NCDHHS Announces $75.8 Million in Federal Disaster Recovery Funding for Child Care

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) received $75.8 million in disaster supplemental funding from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to support child care infrastructure recovery in areas affected by Hurricane Helene and Tropical Storm Debby. The funding will support a range of disaster recovery, preparedness, workforce stabilization, and child care supply activities related to storm impacts. The following items reflect the NCDHHS's planned uses of the funding, subject to final approval by ACF and any applicable federal requirements or award conditions:



Disaster Recovery Funding for Child Care Providers

Provide funding to eligible child care providers to help offset storm-related damages, losses, and recovery costs associated with Hurricane Helene and Tropical Storm Debby. The NC Division of Child Development and Early Education Disaster Impact Report Portal will serve as the primary mechanism for providers to document impacts, submit supporting information, and request reimbursement or recovery assistance.

Child Care WAGE$ Expansion and Workforce Stabilization

Explore expansion of the Child Care WAGE$ salary supplement program into additional disaster-affected counties to support recruitment and retention of early childhood educators.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Events

Conduct regional preparedness and response events for licensed child care providers focused on disaster readiness, Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans, post-disaster recovery resources, trauma-informed supports, and hands-on assistance with reporting through the Disaster Impact Report Portal.

Child Care Supply and Construction Planning

Advance long-term planning to strengthen child care capacity and infrastructure.

For information about state recovery funds allocated by the NC General Assembly to the NC Partnership for Children that are available to child care providers, please email: **helenerecovery@smartstart.org**

NCDHHS looks forward to sharing additional information and implementation details in the coming weeks as planning efforts continue and activities receive final federal approval.