you may hear me say CAC. Before we begin, I'd like to go over just a few housekeeping items.

>> Your line was muted upon entry for committee members only. Please unmute your line should you wish to participate during committee business. During the public comment period, attendees who wish to speak should raise your hand in WebEx, each speaker will have three minutes to share their comments. You can also submit written comments through the WebEx chat and they will be read during the meeting.

>> We kindly ask everyone to follow the guidelines to maintain a respectful and smooth discussion regarding mitigation efforts. Helping us moderate the chat today is Amanda Stapleton, Chief Policy Officer here at NCORR, and Bridget Munger, Director of Communications here at NCORR. The slide deck meetings and agenda have already been shared. For your reference, this meeting is being recorded and will be made available.

>> If you have any questions or any concerns about the Homeowner Recovery program, please feel free to contact us at 1-888-ASK-RBNC or reach out to your case manager directly for assistance. Now I would like to hand the meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee over to our chairman, Mr. Mayor Dontario Hardy, who will begin the formal portion and guide us through today's agenda.

>> Take it over to Chairman.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** All right. Give me just one second here.

>> All right. First, we, please excuse me for what I have going on over here, but we do have a major power outage. We're just trying to get this squared away with some of these folks. But anyway, good to see everybody. Thank you for being on the call, it's a pleasure. I know it's been a long time coming, and I just want to say, thank you for being here.

>> And, I understand each and everyone of you, play a major role, a vital role in communities, especially as it relates to flood mitigation, flood preventative measures and things of that nature. And as you rebuild, etc. I do appreciate you, being on the front lines, trying to help folks and get given the resources that they actually need in order to move forward with the lives.

>> Let me say this, madam, do we, have we established a quorum? Do we currently have a quorum established?

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Can we confirm the phone number beginning with three, three, six?

>> Can you state your name?

>> **Austin Biggs:** Yes. Can you hear me? My name is Austin Biggs, and I am calling in from. I'm actually coming back from vacation, but I am part of the North Carolina of the State Auditor. And I registered for this WebEx via WebEx. I'm just calling in.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Okay. No problem. Thank you. And phone number beginning with 9102. Can you confirm your name?

>> **Tommy Meyer:** My name is Tommy Meyer, and I'm replace Miss Cherilyn Merritt at Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** All right. Thank you.

>> With that being said, it looks as if we do have quorum.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** All right. So I would say that, I guess we can go down and, introduce ourselves. If we would, we can start and, madam, if you want to do a, roll call, go that way. We can do that as well. But, just a few moments to introduce yourselves. And where are you from? I know I heard two folks so far, so, let's go with the rest whoever's on the call. Well, if you can see those members, madam, you would. You can call them out.

>> **Kia Alexander:** I'll begin. I'm Kia Alexander, and I'm with the Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Next. Amanda.

>> **Amanda Stapleton:** I am Amanda Stapleton, and as Jennifer mentioned, I am the Chief Policy Officer for NCORR. Thanks for having me today.

>> **Kia Alexander:** Bridget.

>> **Bridget Munger:** Good morning, everyone. My name is Bridget Munger, and I am the Communications Director for NCORR. It's nice to see you here.

>> **Kia Alexander:** Jennifer.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** I'm Jennifer Holmes, Compliance Director with the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency.

>> **Kia Alexander:** Jonathan.

>> **Jonathan Dore:** Hello, I'm Jonathan Dore. I am the Director of Recovery Initiatives and Strategy at NCORR.

>> **Kia Alexander:** Brian

>> We'll come back to him. Tracy.

>> **Tracy Colores:** Hi. Tracy Colores Director of Community Development at the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency.

>> **Kia Alexander:** [Inaudible]

>> We'll come back, Ashton.

>> **Ashton Barnes:** Hi, I'm Ashton Barnes and I work with NCORR. I am a Compliance Analyst and I am audit point of contact.

>> **Kia Alexander:** Brad. He's having trouble with his mic, but he is one of our committee members as well. Katina. Charles. Fern.

>> **Fern Hickey:** Hi. My name is Fern Hickey. I'm with NCEM, and was formerly a buyout specialist with NCORR. And I'm not a member of the committee. I'm just here as an interested member of the public.

>> **Kia Alexander:** Yes. My apologies. Only committee members are needed for roll call, so I'll skip Keith. Kelly.

>> **Kelley Shinn:** Good morning. Kelly Shinn here from Ocracoke Island.

>> **Kia Alexander:** Kenny. Larissa.

>> **Laressa Witt:** Good morning. I'm Larissa [Inaudible]. I'm with Alliance Health and I represent Cumberland.

>> **Kia Alexander:** And if there are any other committee members I may have inadvertently omitted, please speak.

>> **Keith Graham:** Yes, this is Reverend Keith Graham, serving Columbus and Bladen County.

>> **Kia Alexander:** Okay. Thank you.

>> **Kitti Hardison:** And sorry, this is Kitti Hardison with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh. And I'm also a CAC member.

>> Thank you. I'll turn it back to you, mayor Hardy.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** All right [inaudible], thank you all for being here again once again. And thank you for letting me know you're on the call. I do appreciate that. Oh, next. I think we'll move on to, well, since we have [inaudible] first, is Owen Thomas on the call madam? I just wanted.

>> **Kia Alexander:** No, sir, I don't see him.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** All right. Thank you. What we'll do is move on to, business now, if you, would, you could actually, I push it back into committee business. However, we can start there. Or if we want to interject, was a move further.

>> **Kia Alexander:** All right. Thank you. I believe maybe you, Tracy?

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** We we can we can go ahead and move, further if you would like, Mayor Hardy, we can go ahead and jump in for, North Carolina Office of Recovery Resiliency's presentation today.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** Absolutely. That would be real good. Ready whenever you are.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** All right. Thank you. So for today, we have presentations that will be coming from the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency individuals that you saw introduced themselves today. Starting off for the CDBG mitigation Citizen Advisory Committee meeting will be Amanda Stapleton. Go ahead. Next slide, please.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Logo for the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Agency Update and Action Plan. CDBG-MIT.

>> **Amanda Stapleton:** All right. Thank y'all.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on agency mitigation and resiliency highlights.

>> Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak at today's meeting. I introduced myself. Amanda Stapleton as the Chief Policy Officer for NCORR.

>> This morning, I'm going to begin with just a brief overview of the agency's recent highlights, some updates, and also a highlight of our mitigation action plan. After that, I'm going to hand it off to a few of my colleagues for a more in-depth discussion. And happy to answer any questions that come into the chat.

>> So on this first slide here, you'll see a summary of the accomplishments that our mitigation and resiliency teams have achieved using the CDBG mitigation funding since our last meeting.

>> One of the key milestones is the completion of the Goldsboro flood print. This was a collaborative effort between our resiliency team and the city of Goldsboro and the Coastal Dynamics Design Lab. So a great partnership.

>> And this PowerPoint has a hyperlink there that green, to the final product for anyone who would like to explore it further, you can go ahead and click on that link.

>> Another major deliverable was the North Carolina Resilient Communities Planning Guide. This was also developed by our resiliency team, in collaboration to support local leaders in strengthening community resilience, for climate related hazards. So a direct link to that guide is also available in this presentation. And is, very helpful for any local leaders looking for a guide that can help them strengthen the resilience efforts.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on agency updates.

>> And then finally, on a somewhat bittersweet note, so if we can go back, one of the things, on a somewhat bittersweet note, if we can go back one thanks.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on agency mitigation and resiliency highlights.

>> On a somewhat bittersweet note, I wanted to share that as of July 1st, 2025, so just 25 days ago, our resiliency team officially transitioned to the State Resilience Office with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. So that team is no longer housed within the NCORR umbrella.

>> And this aligns, with the move and the plan to sunset of NCORR next year. It marks a very exciting new chapter for that team. And they are under the leadership of Marlena Byrne, the acting Chief Resilience Officer.

>> They're going to continue building on the very important work that they have started here, and taking many of the projects with them. So we're not losing, any of that great work that they have been doing.

>> All right, next slide.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on agency updates.

>> So speaking of NCORR's eventual sunset, I have provided an overview on this slide of where NCORR has been since the last CAC meeting. We've had a lot of moving parts and a lot of transitions and changes.

>> So I'm going to highlight a little bit here not to take away from any of the mitigation efforts, but just to provide an overview of where the organization as a whole stands as of today. You may be aware, House Bill 47, which is also section 125-2 appropriated \$217 million to supplement our federal funding received for Matthew and Florence homeowner recovery.

>> And although this funding is separate from mitigation and NCORR as a whole, with HB 47 will sunset in accordance to the legislation on September 30th, 2026. So not this September, but a year from September.

>> Right now, the focus of this group is to remain on completing the job and getting homeowners back home within the appropriated budget. We are so incredibly grateful and thankful to the legislature for, the ability to utilize these funds and to assist us with the sunset in September 30 of 2026.

>> It coincides with our expiration dates for Matthew and Florence, which is really great because we're able to utilize the entire period of performance for Matthew and Florence. While the mitigation grant, which we're all here to talk about today, will live past NCORR's sunset date, it does not expire until 2032, as many of you may know, which is really great because this allows more mitigation efforts, into the future, into 2032 and this great work does not have to sunset with NCORR in 2026.

>> So I've also included a few metrics here. These are as of June 30th, our program delivery office has made great strides and completed even more homes since June 30th. But adding these here, I believe the committee had asked for a little bit of an update there.

>> So here's a few metrics. There is also a great link on our website that shows real time map with completions and where everything is, so I can link that into the chat as well if anybody's interested in taking a little detour into, Matthew and Florence off of the mitigation side.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on the SAPA 6 and Elevation Fund.

>> Lastly, I'm going to review the substantial action plan Amendment 6, also known as SAPA. And, this is the last action plan that was done since the meeting.

>> The last meeting that, y'all had, this was approved on October 31st, 2024. So last October, almost a year ago now, the biggest change here is the creation of what is called the Residential Property Elevation Fund.

>> This fund was created in order to pay for costs necessary to elevate property either two feet above the base flood elevation or BFE as required by HUD, or to a higher standard, which many local municipalities and AHJs have in their, zoning codes.

>> So the this fund really helps establish this alternate source of funding for residential properties that need to be elevated and mitigated against future loss.

>> Eligible costs include any elevation related scope items necessary. You know, that would allow for greater mitigation against future storms.

>> And then the other largest change in the substantial action plan amendment 6, is the Strategic Buyout Program. This had a significant cut, as you can see on the slide here, \$23 million in SAPA 6, which I'm going to turn to my colleague Jonathan Dore to discuss, in depth a little bit further.

>> But as I mentioned, I'm happy to answer any questions that come into the chat. And that wraps up my portion for this morning. Thank you for having me and I'll be here if you need me. Thanks, Kia.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Logo for the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Strategic Buyout. Summary.

>> **Jonathan Dore:** All right. Good morning, everybody. This is Jonathan Dore coming to you from the shoulder of North Carolina 33 highway.

>> Sorry, I was, picking up my son from summer camp and got halfway home. By the time of doing this meeting. So if we could go ahead and go to the next slide, please.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on NCORR Strategic Buyout Program accomplishments.

>> All right, so, as y'all know, the purpose of the Strategic Buyout Program was to reduce the risk of future storm damage, by elevating, or by buying out homeowners, and helping them find property out of the floodplain and out of flood ways.

>> The buyout program was incredibly successful. It carried out, by completing 87 buyouts and converting those bought out properties to permanent green space forever.

>> It will be green space, to help with mitigation of future storms and, and the water that comes from future storms.

>> So those 87 have already been completed. We have another 17 properties that have been

awarded and they will be demolished. They were all awarded within the, month of June. I think maybe one in July or actually. Oh, sorry. It's the next bullet.

>> Since this slide was made, we've actually, finished those final nine and that final bullet there. So that's a total of 26 additional properties that have been awarded, for demolition. And they will be the last properties that are converted to green space as a part of the buyout program. We could, go to the next slide, please.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on Strategic Buyout Program Next Steps

>> The buyout program has not been accepting new applications. And anybody who has not already been awarded, a demolition permit and awarded to a demolition vendor, those applicants in the program will not be moving any further.

>> The Strategic Buyout Program is closed, except for for finishing out those last few, conversions to green space.

>> Every, every homeowner who signed a grant agreement, and had the funding earmarked, they are being assisted, within the program. And those are the the final ones that we just talked about on the last slide that are being converted to, green space.

>> And all of the remaining funds for, that were in the program have been, were, as Amanda said in the her her presentation, have been defunded to, give money to be put into the elevation fund, within the mitigation grant, and all of the homeowners that, submitted applications within, our strategic buyout program, all of their files and the pertinent information have been forwarded over to emergency management and their hazard mitigation grant program for evaluation.

>> It is our sincere hope that HMGP is going to be able to, complete their buyouts, approve them and accept them into their program, and convert them to green space, although they are, being evaluated right now by the HMGP program.

>> All of the applicants who, will not within our program be, moving forward to for demolition and conversion of green space have been alerted, that their applications have been closed and that the program is closing out, and, and they and that they have, their information has been moved over to HMGP with contact information to be able to speak with them.

>> That is the end of my slides. And, whenever it's time to answer questions, happy Amanda and myself and other people are happy to answer them. Thank you.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Logo for the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Community Development Projects in Mitigation. Summary.

>> **Tracy Colores:** Hi. I, Tracy Colores, Director of Community Development.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on Community Development project update.

>> And, as you know from, our previous conversations, we have a significant number of projects being funded through the mitigation grant. And it's wonderful to be able to to meet with you today.

>> And, even though I can't see the committee members faces, I'm very happy to be able to talk to you again to give you an update on the progress we've made.

- >> We've seen a significant number of completions, since the last time we spoke with one another.
- >> And I've just got a few highlights here to share with you. And as always, any questions you have or anything you'd like to go into more detail on, more than happy to share details because we are really excited about the work we're doing in community development, and believe that we are using these grant funds to make a difference in the lives of storm survivors and communities hit hard by the hurricanes Matthew and Florence in eastern North Carolina.
- >> So, you may remember that there are a total of 28 projects in community development that are being funded through the mitigation grant and both infrastructure and housing.
- >> The total on those is right on right at \$150 million, where our funds are covering over two thirds of those costs. And in addition to vital infrastructure projects, we are also providing, a little over 360 apartments that are going to be affordable to households that are making below 80% of the average income in their area.
- >> And that's significant, as you know, with housing costs being as high as they are these days. So, we're very happy to be able to contribute to increasing the supply of workforce and affordable housing in these markets.
- >> We've made significant progress in our infrastructure program since the last time we talked, and have now dispersed over half of the total budget for those projects. And there are a couple of notable ones that I'll be spotlighting in a bit.
- >> And for our affordable housing projects, those take a little bit longer. And, the affordable housing projects that are in the mitigation grant are pretty much all in the various stages of environmental review, which is, an extensive process that we undertake to ensure that we are complying fully with the EPA requirements, the Environmental Protection Act requirements that HUD projects must adhere to.
- >> And that ensures that we don't have, the federal government coming back later and forcing a recapture of any of the funds or, burdening these local governments that are our infrastructure project partners with having to pay back money that they won't have.
- >> So we're excited about that. Next slide, please.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on Project Spotlight: David Ventures roof and window repair.

- >> As I promised, here's a couple of, projects to give you an update on. I'm not sure how many on this call or familiar with the, the community center in [inaudible] in Hyde County.
- >> This is a significant, facility in Howard County that had previously served as a local school prior to the integration. And, the community wanted to keep the school as a hub for community activities and had built it into a vital resource for seniors and after school care.
- >> And they even had a commercial kitchen for local residents to, have small businesses where they were, you know, producing, food products that they were selling.
- >> And then Hurricane Matthew came through and took the roof off. And it's been a long process for this project to come back.
- >> We've got these community development dollars from the mitigation grant present, to the tune of over \$1.7 million, roughly. There's also FEMA money involved and, and now that the site

is on the National Register of Historic Places, as it should be, we are very happy that we have helped the, the Davis Ventures Community Center to secure the envelope on the property so that the roof's been changed out and fixed, and we've got the windows sealed up.

>> We're right now in the process of finishing up the restoration of the windows, because it has to conform to National Historic Registry Standards.

>> And I know that FEMA is, is doing the, the mold remediation and the interior. And then we have also, and connected the local leaders with other grant funders that can help them with replacing, furniture and, and other items that aren't eligible for grant funding, that were destroyed in the storm.

>> And we have our fingers crossed that this project is going to be successfully completed probably by next year. While our dollars will be finished up probably this year. Next slide please.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on Project Spotlight: Princeville 53 acres Force Main.

>> And, as we have talked before, the Princeville work that our grant is doing, was one of the main reasons that community development was very happy that we could move this project and other infrastructure projects into the mitigation grant because, the leadership in Princeville is trying to make use of eight figures and different funding sources to help them rebuild the community.

>> And one of the projects that we are happy to be participating in is the, the Force Main that will handle all, wastewater treatment.

>> The process for getting the wastewater from the new 53 acre site to wastewater treatment in Edgecombe County and, and this project, we have actually almost completed the, the construction of it, and it will be going through testing over the next several months so that we know that when the town has completed the rest of its work on the 53 acres and is able to relocate municipal facilities and put new housing there and new retail, they will have a way to make it truly functional by having wastewater service to the to the area.

>> The other project that we have in Princeville is already complete, and that is where we replaced the flood gates in the levees, that are there like 4 or 5 flood gates on that, river and the Tar River.

>> And we, funded the replacement of the flood gate mechanisms because they had all been destroyed by Matthew. And if you'll remember, one of my earliest conversations with the committee, we talked about how if we had left this Princeville project in its original grant location, rather than moving it into the mitigation grant, the town would not have had enough time to get all this work done.

>> So again, I very much appreciate the support of the committee. So that we could give the Princeville folks time to get this important work done. Next slide please.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on Project Spotlight: Fayetteville Metro Public Housing Authority.

- >> And from the housing portfolio and community development, we have a number of, of projects that we're doing in partnership with local public housing authorities, which, as you probably know, public housing authorities help serve some of the most economically disadvantaged households, families and individuals in our communities.
- >> And in the case of the Fayetteville Metro PHA, they had a community center that served not only the 640 some tenants in public housing, but als was a vital resource for the surrounding community.
- >> They've got a wonderful, music program where they have the local kids come in and, and learn important, collaboration as well as music, skills and in the classroom setting, they have a lot of senior programs, job training, computer resources.
- >> It's really, an important element in that community there. And, when the, Hurricane Matthew flooded the area, not only did they have the immediate problem of the water, but then they had mold that that moved in and set up shop there, and it was very challenging for them and needed a lot more money than the PHA was able to, provide. So we were very happy to be able to come in, and provide a little over \$630,000 that allowed them to, completely restore that facility.
- >> And, we were able to be present at their, grand reopening just a couple of months ago. Next slide please.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on other project progress – infrastructure.

- >> I won't read you all of the items on this slide, but we just wanted to give you a couple more, project updates on the infrastructure project side I mentioned the Princeville work that we had done.
- >> Very glad that we were able to use the mitigation funding to, avoid a catastrophic failure of, the Fairmont wastewater treatment plant facilities in Robeson County. And we have since, we've since been able to repair and replace the parts of that system that were left inoperable. And that construction is complete.
- >> And that system is going to be coming back online. The Legen Road Water Tank construction is expected to be finished by the end of this year. And, this is on Legend Road and also in Robeson County.
- >> And this water tank is going to provide vital, vital resiliency features for a section of the county that, in the last storm lost, all of their ability for all of their water, for their emergency operations facilities in that area, as well as a correctional facility, and so the, the, the county had a major issue on their hands, being able to provide, folks with water in that area.
- >> And the county has said to us, you know, you really understand how important water is when it's cut off in a situation like that.
- >> Then finally, the Maxton generators. This is again, wastewater really related on the Maxton generators is providing a temporary lift station.
- >> Because those, old generators were taken out by the storm, and, and the town didn't have any way to basically use it, have a pump station for wastewater treatment as well. Next slide.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on other project progress – Housing.

>> Very happy to see progress and the housing projects that are in the mitigation being funded by this mitigation grant.

>> The City of Lumberton's Public Housing Authority is, getting much closer to breaking ground on, rebuilding 72 of the roughly 180 public housing units that they lost in Matthew and Florence.

>> And what you see there is a, a picture of the site, in Robeson County where they're going to be locating the new development, which is called Kimberly Jones Village. And it's right across the street from County DHHS facilities.

>> So it's it's very well positioned and we're very excited. And if you would like me to let you know when that groundbreaking ceremony is going to be, just let me know in the chat, and we'll be happy to make sure you get an invitation for that.

>> And then the bottom picture on that slide is of the, the administration building for the Lumberton PHA because they lost all of their administration and maintenance facilities in Hurricane Matthew.

>> And so we were able to help them use these grant dollars to rehabilitate a building that was in a good location for them to be able to serve their existing tenants, including the ones that are going to be in the new location and have meetings and have, respectful areas to have meetings with tenants and for young mothers and other facilities that, they did not have before.

>> So we're very happy that that, that that space is working out so well for them. The we have a 41 units and the Wilmington Public Housing Authority that had significant mold damage from Hurricane Florence.

>> And, and we are hoping that those will be completed by summer of 2026. And then the final bullet there, we have five projects that are, as yet not coming out of the ground and, five counties in eastern North Carolina that we awarded in the round three of affordable housing development.

>> And, and as I mentioned earlier, those projects are in various stages of, being cleared from the environmental review process. Next slide.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Table of existing Community Development projects by county.

>> And I won't go through this list. This is for the committee's use. And again, I'll just say that if you have any questions about any of these projects, please let us know.

>> But the slide on this page and the next page show you what portion of the project is being funded, by our dollars. And then also it stage of completion. Next slide.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Table of existing Community Development projects by county (continued).

And the next one please. Thank you.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Table of AHDF-Round 3 projects by county.

- >> These are those five counties, five projects, that are just now coming out of the ground or about to come out of the ground. And we're very excited.
- >> These five projects are being served with the mitigation grant, after many of them not being able to have access to funding for workforce housing, through the standard mechanism at North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, some of them for it's been 20 years since they've been able to build, affordable workforce housing.
- >> And, we were very happy to be able to make that a reality for these counties and are partnering with the local governments. And in every case here. Next slide, please.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on the Homeownership Assistance Program (HAP) Spotlight.

- >> So I'm just here, but, I'm sorry, is there a question? Okay. I'll keep going and you can stop me if you want to talk.
- >> The, the other program that is being funded in community development resources through the mitigation grant that we talked about the last time we met is the homeownership assistance program.
- >> And and this program helps people with down payment assistance and closing costs, funding, if they aren't already homeowners.
- >> And, and this is a photo of Ms. [inaudible] in Fayetteville with the house that she bought using our funds. And, we've helped over 100 families become first time homebuyers. With about \$3.2 million in assistance and, and everyone has to be a first time homebuyer, which means they haven't purchased a home as their primary residence for at least three years.
- >> And we have an extra feature that has actually been, spotlighted in a national program. Because it's, it's been recognized for its innovative, assistance where if you are a first time homebuyer and your parents aren't homeowners, we will give you 10,000 additional dollars towards buying your house.
- >> And, and we're very happy that we call that first generation. And you'll see that over half of the first time homebuyers we helped are, in fact, also first generation home buyers.
- >> And that serves our intention of trying to help build wealth in communities that haven't had the chance to do that. And so we're very happy about that.
- >> And 75% of our homebuyers are, in fact, female headed households, and half are at or below 80% AMI next slide please.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Information on the geography and racial identification. Map of North Carolina counties and a pie chart of racial identification of household head.

- >> Just to show you where those 100 and some houses are. You can see it by county here. And then we have a pie chart.
- >> Because this was, we were told by committee members that they would be interested in that how these household, households identify that.
- >> And this is just, of course, the head of household that has identified, in, in terms of race. But it shows that, we are being able to distribute these dollars, effectively across, southeastern North Carolina.

>> And we are being able to, help folks, across the, the racial [inaudible] spectrum as well. Next page, please. And that's all of my slides. But like I said, very interested in hearing feedback from the committee and any questions that you might have. Thank you.

Descriptive text for the title slide: Logo for the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Thank you. Ncorr.cac@ncdps.gov.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Thank you, thank you, thank you very much. Amanda, Jonathan and, Tracy there for your presentations today.

>> Thank you very, very much. Chairman Hardy, did you have any comments that you would like to make before we open up for public comment?

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** No, I just would like to say thank you to the entire team and thank you for your hard work and all the effort you put in, to, bring us this far.

>> So I know there's been some, some changes going on and some things taking place. And, I do appreciate your efforts and hanging in there to where we are now.

>> And those programs are very vital to communities all across our state, and they appreciate that. So and I know that those local communities are appreciative of those opportunities, especially the homeowners program.

>> You know, you know, that Project Spotlight, that was a big deal, you know? So I'll take a look at that. I was like, well, that's amazing. Life changing.

>> You know, things that take place that that folks look forward to and, and I know folks, I've been out at home since, you know, Matthew 2016 and, you know, that is, a long time to be out of your home.

>> But I but I do appreciate the team and turnaround, and getting folks, where they need to be. I just had one, question as relates to the ongoing projects as far as folks getting back to the home is, as it relates to contractors, those contractors I know we've had some, some issues in the past with some individuals, not not doing exactly what they're supposed to be doing, however and we have to deal with them accordingly.

>> Just wanted to see what that looked like as it relates to the ongoing projects, what contractors, now that we do have, we get folks back to the home that that was just one question that I have before we open the floor.

>> Or we can start out with that whenever we give it a go to the questions however. But, outside of that, I do appreciate the efforts of all, Jeff, I do appreciate you, for leading the charge. Kia.

>> Thank you for, staying on me for sure. You know, because I needed it, so I.

>> I do appreciate that. So, you bet you, Jennifer, and, we can open the floor for discussion as it relates to any any questions from any other speakers.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Thank you. Thank you so much. So pertaining to that question, just in general about the status, I will hand that off to Jonathan or either and we also have, Jeff Royal up here as well.

>> He is with the North Carolina Office of Recovery Resiliency. So I will see if either one of them, would like to mention a response to that question.

>> **Jonathan Dore:** Sure. This is Jonathan Dore. My apologies. This question is best answered by Chase Allen, who is, in charge of our, PDO office but he was not able to join the call today.

>> We do, constantly have performance metrics that we put upon our GCs that participate in our program. If their score card gets below a certain number, then, they are not allowed to have any more projects.

>> And that is a scorecard that vacillates daily based upon their performance and it based upon their pipeline and production. As with any program, there have been GCs who have, not performed, as well as we would have hoped

>> And there have been some cases where GCs and in fact, there have been several this year in which we have, deemed them non-performing and removed them from our program and taken the projects from their queue in that case, we do reassign them, to performing GCs who have capacity to be able to take those over.

>> So, so, yes, it is an ongoing issue that, every program has to deal with.

>> But when when the GCs do fail to perform, we do, remove those project from them, and we and we, exit them from our program, and make sure that these projects are assigned to high performance GCs. I hope that answers your question.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** Yes, sir, I do appreciate that and [inaudible] and you know, what I stuck out for me is because of the issues that we have, I've seen with contractors and just stated, yeah, low performing or not doing what they supposed to be doing as relates to, the benefit of the actual, person involved or the house or the double wide or whatever it is as it relates to, city ordinances or codes.

>> If you would, you might want to note that in some, some cities and towns, they have planning and zoning ordinances in place and when there's a standard in place from a city to town and the contractor disagrees with it, however, the contractor will forever be wrong.

>> Because what happens is there's no change in the actual, tenant or, homeowner. As far as the land goes, as far as the width and height and all of that stuff goes, well, I had some conversation around and that's why I actually, you know, brought that question up.

>> And, if you would, you know, kind of take a look at that as well and to see what their city or town or they have, they're planning on to their employees so that they so we could continue the work, the right way. So I just wanted to point that out.

>> **Jonathan Dore:** 100%. And we we certainly do enforce, that. Well, we don't enforce that. The local authority having jurisdiction AHJ does enforce those.

>> Every project has to go through the permitting process, through the local AHJ where the local, ordinances are enforced.

>> And, it has to be you have to have a sign off and, approval by the local AHJ also a, a, an inspection done by our inspectors, that is, and many times even more stringent than the AHJs when, to to make sure that they have fulfilled the contractual obligations, which at a minimum is to AHJ standards.

>> But a lot of times we are even more strict, than than local ordinances are. But we do make sure that every, every, project, passes all of these ordinances.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** Okay. Thank you.

>> I just wanted to raise that to make sure, you know, folks are tracking on that because we did have some issues with contractors in the past.

>> You know, so I do appreciate. Yeah [inaudible] you point that out. But if that come up and that's what you are here, you know, so.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Thank you so much. Thank you so much. And do we have any other committee members here with the CAC that would like to come off of mute before we allow full public comment?

>> Is there any CAC committee members that would like to come off mute or even put a question in the chat?

>> **Keith Graham:** Hello, Ms. Jennifer, this is Keith Graham, CAC committee member. Along that same line of inspectors, I know of at least two people where they have got their house completed.

>> But their punch list has not been addressed. Is there a, how do we, connect them to the appropriate resources to get those issues addressed?

>> I know Jonathan was, kind of talking in that arena, so I don't this is a question for him or who would handle that, that I can connect with to try to, get those issues addressed.

>> **Jonathan Dore:** I'm sorry. What kind of issues were they again?

>> **Keith Graham:** So punch list issues after the house is completed, electrical issues as well as roofing issues.

>> **Jonathan Dore:** Yes, yes. Okay.

>> Those would best be, why don't you send them to to me, is my contact information anywhere, Jennifer to where they are able to send it over to me?

>> I can get them over to Trace and, we can look into the different projects that you may have questions about, but certainly, there are times where there are punch lists, punch list items after final inspection that need to be performed, and the GC is responsible for performing those, and certainly, and also within the warranty period, warranty items have to be, handled.

>> And we do have people who focus on that here at NCORR. But certainly if there are certain ones that if you are worried that they are not being, given enough attention, we can certainly highlight those within the [inaudible] office.

>> **Keith Graham:** So, Jonathan, can you drop your contact information or?

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** It's been dropped in the chat. It's been dropped in the chat. So it seems like there. You're welcome.

>> Absolutely. Is there any other committee members that would like to come off of mute before we allow?

>> **Brad Lovin:** Jennifer, this is Brad. Can you hear me?

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Yes, we can.

>> **Brad Lovin:** The one thing I was going to point out, I think mayor, Hardy and, and mentioned talking about zoning laws and things like that.

>> I'm not sure if this is, relevant to, to this, this group, but one of the issues that I hear quite often from victims and folks in the, construction business is when you have someone who is qualified for a grant or for replacement, whatever that they learn from their local zoning officials in their town, that their property now is considered a non-conforming use.

>> And it, they aren't allowed to continue on either with replacement of the home. Say if it's a manufactured home because it's now zoned a non-conforming use and it creates a lot of, headache for the, for the victim and for everybody.

>> And, you know, I'm not looking for a solution today to that, but I want to point out the success of the program is very dependent upon issues like that.

>> And if you want to help victims across North Carolina to be successful, that is a major hurdle. And I know it's probably more of a legislative issue than anything, but it would be helpful from this group to note that, dealing with local government regulatory issues is a problem to the success of this program.

>> And I just kind of want to note that. Thank you.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Thank you for your comment. Yes, definitely. Noted here. And if we can get any additional responses to that, we will.

>> We can, you know, like I said, it'll be included in the, comments and we can also address it in the next meeting as well.

>> We can kind of bring up some information on that. So thank you so much for your comment, Mr. Lovett.

>> Is there any other comments from any CAC members?

>> All right. Hearing none and seeing then in the chat, do we have anyone that's wanting to take advantage of the public comment period that is attending today?

>> Please just raise your hand or come off mute, or you can put your comment or question into the chat.

>> **Fern Hickey:** I, I had a some questions.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Please, yes, please state your name and where you're from.

>> **Fern Hickey:** Yeah. My name is Fern Hickey.

>> I live in Durham, North Carolina, and formerly worked with NCORR as part of the buyout program.

>> And I was curious about. I had a couple of questions, but first, I had a clarifying question. You mentioned with SAPA 6, the biggest change was the addition of the residential property elevation fund for \$44 million.

>> And I was curious, were there new applications taken for that fund or did those funds go to elevations of existing homeowner recovery applicants?

>> Amanda Stapleton: Sure. This is Amanda. I'll take that one. The, there were not new applications taken.

>> The fund augments the elevation projects in the homeowner recovery program. So in the action plan, there's a section that indicates the eligibility of the structures for that program.

>> And augmenting the elevation costs in the homeowner recovery program are what the, elevation fund is being used for.

>> So there was not at another wave or another edition of applications received. It was the the pool already of Matthew and Florence impacted applicants.

>> Fern Hickey: Great. Thanks so much. I just wanted to make sure I understood that correctly before I ask this question, which is I know that due to budget limitations, NCORR leadership had to make some really difficult decisions around how to serve applicants and community members to the best of their ability with limited funds.

>> And that one of the decisions that was made in there was, reducing the buyout program funds, by, I believe it was about 23 million, which was former previous reductions of funds had already happened to the buyout program.

>> And so the result of this was that there, you know, as Jonathan mentioned, there are applicants that, had been in the program. Many of them had been, you know, their process had their application had been in the program for multiple years who were not able to be served.

>> And so I was curious to hear, what sort of, you know, criteria or justification, was used or referred to in order to make that really hard decision of, choosing to take away funds.

>> That would mean those people couldn't be served in order to be able to, you know, shift those over to, complete more homeowner recovery, applicant applications. And then my other question was where the applicants, who, it sounds like there's a few additional applicants that were more recently where grants were more recently awarded, and then the remainder of the applicants have been, passed over to NCEM for consideration under HMGP.

>> And I was wondering, are the applicants that were passed over to NCEM all eligible for HMGP? Because, you know, the two programs had different eligibility criteria.

>> And so curious if there it was possible to serve all of the applicants who weren't eligible under HMGP as part of those 26 that were more recently awarded.

>> And then my final question was just, I know that NCORR itself isn't able to, you know, take these lessons learned over the past many years and, incorporate them into future recovery and resiliency under NCORR itself.

>> But I think there are, you know, really important lessons that were learned over this time and wonder if would love to know if there are ways that that, those lessons learned and information is being, you know, transferred over and held onto so that NC Grow and other offices and agencies that are going to be taking over this important work, can make sure that we continue to do it better every time.

>> Amanda Stapleton: Sure, I think so let me take the last question, and then I will defer to Jonathan for the specifics of the buyout applicants or, to Jeff Royal, who is on the call as well.

>> In terms of the knowledge transfer and the collaboration, I think we've gone through many lessons learned exercises and had the opportunity over the last 5 or 6 years to develop some really strong policies and procedures and we have shared many of our, policies, procedures, a

lot of our knowledge, and had a lot of conversations, with not only Grow, but also with, Community Revitalization and, assisting them with helping to set them up with success is really something that we can do, to the benefit of everyone in North Carolina as NCORR sunsets.

>> And having that ability to connect with them, I think is really great and important. I think it's tragic that we've had storms so close together, but, it allows us to be able to transfer the knowledge without waiting many years and having to go through many changes.

>> And so I think that having those conversations has been great, and it's been going very well and having conversations with other partners as well.

>> Obviously, EM in terms of the HMGP, DEQ in terms of our resiliency, this is really opened a lot of doors for NCORR to be able to, assist all of our other agencies, to be successful as we do sunset and close out Matthew and Florence grants.

>> So, Jonathan, are, what is it, Jonathan. Yeah, sure.

>> **Jonathan Dore:** Yeah. I'm here. Thanks. All right. Hi Fern this is Jonathan. And trying to answer, the other two questions that you asked.

>> As far as, the criteria and the decision on how to of of where the line was drawn. It quite simply had just came down to dollars and cents and it came down to where people were in the process when we realized that we were not going to be able to service everybody and that we needed to transfer this funding over to the elevation fund, to help the people, there, it was just a matter of everybody who had gotten to the point of having a grant agreement signed and having the, the land purchased.

>> Those applicants stayed in because they had a signed contract with the state to do the buyout and demolition to green space. And so we finalized bidding out those [inaudible] the ones who would not get to that step, were the ones who, unfortunately, fall out of our program.

>> And I think to answer your second question about whether they're eligible, unfortunately, I can't speak for HMGP. I have no reason to believe that they are not eligible for HMGP.

>> But we have forwarded, their information over, in fact, and many times it is it is a pretty complete file, for HMGP hopefully to be able to take over and keep moving with, they have had the files, would which I believe is your section of EM, had the files for about to two and a half months, for review.

>> And we are awaiting, to find out, what that review, gives, as far as whether they're going to go to move forward.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Thank you so much. So thank you, Fern, for your questions. And then also, thank you, Amanda and Jonathan, for being able to respond to those concerns in those questions that were given.

>> Is there anyone else that have a public comment that they would like to mention?

>> And let me just make sure I'm not missing anything in the chat.

>> So Amanda or Bridget, am I missing anything that was in the chat or sent to you all directly that needs to be addressed?

>> **Amanda Stapleton:** Nope. I do not have any questions in the chat. Nothing sent to me directly. I can't speak for Bridget but nothing in the big chat.

>> **Bridget Munger:** Nothing submitted to me, Kia.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** Alright.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** Thank you so much. If you have any additional questions, please let us know. Go ahead Chairman Hardy.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** Yes. Yeah. Okay. I'll echo your words.

>> Any additional comments, any further discussion as it relates to any of the topics, that we're talking about on the call, please don't hesitate to reach out to, individuals that are on the call and take a look at the chat and see if we can get the information.

>> If not, reached out to myself and or anybody on the team NCORR, there being a further discussion, we'll call this meeting adjourned.

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** One thing I just want to mention before we quickly adjourn, is that we did have a few member renewals.

>> So I just want to say a huge shout out and thank you so much to continuing your service as part of this citizen advisory committee for the CAC. So thank you so much for continuing your service for the community.

>> So I would just like to state that we had, Brad Lovin, Jimmy Tate, Kitti Hardison, and Laressa Witt, who renewed over the last, renewal period here to continue.

>> We may have some more in the fall but thank you guys so much for continuing to serve the community. We really, really appreciate it here at the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Other than that, we don't have any additional business that needs to be taken care of.

>> I just want to remind everyone, that this meeting has been recorded and it will be available and also transcribed in both English and Spanish.

>> And if you also need any additional language, you know, services, please reach out to Bridget Munger, our Communications Director. And then also we have an email for NCORR.CAC@ncdps.gov if you have any other questions.

>> So other than that Chairman Hardy I will send this out over to you for adjournment.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** Thank you much. I do appreciate you and efforts. Now. So that's very unique Spanish and English. Today of the meeting.

>> That's really good. You guys have, advanced technology for sure over there on the state. So, we do appreciate that.

>> But anyway, well, there'll be no further discussion. We'll call this meeting adjourned until the next time. Are we actually meeting again any time in the future, or are we sunsetting that particular time or date?

>> **Jennifer Holmes:** I have not been given a confirmation date. What we can do is plan for the fall here, fall 2025, and then, of course, if anything changes, we will get the committee members together and inform. Okay.

>> **Chairman Dontario Hardy:** Thank you much. Well, we consider this meeting. Adjourned. No further discussion. I do appreciate it. Thank you. Good to see everybody and welcome everybody.