

**Title:** Accept and Appropriate \$1,500,000 of Division of Workforce Solutions in NC Department of Commerce funds for Capital Area Workforce Development (CAWD) for the Disaster Relief Employment Program

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners Accepts and Appropriates to Capital Area Workforce Development \$1,500,000 from the Division of Workforce Solutions in NC Department of Commerce for the Disaster Relief Employment Program.**

**Item Summary:**

Capital Area Workforce Development Board (CAWD) focuses on economic development by ensuring the local workforce has the skills, training and education to meet the needs of local employers. As CAWD endeavors to support the local workforce, additional funding opportunities have been pursued through the Division of Workforce Solutions in NC Department of Commerce.

Capital Area Workforce Development Board received \$1.5 million grant from the Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) to lead a Disaster Relief Employment Program (DREP). DREP provides funding for programs to provide temporary jobs to Johnston and Wake County residents who have become unemployed – temporarily or permanently – as a result of a Hurricane Matthew. 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. To be eligible for this assistance, a county must have been declared a Federal Disaster Area and determined eligible for Public Assistance. Johnston and Wake Counties have received this designation. Individuals 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 for the past 13 weeks. 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.

**Attachments:**

1. Budget Memo