

MEMO TO COMMISSIONERS:

**FROM:** Christina Danis, Director of Community Economic Development, Centralina

**DATE:** 10/28/2022

**SUBJECT:** Request for Approval to Participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) 2022 Program Capacity and Capability Building (C&CB) application process

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, the Centralina Regional Council (Centralina) submitted a Letter of Interest (LOI) on behalf of Rowan County. The BRIC application support is a continuation of the work of the Centralina Regional Council and its partnership with the nine-county regional Emergency Management (EM) representatives via the Regional Resilience Collaborative (RRC). The Centralina RRC was established in April 2021 to enhance regional resilience capabilities and better prepare the region for future disasters and economic shocks.

In continuation of the RRC's efforts, Centralina is providing technical assistance at no additional cost to assist Rowan County to participate in the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) 2022 application to North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS). The purpose of this work is to address the repetitive history of flooding identified in Rowan County as part of the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and support the ability to reduce floods in the future.

The funding structure for this \$75,000 application is as follows: because Rowan County is identified by FEMA as an Economically Disadvantaged Rural County (EDRC) 90% of the grant or \$67,500 is Federally funded and 10% or \$7,500 is required to be funded as part of the local match. The Local Match portion of this project can be covered through in-kind contributions, or non-monetary contributions, meaning that this local match of \$7,500 can be satisfied through documentation of donated resources, including time, materials, and equipment.

The BRIC application is to examine and identify a priority area in the county for flood mitigation efforts and possible solutions in accordance with Rowan County's HMP and FEMA's regulations. The findings from this scoping grant may be used to inform future FEMA BRIC applications for the construction costs to implement the preferred mitigation measures.

During the week of October 17<sup>th</sup>, the Centralina RRC received notice that the BRIC 2022 LOI was listed as a backup project in the event another project is unable to move forward. In anticipation of this possibility, Centralina RRC has chosen to move forward to the full application in order to avoid a last second scramble if the project is selected. As a result, the application process is seeking The Commissioners approval of the \$7,500 Local Match, before moving forward and preparing the full application for this funding opportunity. The draft application is due November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to NCDPS for the next steps in the review process and a determination if it will ultimately be funded as part of this year's BRIC C&CB discretionary state funds.