

FACT SHEET

HURRICANE MATTHEW – DISASTER RELIEF EMPLOYMENT GRANT

What is it? A Disaster Relief Employment Grant provides funding for programs to provide temporary jobs to North Carolinians who have become unemployed – temporarily or permanently – as a result of a natural disaster. The purpose of the jobs is to assist local recovery efforts through clean up and repair of facilities, and humanitarian assistance in the counties impacted by the disaster.

Where are the jobs? To be eligible for this assistance, a county must have been declared a Federal Disaster Area and determined eligible for Public Assistance. Thirty-seven counties in North Carolina have received this designation.

Beaufort County, Bertie County, Bladen County, Brunswick County, Camden County, Carteret County, Chowan County, Columbus County, Craven County, Cumberland County, Currituck County, Dare County, Duplin County, Edgecombe County, Gates County, Greene County, Harnett County, Hoke County, Hyde County, Johnston County, Jones County, Lenoir County, **Martin County, Nash County, New Hanover County, Onslow County, Pamlico County, Pasquotank County, Pender County, Perquimans County, **Pitt County**, Robeson County, Sampson County, Tyrrell County, Washington County, Wayne County and Wilson County.**

Who is eligible? Individuals who are unemployed as a result of the natural disaster, including farmers and ranchers, will receive priority consideration, but other individuals considered dislocated workers (individuals who lost jobs because of plant closings or layoffs) also qualify, including individuals who have been unemployed long-term or more than 13 weeks.

Who should I contact to find out about this program? You may contact the local administrative agency for the eligible counties indicated in bold above at 252-974-1815; or the local NCWorks Career Centers for your county (numbers listed below), and ask to speak to someone about the Hurricane Matthew Employment Program.

NCWorks Career Centers Telephone Numbers

Beaufort County	(252) 946-3116	Martin County	(252) 792-7816
Bertie County	(252) 794-5616	Pitt County	(252) 355-9067

What types of jobs? The job must be associated with the disaster recovery effort – either in the clean up of debris and restoration of public and private non-profit facilities, humanitarian assistance to disaster victims, or clerical support activities such as processing of assistance applications. Individuals must be placed with either public or private-non-profit agencies. All clean up and restoration work must be on public lands or in the public domain in eligible counties. A participant under this program may perform the same work as other State and local public employees are authorized to perform in the same areas.

Examples of Jobs. In previous disasters, the following types of jobs have been created: clerical aides, case aides, truck drivers, carpenter’s helpers, painters, general laborers, counselors, painter’s helpers, intake/assessment clerks, food distribution assistants, recreation aides and sanitation workers. Highly skilled, professional jobs such as engineers, landscape architects, nurse practitioners, and licensed practical nurses may also be created.

How much do the jobs pay? Individuals must be paid the prevailing rate of pay for other individuals employed in similar occupations with the same employer. (Individuals must be paid at least the Federal minimum wage.) Total wages per employee may not exceed \$24,000 (excluding fringe benefits).

How long do the jobs last? An individual may participate in the program for a maximum of twelve months or when the individual has been paid \$24,000 in wages, whichever occurs first.

How are funds administered? These federal grants, from the U.S. Department of Labor, are made available through Title III of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. At the state level these funds are administered through the N. C. Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Solutions. At the local level funds are administered through WIOA’s local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) in those counties eligible for assistance.