



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MAY 23, 2024

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 308

STATE TYPE I DISASTER DECLARATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE FOR GASTON COUNTY AND CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, authorizes the issuance of a disaster declaration for an emergency area as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.3(7) that has been impacted by a Type I, Type II, or Type III disaster as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.21(b); and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2024, Gaston County, North Carolina, and the surrounding areas experienced a severe weather event that included two (2) EF-1 Tornadoes with winds reaching 110 mph that damaged homes and businesses and caused one death; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.22, Gaston County declared a local state of emergency on May 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, due to the impacts of the severe weather, local, state, and federal emergency management officials conducted a joint preliminary damage assessment on May 21 and 22, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has not declared a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (hereinafter "Stafford Act"), as amended (42 U.S.C. § 5121-5206); and

WHEREAS, Gaston County would not qualify based on the preliminary damage assessment for Federal Individual Assistance according to the requirements of 44 C.F.R. § 206.48; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.21(b)(1), the criteria for a Type I disaster are met if: (1) the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety has provided a preliminary damage assessment to the Governor and the General Assembly; (2) Gaston County declared a local state of emergency pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.22; (3) the preliminary damage assessment has met or exceeded the criteria established for the Small Business Disaster Loan Program pursuant to 13 C.F.R. Part 123; and (4) a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States pursuant to the Stafford Act has not been declared; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned has determined that a Type I disaster, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.21(b)(1), exists in the State of North Carolina, specifically Gaston County and the contiguous counties of Cleveland, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.41, if a disaster is declared, the undersigned may make state funds available for emergency assistance in the form of individual assistance and public assistance for recovery from those disasters for which federal assistance

under the Stafford Act is either not available or does not adequately meet the needs of residents in the emergency area.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED:**

Section 1.

For purposes of this Executive Order only, the emergency area as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.3(7), is Gaston County and the contiguous counties of Cleveland, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg in North Carolina (“the Emergency Area”).

Section 2.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.21(b)(1), a Type I disaster is hereby declared for the Emergency Area.

Section 3.

I authorize state emergency assistance funds in the form of grants to individuals and families located within the Emergency Area that meet the terms and conditions under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.41(b)(1).

Section 4.

I hereby order that this declaration be (a) distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) promptly filed with the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, the North Carolina Secretary of State, and the Clerks of the Superior Court in the counties to which it applies; and (c) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

Section 5.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.21(c)(1), this Type I disaster declaration shall expire sixty (60) days after issuance unless renewed by the Governor or the General Assembly. Such renewals may be made in increments of thirty (30) days each, not to exceed a total of 120 days from the date of first issuance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 23rd day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.



Roy Cooper
Governor

ATTEST:



Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State

