

Appendix E: Disaster Plan Update

Disaster Plan Update

The NC DSS Disaster Plan was submitted on June 30, 2019; it remains in effect.

NC Experienced one disaster since the last submission of the APSR, Tropical Storm Fred (August 16 to August 18, 2021). A Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of North Carolina (FEMA-4617-DR) was dated September 8, 2021. The White House and FEMA granted Governor Roy Cooper's Aug. 27 request for a major disaster declaration for seven North Carolina counties that were hit hard by floods from Tropical Storm Fred. The declaration for Public Assistance covers Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, Transylvania, Yancey, and Watauga counties. North Carolina activated its plan when notified of the impending storm.

North Carolina used the Disaster Plan in response to Tropical Storm Fred. Once a disaster was declared, North Carolina began implementation of the plan when notified of the impending storm. Information flowed from the Operations Center to Child Welfare agencies, to be monitored, and the NC DSS Regional Child Welfare Consultants requested a status report within 24 hours of the disaster onset to identify families served by DSS with unmet needs, as well as children in DSS custody or in a placement in the impacted counties, per the Disaster Plan. NC DSS Regional Consultants responded to individual local child welfare agency needs. NC DSS was able to maintain its operations throughout the Disaster and Recovery efforts.

The Disaster Plan was effective in providing adequate guidance, information, resources and support to ensure uninterrupted, continuous quality child welfare services were available related to Tropical Storm Fred.

The Disaster Plan was not used this year related to COVID-19.