

NCACC Federal Legislative Issues

Increase Federal Disaster Funding to help repair infrastructure damage through natural disaster.

Description: With hurricanes and fires happening back to back, restoring these locations especially roads, water, sewer, electrical, commercial, schools and residential facilities poses a severe challenge to many counties. Adequate funding that comes more quickly can help restore communities and economies.

Motiryo Keambiroiro,
Durham County General Services

Reinstate Volunteer Fire Departments in State/Local Government Retirement Systems

Description: There is a significant shortage of volunteer firefighters nationwide, and North Carolina is no exception. Approximately 80% of our nations is protected by volunteer fire departments. Many of these are combination departments, which means that they operate with paid staff that are supplemented by volunteer firefighters. With the recognized personnel shortage, volunteer fire departments are moving towards full-time staff with benefits to provide fire, rescue, and first responder services to their communities. Durham County requests that volunteer fire departments that are under contract with Counties for fire protection services, and who wish to hire full-time firefighters with benefits, be permitted to join the State or Local retirement systems. This will need a change in federal IRS rules to proceed.

Jim Groves
Durham County Emergency Management