

Final | 2024

# Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

Facility Needs Assessment Report

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# Executive Summary

In the face of intensifying severe weather and unpredictable seasons, the North Carolina's Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) has recognized the importance of further enhancing the region's preparedness for, response to, and recovery from intensifying natural disasters. By doing so, the Kerr-Tar Regional COG has adopted the Kerr-Tar Regional COG – Emergency Shelters and Facilities Needs Assessment project. This project aims to enhance the region's emergency shelters and facilities' preparedness posture to ensure they are appropriately equipped and capable of safely accommodating both people and service animals in an emergency.

## Introduction

As part of the Kerr-Tar Regional COG – Emergency Shelters and Facilities Needs Assessment project, the Kerr-Tar Regional COG has produced this Needs Assessment Report (Report). The Report consolidates findings that were identified during its data collection process and organizes them to clearly outline the strengths and areas of improvement that were identified at each emergency shelter and facility in the region. This Report also takes the identified strengths and areas of improvement and leverages them to inform recommendations that would enhance the region's climate resiliency.

This Report's outline is as follows:

- **Executive Summary:** Introduction and Methodology
- **Gap Analysis:** Emergency Shelter Database Overview, Regional Hazard Summary, County Shelter Capabilities, and County Summaries
- **Appendix:** Acronyms

## Methodology

To successfully develop this Report, the Kerr-Tar Regional COG facilitated a data collection process to candidly capture the strengths and areas of improvement identified by shelter and facility members in the region. Each process was designed to build off of each other as the project progressed.

## Document Review

The document review process consisted of reviewing current preparedness plans and policies. This form of data collection was used to develop a baseline understanding of existing emergency sheltering capabilities within the region.

Documents that were reviewed consist of:

- County Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs)
- Tar River's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)
- North Carolina Emergency Management's Access and Functional Needs Toolkit

Findings identified from the document review process were aggregated into a Document Review Matrix, which served as a platform that held high-level overviews and was referenced throughout the development of this Report.

## Emergency Shelter and Facility Checklist and Survey

Using the information collected from the document review process, the Kerr-Tar Regional COG developed emergency shelter and facility assessment tools, which aided in the Emergency Shelter and Facility Survey (Survey) data collection process. One of the tools created was the Emergency Shelter and Facility Checklist (Checklist). The Checklist was an extensive list of items that need to be accounted for prior to, during, and after an emergency shelter and facility is stood up. Shelter and facility assessors were asked to meet in person at each site with all appropriate key site personnel to walk through the Checklist.

Upon completing the Checklist, one assessor from each shelter and facility was asked to convey their findings into the Survey. The Survey was structured to specifically capture the areas of improvement and strengths identified at each emergency shelter and facility in the region.

## Emergency Shelter Database

Following the finalization of the Survey's results, Kerr-Tar Regional COG proceeded to organize findings into the Emergency Shelter Database (Database). Not only did the Database capture key findings from survey responses, but it also captured key findings from the document review process. From there, the Database used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to determine the sustainability of the identified emergency shelters relative to various factors (e.g., health and environmental risks). The Database was also used to provide foundational knowledge for sections outlined in this Report.

# Gap Analysis

The following Gap Analysis aims to evaluate the readiness and effectiveness of Kerr-Tar Regional COG's emergency shelters and facilities. By providing an Emergency Shelter Database Overview, a Regional Hazard Summary, County Shelter Capabilities, and County Summaries, this analysis will clearly outline the strengths and areas of improvement that are seen throughout the region. By understanding the unique challenges within each County, the Kerr-Tar Regional COG can strategically tailor preparedness measures to enhance the overall readiness posture of the region. This gap analysis serves as a proactive tool, fostering a resilient framework that encourages an effective approach to maintain and enhance the region's shelters' sustainability and readiness.

Figure 1. Gap Analysis Outline



# Emergency Shelter Database Overview



The Kerr-Tar Regional COG collected data regarding the region's emergency shelters through processes such as document review, in-person site visits, stakeholder surveys, and planning meetings. The findings collected during these processes were organized into the Database, which is intended to identify patterns of hazards and capabilities across the counties that make up the region as they relate to their emergency shelters.

## Database Structure

During development, the Database used countywide spatial and U.S. Census Bureau data to catalog geographic information about the Kerr-Tar COG region. The data was then used to determine which hazards posed as threats to the region's counties, as well as where each county's capabilities were in relation to their emergency shelters.

Below are the data points that were gleaned from to produce findings in the Database:

- Susceptibility to environmental hazards (e.g., flooding, storms, hurricanes).
- Proximity to emergency and medical response facilities (e.g., hospitals, fire stations).
- Spatial distribution of congregate and non-congregate shelters in low- and high-density areas with consideration for social vulnerability.
- Shelter name, type, size, address, and POC contact information.

The above data points make up three tabs in the Database: Shelter Database, Shelter POC Information, and Shelter Comprehensive Analysis. The Shelter Database tab hosts and organizes all survey responses and data collection findings. Those findings are then compared against the spatial and U.S. Census Bureau data in order to identify capability and hazard patterns seen throughout the region. Those patterns are then reflected in the Shelter Comprehensive Analysis tab. The Shelter Comprehensive Analysis tab organizes information by shelter, county facilities, hurricane track patterns, National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL), America Community Survey (ACS) – Disability Variable, and Social Vulnerability Index (SVI).

***\*Findings of each category will be outlined in the subsequent Regional Hazard Summary section.***



# Regional Hazard Summary



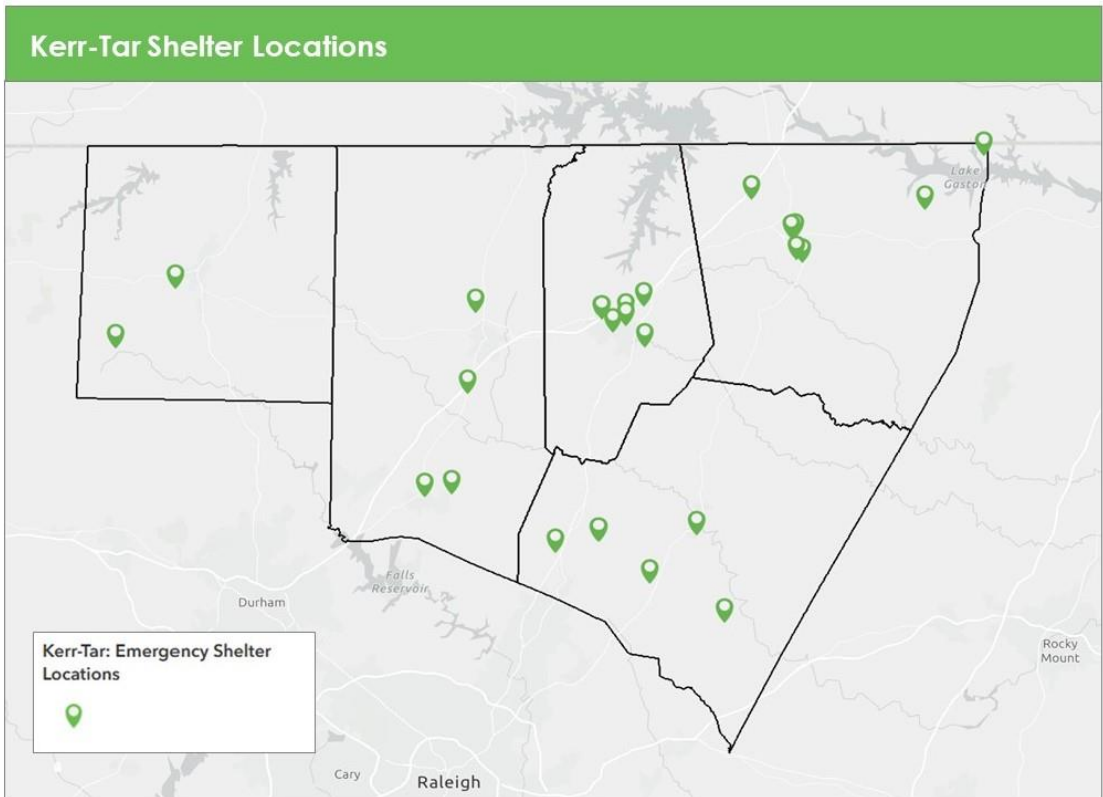
This section aims to highlight key risks that current and future shelters across the region are subject to in relation to climate change. The Database, as well as each Survey response, were key references when developing this section. Shelter location data was provided by stakeholders and emergency shelter POCs.

*\*Please note that the analysis is solely based on data provided by the COG and open-source data. Findings in this section may not encompass the full depth and breadth of threats or hazards that may be experienced in the Kerr-Tar region.*

## Kerr-Tar Shelter Locations

The map displayed below shows the location of all Kerr-Tar Emergency Shelter locations that participated in this initiative.

Figure 2. Kerr-Tar Emergency Shelter Locations





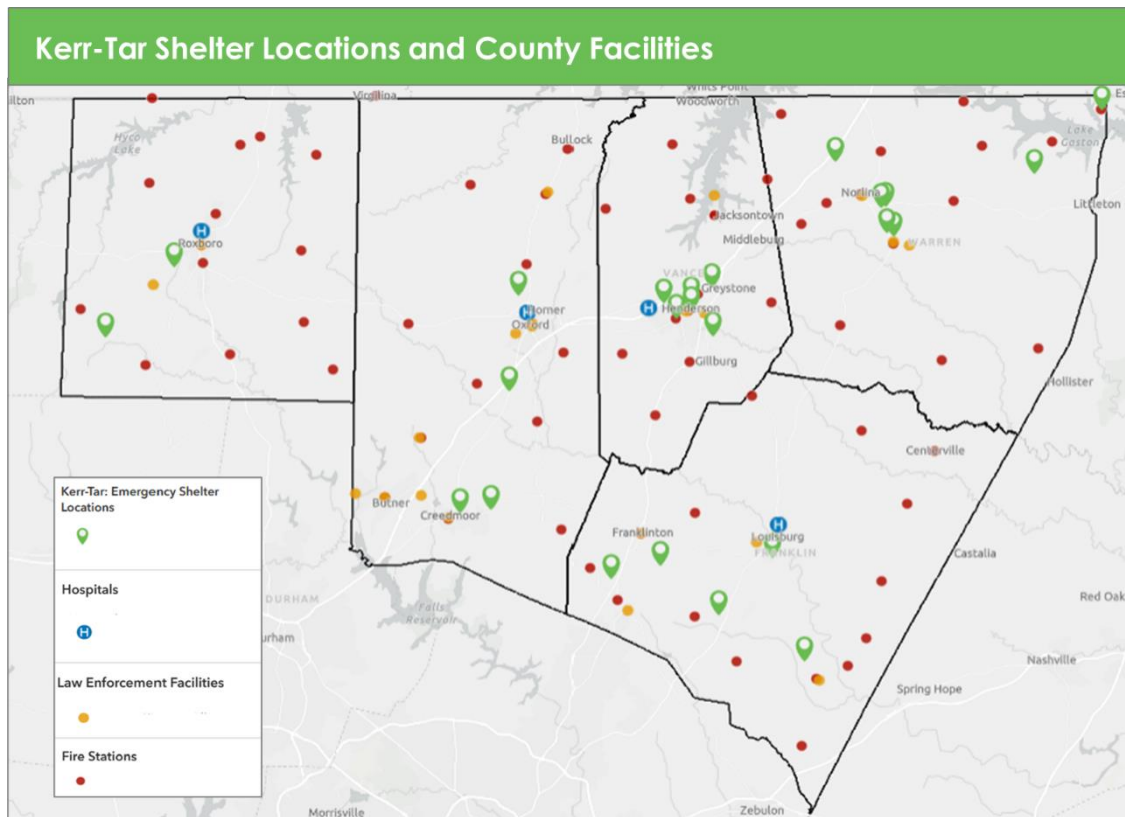
## Kerr-Tar Shelter Locations and County Facilities

The following map shows the proximity of Emergency Shelter locations to key county facilities, including:

- Hospitals
- Law Enforcement Facilities
- Fire Stations

The County Facilities were pulled from the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Data (HIFLD), which provides National public foundation-level geospatial data that is updated regularly.

Figure 3. Kerr-Tar Emergency Shelter Locations and County Facilities

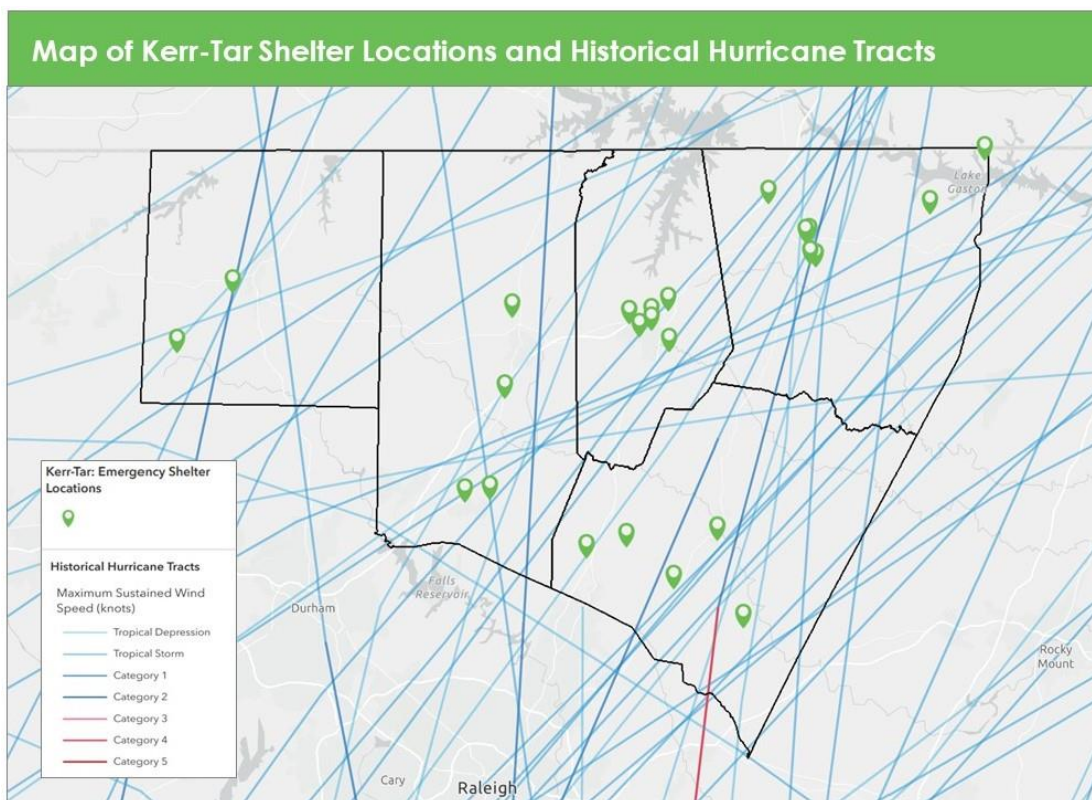


## Kerr-Tar Region and Historical Hurricane Tracks

The Historical Hurricane Tracks data is provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA Historic Hurricane Tracks display all Hurricane, Tropical Storm, and Tropical Depression Points in the Atlantic and East Pacific Basin from 1851 to 2011.

Historically, there have mainly been tropical storms or depressions coming through the Kerr-Tar Region. The map featured below displays the path of 1954's Hurricane Hazel. This historical Category 4 hurricane (wind speed of 115 knots) passed partially through the region. While the probability of a hurricane passing over the region is low due to its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, the area is still susceptible to hurricane after-effects (coastal/inland flooding) due to the topography and numbers of waterways. Damage during hurricanes may also result in spawned tornadoes, inland flooding, and storm surge associated with heavy rainfall that usually accompanies these storms. The [Tar River Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) lists Flood as one of the hazards to have Medium Calculated Probability IRISK of future occurrence.

Figure 4. Map of Kerr-Tar Shelter Locations and Historical Hurricane Tracts



## National Flood Hazard Layer

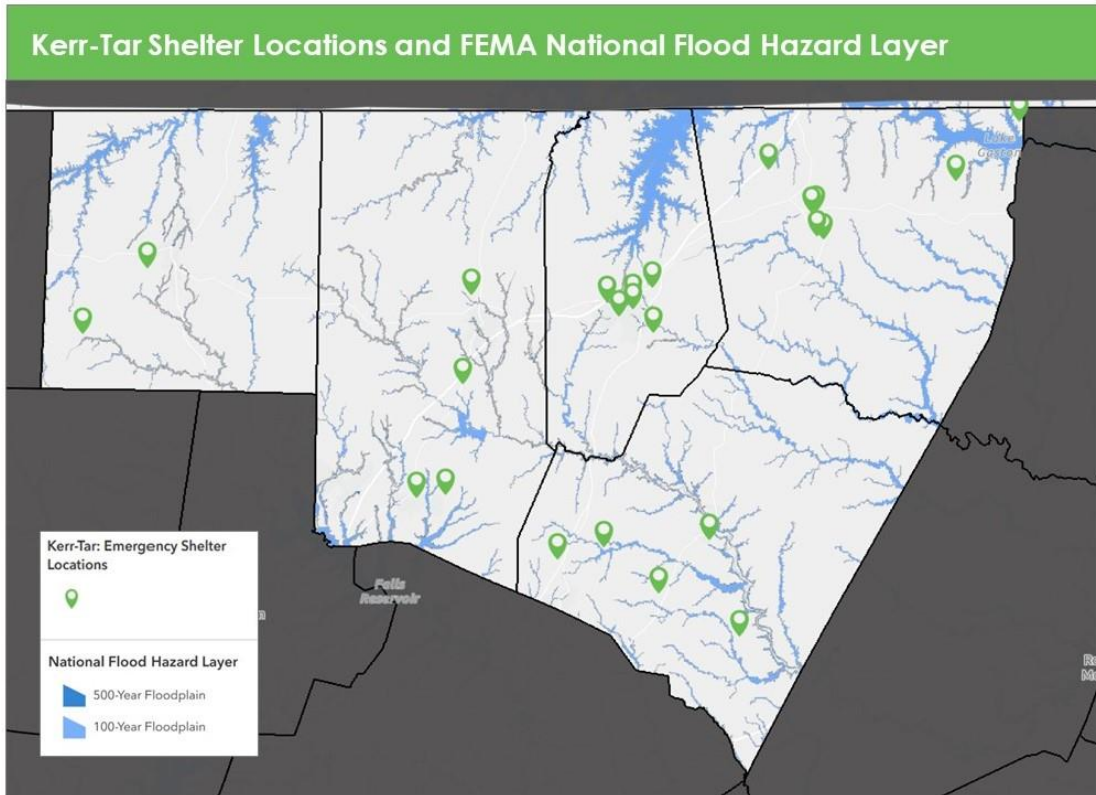
The National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) is data containing current effective flood hazard data. This data is utilized to understand an area's level of flood risk and type of flooding. FEMA flood zones are geographic areas that FEMA has defined according to varying levels of flood risk. Below are important definitions describing floodplains that support the map included in this dataset:

- A 100-year Floodplain (also known as a 1% floodplain) is land that is covered in water during a flood event that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded each year.
- A 500-year Floodplain (also known as the 0.2% floodplain) is land that is covered in water during a flood event that has a 0.2% chance of being equaled or exceeded each year.
- The Floodplain is the land adjoining the channel of a river, stream, ocean, lake, or other water source that is susceptible to flooding.
- It is safe to assume that all property, buildings, and infrastructure are at risk of flooding regardless of what floodplain they are mapped within.

All the counties within the Kerr-Tar region are in an identified floodplain (100- or 500-year). While none of the emergency shelters are located directly on top of any floodplain, they are within proximity due to the state topography, which includes many lakes, rivers, streams, etc. Vance County has the largest body of water that could pose a risk to shelters. The [Tar River Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) lists Flood as one of the hazards to have moderate vulnerability.

**Figure 5** illustrates the location and extent of currently mapped flood hazard areas where Kerr-Tar Region Shelters are located.

*Figure 5. National Flood Hazard Layer Map*

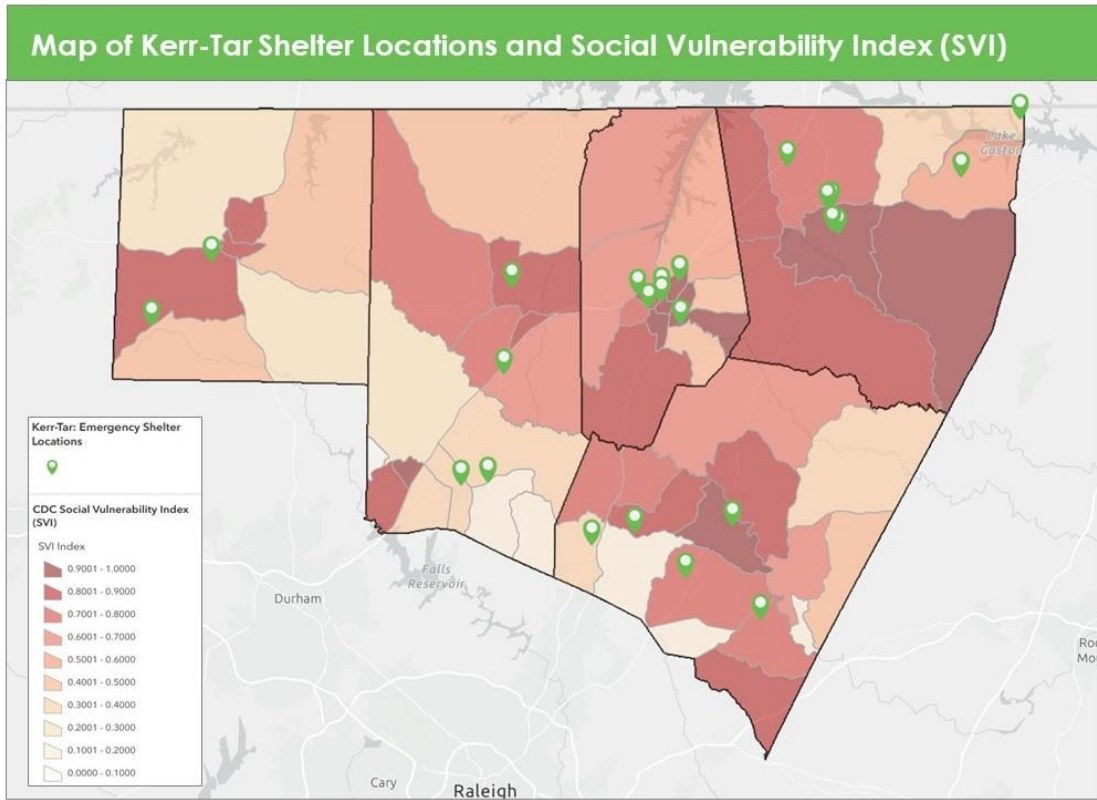


## Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

Social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss. The Centers for Disease Control/Agency of Toxic Substances & Disease Registry Social Vulnerability Index (CDC/ATSDR SVI) uses 16 U.S. census variables to help local officials identify communities that may need support before, during, or after disasters. The Kerr-Tarr SVI data was pulled from the 2020 U.S. Census, which is the most recent Census.

In the Kerr-Tar Region, Social Vulnerability ranges from Relatively Moderate to Very High susceptibility to the adverse impacts of natural hazards when compared to the rest of the U.S. The SVI score, measured by the CDC, is listed below for each County:

Figure 6. Kerr-Tar Shelter Locations and SVI



Each County within the Kerr-Tar region has a National Risk Index that details the susceptibility to adverse impacts of natural hazards when compared to the rest of the United States (U.S.). Social Vulnerability ratings can speak to the community's resilience capabilities. Community Resilience is the ability to prepare for anticipated natural hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions.

FEMA's National Risk Index and the CDC's Social Vulnerability data for each County within the Kerr-Tar Region can be found below:

County	Social Vulnerability Risk	Social Vulnerability Score <sup>1</sup>
<u>Franklin County</u>	Relatively High	71.93% (U.S.)/49% (N.C.)

<sup>1</sup> Social Vulnerability is measured using the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) published by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The first percentage is in reference to the National Percentile while the second percentage is in reference to Percentile Within North Carolina out of 100%



<u>Granville County</u>	Relatively High	65.98% (U.S.)/42% (N.C.)
<u>Person County</u>	Relatively Moderate	59.36% (U.S.)/32% (N.C.)
<u>Vance County</u>	Very High	97.14% (U.S.)/94% (N.C.)
<u>Warren County</u>	Very High	97.01% (U.S.)/93% (N.C.)

## American Community Survey (ACS) Disability Variable

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey that provides social, economic, demographic, and housing data every year to support community financial planning for those with disabilities. The following six disability types are highlighted in the current ACS Questionnaire:

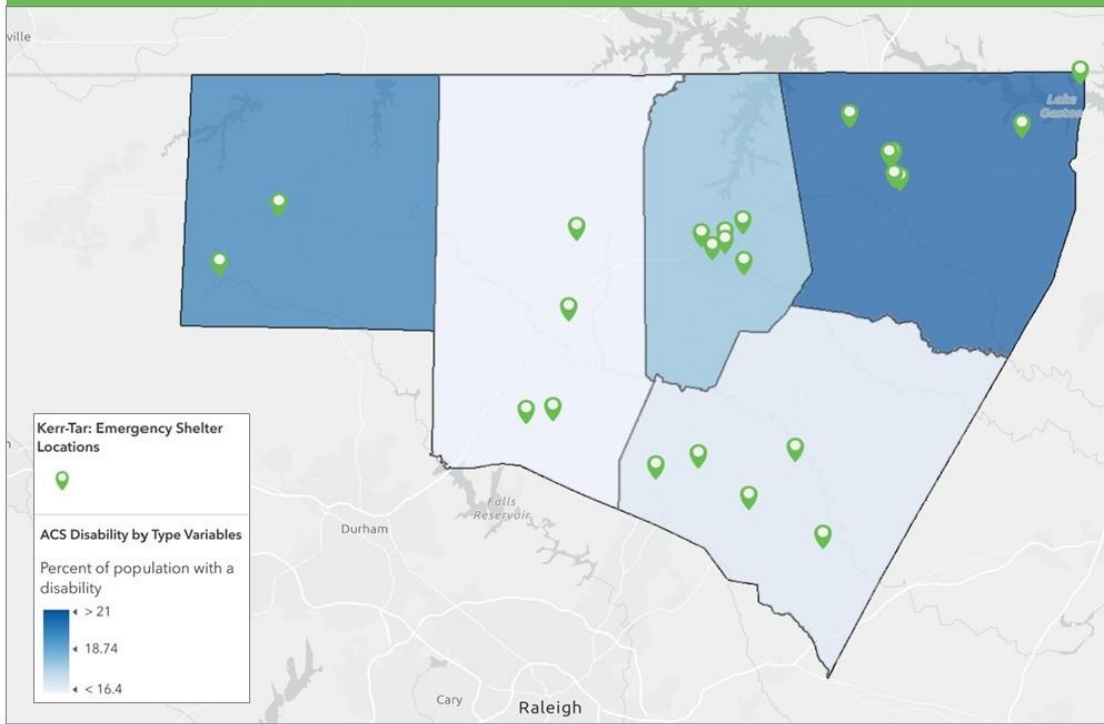
- **Ambulatory Difficulty** – serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs (DPHY).
- **Cognitive Difficulty** – difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions due to physical, mental, or emotional problems (DREM).
- **Hearing Difficulty** – deaf or having serious difficulty hearing (DEAR).
- **Independent Living Difficulty** – difficulty doing errands alone, such as shopping or visiting a doctor's office because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem (DOUT)
- **Self-Care Difficulty** – difficulty bathing or dressing (DDRS).
- **Vision Difficulty** – blind or having serious difficulty seeing, even while wearing glasses (DEYE).

Each of the counties within the Kerr-Tar region has an ACS Disability Score of 15% or higher, with the highest being Warren County:

- Franklin County – 16.80% ACS
- Granville County – 16.40% ACS
- Person County – 20.20% ACS
- Vance County – 18.30% ACS
- Warren County – 22.00% ACS

*Figure 7. Kerr-Tar Shelter Locations and American Community Survey (ACS) Disability Variable*

# Kerr-Tar Shelter Locations and American Community Survey (ACS) Disability Variable





# County Shelter Capabilities



This section utilizes information from the Database to further detail the capabilities within each County regarding their emergency shelters and facilities. Between all five counties, 15 tables exist in this section, further calling attention to the strengths and areas of improvement seen within 15 different shelters. This section also provides actionable recommendations for each area of improvement that is listed.

## Franklin County

Bunn Middle School, Louisburg Elementary School, and Royal Elementary School

Table 1: Bunn Middle School, Louisburg Elementary School, and Royal Elementary School

Bunn Middle School, Louisburg Elementary School, and Royal Elementary School	
<p><b>Services Provided by Bunn Middle School, Louisburg Elementary School, and Royal Elementary School as Emergency Shelter's</b></p> <p>No information at this time.</p>	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>No information at this time.</p>
<p><b>Capabilities</b></p> <p><b>Utilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facilities are all equipped with a power switch to use during disasters when power may be unreliable. This backup power source has the ability to secure uninterrupted flows of electricity that can be used to power the entire school.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Areas of Improvement</b></p> <p><b>Needed Space:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facilities are not accommodating to household pets. This poses an issue because it deters individuals from seeking refuge at these locations if they have household pets.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Recommendation:</b> The facilities may consider collaborating with animal services to seek local animal boarding support. These service providers may offer resources such as trailers or kennels to accommodate pets such as CASTs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**Bunn Middle School, Louisburg Elementary School, and Royal Elementary School**

- **Recommendation:** The facilities may consider seeking partnerships with local businesses or organizations to provide temporary shelter for household pets.
- The facilities, when operating as emergency shelters, only open their gym and cafeteria spaces to shelter staff and occupants. This overall, limits dormitory space and other spaces needed for a functional emergency shelter.
- **Recommendation:** The facilities may consider budgeting for creative zoning solutions, such as privacy curtains or dividers. These solutions may create more areas for childcare, quiet areas, entertainment, etc.
- **Recommendation:** The facilities may consider utilizing its external spaces to their fullest potential to alleviate its internal shelter space constraints.

## Franklinton High School

Table 2: Franklinton High School

Franklinton High School	
<p><b>Services Provided by Franklinton High School as an Emergency Shelter</b></p> <p>No information at this time.</p>	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>No information at this time.</p>
<p><b>Capabilities</b></p> <p><b>Utilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The high school is equipped with a generator to use during disasters when power may be unreliable. This backup power source has the ability to secure uninterrupted flows of electricity that can be used to power the entire school.</li> </ul> <p><b>Logistics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The high school, when operating as an emergency shelter, has a food vendor agreement with the Child Nutrition Department. This agreement ensures a sustainable source of meals and personnel to prepare the meals for emergency shelter occupants.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Areas of Improvement</b></p> <p><b>Needed Space:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The high school is not accommodating to household pets. This poses an issue because it deters individuals from seeking refuge at this location if they have household pets.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recommendation:</b> The high school may consider collaborating with animal services to seek local animal boarding support. These service providers may offer resources such as trailers or kennels to accommodate pets such as CASTs.</li> <li>• <b>Recommendation:</b> The high school may consider seeking partnerships with local businesses or organizations to provide temporary shelter for household pets.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

### Franklinton High School

- The high school, when operating as an emergency shelter, only opens its gym and cafeteria spaces to shelter staff and occupants. This overall, limits dormitory space and other spaces needed for a functional emergency shelter.
  - **Recommendation:** The high school may consider budgeting for creative zoning solutions, such as privacy curtains or dividers. These solutions may create more areas for childcare, quiet areas, entertainment, etc.
  - **Recommendation:** The high school may consider utilizing its external spaces to their fullest potential to alleviate its internal shelter space constraints.

## Long Mill Elementary School

Table 3: Long Mill Elementary School

Long Mill Elementary School	
<p><b>Services Provided by Long Mill Elementary School as an Emergency Shelter</b></p> <p>No information at this time.</p>	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>No information at this time.</p>
<p><b>Capabilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>N/A. This emergency shelter does not get utilized during emergencies since other shelters in the County maintain a more functional environment.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Areas of Improvement</b></p> <p><b>Needed Space:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school is not accommodating to household pets. This poses an issue because it deters individuals from seeking refuge at this location if they have household pets.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recommendation:</b> The school may consider collaborating with animal services to seek local animal boarding support. These service providers may offer resources such as trailers or kennels to accommodate pets such as CASTs.</li> <li>• <b>Recommendation:</b> The school may consider seeking partnerships with local businesses or organizations to provide temporary shelter for household pets.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The school, when operating as an emergency shelter, only opens its gym and cafeteria spaces to shelter staff and occupants. This overall, limits dormitory space and other spaces needed for a functional emergency shelter.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recommendation:</b> The school may consider budgeting for creative zoning solutions, such as privacy curtains or dividers. These solutions may create more areas for childcare, quiet areas, entertainment, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Recommendation:</b> The school may consider utilizing its external spaces to their fullest potential to alleviate its internal shelter space constraints.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

# Granville County

## Granville County Expo Center

Table 4: Granville County Expo Center

Granville County Expo Center	
<p><b>Services Provided by the Expo Center as an Emergency Shelter</b></p> <p>Safe Place to Sleep, Meals, Snacks, Water, Health Services, and Mental Health Services.</p>	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>~ Less than 100 people for overnight sheltering</p>
<p><b>Capabilities</b></p> <p><b>ADA Compliant<sup>2</sup>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Expo Center, when serving as an emergency shelter, is ADA compliant and recognizes the importance of ensuring accessibility of the entire shelter to members of the community with access and functional needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Expo Center features a kitchen area with operational appliances, ensuring a reliable resource for preparing and providing meals during emergencies to its occupants.</li> <li>The Expo Center, doubling as an emergency shelter, offers the flexibility to host smaller events such as cooling and warming centers. This flexibility is crucial as it allows the center to serve as a multifunctional hub providing essential services to those impacted during emergencies.</li> <li>The availability of the shower and restroom trailers provided by the County at the Expo Center, when serving as an emergency shelter, is crucial for maintaining hygiene and sanitation standards. This practice ensures the well-being of the shelter occupants during times of crisis.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pet-friendly Amenities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Expo Center, when functioning as an emergency shelter, has ample space for CAST trailers and an area for household pets and service animals to exercise. These areas for pets allow pet owners to care for their pet's safety, which reduces stress for both owners and pets during disastrous events.</li> </ul> <p><b>Utilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Expo Center has been awarded Capacity Building Competitive Grant (CBCG) grant funding that allows them to place a generator with an Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS), which will provide a source of backup power.</li> </ul>	

<sup>2</sup> ADA-Compliancy consists of but is not limited to accessible parking; restrooms; sleeping areas; quiet room for people with cognitive or sensory disabilities; a path of travel into and out of the shelter; common areas physically accessible; provisions for service animals; accessible cots; sign language interpreters; and wayfinding for visually impaired people.

## Granville County Expo Center

### Areas of Improvement

#### Facility Needs:

- The lack of phone lines at the Expo Center poses a hindrance as it affects the communication and coordination with external resources, potentially impeding timely assistance and support.
  - **Recommendation:** The Expo Center can implement Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) systems to establish reliable, cost-effective, and scalable communication channels without the need for traditional phone lines.
  - **Recommendation:** The Expo Center can add copper lines to its infrastructure, which offer stable and consistent communication connectivity.
- The Expo Center's limited dormitory space and insufficient breakout areas pose concerns as they restrict the shelter's ability to provide privacy and comfort to occupants. Adequate spaces for various needs contribute to the overall well-being of individuals seeking refuge.
  - **Recommendation:** The Expo Center may consider budgeting for creative zoning solutions, such as privacy curtains or dividers. These solutions may create more areas for childcare, quiet areas, entertainment, etc.
  - **Recommendation:** The Expo Center may consider utilizing its external spaces to their fullest potential to alleviate its internal shelter space constraints.

## Northern Granville Middle School

*Table 5: Northern Granville Middle School*

Northern Granville Middle School	
<p style="color: #76c730;"><b>Services Provided by Northern Granville Middle School as an Emergency Shelter</b></p> <p>Safe Place to Sleep, Meals, Snacks, Water, Health Services, and Mental Health Services.</p>	<p style="color: #76c730;"><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>~ 300 people for overnight sheltering</p>
<p style="color: #76c730;"><b>Capabilities</b></p> <p style="color: #76c730;"><b>Facilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The availability of the shower and restroom trailers provided by the County at the middle school, when serving as an emergency shelter, is crucial for maintaining hygiene and sanitation standards. These shower and restroom trailers are also ADA-compliant. This practice ensures the well-being of the shelter occupants during times of crisis.</li> </ul> <p style="color: #76c730;"><b>Pet-friendly Amenities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The middle school, when functioning as an emergency shelter, has ample space for CAST trailers and a fenced-in area for household pets and service animals to exercise. These areas for pets allow pet owners to care for their pet's safety, which reduces stress for both owners and pets during disastrous events.</li> </ul>	

### Areas of Improvement

#### Facility Needs:

- The county emergency management does have a restroom and shower trailer for its emergency shelter occupants at the middle school; however, the trailer only has one ADA-compliant stall. This may lead to extended wait times and limited accessibility to necessary services, impacting the overall well-being and comfort of occupants with access and functional needs. Additionally, the shower facilities at the middle school are in a non-operational state.
  - **Recommendation:** The middle school may consider adding permanent ADA-compliant restrooms, showers, and stalls into its infrastructure.
  - **Recommendation:** The county emergency management can consider exploring funding opportunities to either purchase or rent deployable restroom facilities for this shelter location.
- The middle school faces challenges with poor cell phone service and First Responder VIPER radio signal, which is a critical issue as it hampers effective communication for both shelter occupants and staff.
  - **Recommendation:** The middle school can install a signal booster or repeaters within the school to enhance cellular reception.
  - **Recommendation:** The middle school can set up Wi-Fi hotspots within the shelter to allow occupants and staff to connect to the internet for communication purposes.
  - **Recommendation:** The middle school can consider using external antennas to capture and amplify cellular signals.
  - **Recommendation:** The middle school should consider informing its shelter occupants of where cell phone reception is strong and weak throughout the school.
  - **Recommendation:** The middle school may consider looking into funding that aids them in securing a signal booster (internal Bi-Directional Amplifier [BDA]) to build communications capabilities within the school.

#### Utility Needs:

- The middle school's absence of an existing backup power source and a transfer switch for a generator poses vulnerabilities. Without these essential back-up systems, the center's ability to provide a secure and functional environment during emergencies to those seeking refuge can be hindered.
  - **Recommendation:** The middle school can apply for funding that allows them to invest in a reliable backup power system, such as UPS units or generators, to ensure continuous power during outages.
  - **Recommendation:** The middle school can apply for funding that allows them to invest in a transfer switch that accepts portable generators.
  - **Recommendation:** The middle school may consider investing in a permanent standby generator with automatic transfer switches.

### Northern Granville Middle School

- The middle school does not have access to a washer or dryer. This hinders the shelter's cleanliness abilities.
  - **Recommendation:** The middle school may consider seeking assistance from the county's emergency management in securing portable laundry mat services.

#### Staffing Concerns:

- Although the school is staffed with local law enforcement, EMS, Health Department, and Granville DSS during emergencies to meet health needs, the vastness of the school space necessitates for additional staffing and supervision.
  - **Recommendation:** The school or county emergency management can facilitate in-person or online campaigns within the community to recruit additional volunteers specifically for emergency shelter duties.

## South Granville High School

Table 6: South Granville High School

South Granville High School	
<p><b>Services Provided by South Granville High School as an Emergency Shelter</b></p> <p>Safe Place to Sleep, Meals, Snacks, Water, and Mental Health Services.</p>	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>~ 500 people for overnight sheltering</p>
<p><b>Capabilities</b></p> <p><b>Security:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school secures occupants' safety by contracting 24/7 security through the County as well as utilizing school gates, which can be used to close off specific areas of the school to protect personal items and school equipment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Amenities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In extreme cases, staff are able to utilize the school washer and dryer. This plays an essential role in encouraging cleanliness for those seeking shelter during emergencies.</li> <li>• There is adequate parking for emergency staff and volunteers as well as space for CAST trailers (e.g., restrooms, showers, CASTs) and fenced-in areas for pets.</li> <li>• The school has many rooms that can serve various purposes (e.g., separating individuals with allergies from animals and creating quiet rooms).</li> </ul> <p><b>Facility Infrastructure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school features large doorways and hallways, which serve as a vital aspect in facilitating smooth and efficient movements during disasters and ensure easy accessibility for individuals, including those with mobility assistance.</li> </ul>	



## South Granville High School

- The school includes a separate concession stand room (detached from the cafeteria), which allows for operational flexibility by providing refreshments 24/7 without having to open the cafeteria.
- The school is equipped with two phone lines, which serve as backup communication channels.

### Emergency Preparedness:

- Emergency Points of Contacts (POCs) for the school participate in exercises at the Expo Center to practice and enhance their emergency response and coordination skills.

### Areas of Improvement

#### Utility Needs:

- The school's absence of an existing backup power source and a transfer switch for a generator poses vulnerabilities. Without these essential back-up systems, the school's ability to provide a secure and functional environment during emergencies to those seeking refuge can be hindered.
  - **Recommendation:** The school can apply for funding that allows them to invest in a reliable backup power system, such as Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) units or generators, to ensure continuous power during outages.
  - **Recommendation:** The school can apply for funding that allows it to invest in a transfer switch that accepts portable generators.

#### Operational Concerns:

- The school, when operating as an emergency shelter, has not yet secured a food vendor, which hinders its ability to provide timely access to nourishing food.
  - **Recommendation:** Forge partnerships with local food vendors or catering services willing to provide meals to the shelter during emergencies. Develop agreements that outline the terms, pricing, and delivery schedules.
  - **Recommendation:** Collaborate with government agencies or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) specializing in disaster relief to secure funding or resources for a consistent and secure food supply chain.
- The county emergency management only has 106 cots, emphasizing the urgent need for additional bedding equipment to accommodate a greater population if needed at the school.
  - **Recommendation:** The county emergency management could apply for grants specifically designed for emergency shelters to secure funding for essential equipment, including cots.
- The extensive space in the school necessitates additional signage, as the current amount is insufficient to guide individuals through the numerous rooms effectively.
  - **Recommendation:** The school could temporarily utilize a central information board, which would provide the high school's layout, location of rooms, and purposes of those rooms.
  - **Recommendation:** Pursue funding to buy adequate equipment for signage.

#### Staffing Concerns:

## South Granville High School

- Although the school is staffed with local law enforcement, EMS, the Health Department, and Granville DSS during emergencies to meet health needs, the vastness of the school space necessitates additional staffing and supervision.
  - **Recommendation:** The school or county emergency management can facilitate in-person or online campaigns within the community to recruit additional volunteers specifically for emergency shelter duties.

### Accessibility Features:

- Information regarding accessibility features was not shared during the development of this report.
  - **Recommendation:** The shelter should utilize Red Cross ADA checklists and other relevant resources to evaluate the ADA-compliance of the shelter.

### Facility Needs:

- The high school faces challenges with poor cell phone service and First Responder VIPER radio signal, which is a critical issue as it hampers effective communication for both shelter occupants and staff.
  - **Recommendation:** The high school can install a signal booster or repeaters within the school to enhance cellular reception.
  - **Recommendation:** The high school can set up Wi-Fi hotspots within the shelter to allow occupants and staff to connect to the internet for communication purposes.
  - **Recommendation:** The high school can consider using external antennas to capture and amplify cellular signals.
  - **Recommendation:** The high school should consider informing its shelter occupants of where cell phone reception is strong and weak throughout the school.
  - **Recommendation:** The high school may consider looking into funding that aids them in securing a signal booster (internal BDA) to build communications capabilities within the school.

## Person County

### Warrens Grove Methodist Church

*Table 7: Warrens Grove Methodist Church*

Warrens Grove Methodist Church	
<p><b>Services Provided by the Church as an Emergency Shelter</b></p> <p>Safe Place to Sleep, Meals, Snacks, Water, Spiritual Care Services, Disaster Recovery Case Workers, and Mental Health Services.</p>	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>~ 40 – 60 people for overnight sheltering</p> <p>~ 80 people when used as a cooling or warming shelter</p>
<p><b>Capabilities</b></p>	

## Warrens Grove Methodist Church

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

- The church is equipped with ADA capabilities, featuring two floors accessible via an ADA-compliant elevator. ADA bathrooms and showers are conveniently located on the first floor, and the paved parking area ensures ADA compliance with its close proximity to entry points of the church.

### Utility:

- The church features useful utilities such as a T.V. on the second floor that can project real-time events and messages, environmental controls such as thermostats in every room, and a washer and dryer. Additionally, the church uses City water rather than well water, which ensures a regular water supply that meets health standards. The church also is installing a generator that is capable of powering the entire shelter, providing operational continuity during power outages.

### Organizing Space:

- The church has many rooms that can serve various purposes (e.g., separating individuals with allergies to animals and creating quiet rooms). The church also has lockable closets that can be used to store controlled medications and other personal items.
- The church already has designated areas for an active emergency shelter, such as rooms for children, registration entrances, and smoking areas outside.

### Miscellaneous:

- Between Granville County, Social Services, and the church, all entities have the ability to staff the church with the needed number of volunteers, such as for security, custodial, and transitional services. The County also provides trailers and kennels to aid the church in accommodating household pets if needed.

### Areas of Improvement

#### Separating Space:

- The church has pantry space and a commercial kitchen; however, the Department of Health has not approved the kitchen, and there is no separation between the dormitory area and the kitchen area, which can lead to rodents in the living space.
  - **Recommendation:** To address the challenge of a commercial kitchen space being directly connected to a dormitory, the church could begin by installing temporary partitions/dividers to separate the two spaces. The church could also establish clear policies to ensure occupants are aware of appropriate conduct designated in each area.

#### Concern of Supervision:

- With the church having so many closed-off rooms, it raises the concern of not having enough supervision/security to monitor all the spaces.
  - **Recommendation:** Strategically place security checkpoints and rest areas near the closed-off rooms so that they can be easily monitored.
  - **Recommendation:** Investing in surveillance technology, such as security cameras, provides a layer of constant supervision in places that might be physically challenging to observe.

## Warrens Grove Methodist Church

- **Recommendation:** Implementing access control measures, such as door locks, allows entry of only authorized individuals.

### Utility Needs:

- The church sees a need for more bathrooms and showers in order to accommodate a larger group of individuals. The church could also use more storage space to store emergency shelter supplies such as cots.
- **Recommendation:** Pursuing grant funding opportunities that support building development and updating in order to build more showers and bathrooms as well as a storage space either inside the church or outside.
- **Recommendation:** Work with local emergency management partners to identify if a mobile shower facility is a viable option for this location.

### Needed Space for Pets:

- The church does not have enough space to keep occupants' household pets separate from occupants with allergies to animals.
- **Recommendation:** Collaborating with animal services to seek animal boarding support. These service providers may offer resources such as trailers or kennels to accommodate pets such as Companion Animal Shelter Trailers (CASTs).
- **Recommendation:** Seeking partnerships with local businesses or organizations to provide temporary shelter for household pets.

### Room Labeling Concerns:

- The church does not have signage equipment to mark all of its rooms.
- **Recommendation:** The church could temporarily utilize a central information board, which would provide the church's layout, location of rooms, and purposes of those rooms.
- **Recommendation:** Pursue funding to buy adequate equipment for signage.

### Accessibility Features:

- Though information regarding accessibility features were shared and used during the development of this report, this facility should consider evaluating its ADA-compliance annually.
- **Recommendation:** The shelter should utilize Red Cross ADA checklists and other relevant resources to evaluate the ADA-compliance of the shelter.

# Vance County

## Eaton-Johnson Service Center

Table 8: Eaton-Johnson Service Center

Eaton-Johnson Service Center	
<p><b>Services Provided by Eaton-Johnson Service Center as an Emergency Shelter</b></p> <p>Safe Place to Sleep, Meals, Snacks, Water.</p>	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>~ 300 people for overnight sheltering</p>
<p><b>Capabilities</b></p> <p><b>Utilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facility is equipped with working restrooms, including stalls that are ADA-compliant. This factors into the accessibility of the shelter and contributes to the maintenance of overall sanitation standards.</li> <li>The fire department provides the shelter with a generator when needed. This valuable contribution enhances the shelter's resilience during power outages, ensures continued functionality of necessary services, and supports the well-being of the shelter occupants.</li> <li>The facility is equipped with T.V.s throughout the facility, which allows the projection of real-time events and messages. This communication feature enhances information dissemination processes and keeps occupants informed on updates during emergencies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Organizing Space:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facility already has designated secure rooms for children, as well as sensory rooms. The facility also has many other rooms that can be utilized to serve various purposes (e.g., separating individuals with allergies to animals, creating quiet areas, and creating storage space).</li> <li>The facility has enough extra parking space to host animal companion trailers. The inclusion of animal companion trailers ensures that families are not separated from their pets during challenging times, fostering a sense of comfort and support in a shelter environment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Service Animal Friendly:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facility is service animal friendly. By being so, the school recognizes the importance of accommodating individuals who might have access and/or functional needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Logistics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facility, when operating as an emergency shelter, has food vendor agreements with the county jail and local churches in the community. These agreements ensure a sustainable source of meals for emergency shelter occupants.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Areas of Improvement</b></p> <p><b>Facility Needs:</b></p>	

### Eaton-Johnson Service Center

- The absence of operational showers at the facility poses an area for improvement as it compromises the ability to meet basic hygiene needs.
  - **Recommendation:** The facility can arrange shuttle services to nearby facilities with shower amenities, such as gyms, community centers, and/or local businesses. The facility should also ensure that the shuttle services include the provision of accessible accommodations for people with disabilities.
  - **Recommendation:** The facility can apply for funding that allows them to fix their plumbing issues in the shower areas.
  - **Recommendation:** The facility can explore the option of mobile shower units that can be stationed at their shelter periodically.

#### Concern of Supervision:

- With the facility having so many closed-off rooms, it raises the concern of not having enough supervision/security to monitor all the spaces.
  - **Recommendation:** Strategically place security checkpoints and rest areas near the closed-off rooms so that they can be easily monitored.
  - **Recommendation:** Invest in surveillance technology, such as security cameras, which provide a layer of constant supervision in places that might be physically challenging to observe.
  - **Recommendation:** Implement access control measures, such as door locks, to allow entry of only authorized individuals.

#### Accessibility Features:

- Though information regarding accessibility features were shared and used during the development of this report, this facility should consider evaluating its ADA-compliance annually.
  - **Recommendation:** The shelter should utilize Red Cross ADA checklists and other relevant resources to evaluate the ADA-compliance of the shelter.

## Warren County

### Olive Grove Baptist Church

Table 9: Olive Grove Baptist Church

Olive Grove Baptist Church	
<b>Services Provided by Olive Grove Baptist Church as an Emergency Shelter</b> Safe Place to Sleep, Meals, Snacks, Water, and Family Reunification.	<b>Capacity</b> ~ 21 people for overnight sheltering.
<b>Capabilities</b>	

## Olive Grove Baptist Church

- The church has a paved parking lot with bright lighting to enhance security measures. This well-lit parking lot not only contributes to a safe environment at the shelter but also facilitates logistics, making it easier for deliveries, transportation, and movement of resources needed for shelter operations.

### Areas of Improvement

#### Dormitory Concerns:

- The church's limited dormitory space poses concerns as it restricts the shelter's ability to provide privacy and comfort to a larger number of occupants.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider budgeting for creative zoning solutions, such as privacy curtains or dividers. These solutions will create more space for the dormitory area and potentially more areas for childcare, quiet areas, entertainment, etc.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider utilizing its external spaces to their fullest potential in order to alleviate its internal dormitory shelter space constraints.
- The church is in need of more cots, emphasizing the urgent need for additional bedding equipment to accommodate a greater population if needed.
  - **Recommendation:** The church could apply for grants specifically designed for emergency shelters to secure funding for essential equipment, including cots.
  - **Recommendation:** The church could seek partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, or government agencies that may be willing to donate cots and other dormitory supplies.

#### Needed Space for Pets:

- The church is not accommodating to household pets. This poses an issue because it deters individuals from seeking refuge at this location if they have household pets.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider creating separate areas for occupants who are allergic to animals. This will create a boundary between those with allergies to animals.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider collaborating with animal services to seek local animal boarding support. These service providers may offer resources such as trailers or kennels to accommodate pets such as CASTs.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider seeking partnerships with local businesses or organizations to provide temporary shelter for household pets.

#### Service Animal Needs:

- The church is not accommodating to service animals. This poses an issue because it deters individuals from seeking refuge at this location if they have service animals. Additionally, the church not allowing service animals on its premises infringes on individuals' rights.
  - It is recommended that the church institute a policy to accept service animals at its location when operating as an emergency shelter.

#### Utility Concerns:



### Olive Grove Baptist Church

- The church's absence of an existing backup power source and a transfer switch for a generator poses vulnerabilities. Without these essential back-up systems, the church's ability to provide a secure and functional environment during emergencies to those seeking refuge can be hindered.
  - **Recommendation:** The church can apply for funding that allows it to invest in a reliable backup power system, such as UPS units or generators, to ensure continuous power during outages.
  - **Recommendation:** The church can apply for funding that allows it to invest in a transfer switch that accepts portable generators.
  - **Recommendation:** The church might consider applying for grant funding that allows it to procure solar panels. These solar panels, coupled with an efficient battery power storage system, can provide sustainable and reliable power for emergency sheltering purposes.

## Roanoke Wildwood Volunteer Fire Department

Table 10: Roanoke Wildwood Volunteer Fire Department

Roanoke Wildwood Volunteer Fire Department	
<p><b>Services Provided by Roanoke Wildwood Volunteer Fire Department as an Emergency Shelter</b></p> <p>Safe Place to Sleep, Meals, Snacks, Water, Health Services, Disaster Recovery Case Workers, and Family Reunification.</p>	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>~ 50 people for overnight sheltering</p>
<p><b>Capabilities</b></p> <p><b>Utilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Fire Department is a full-service facility equipped with backup power capable of operating the entire building if needed. This is crucial for ensuring uninterrupted services during emergencies by maintaining lighting, heating, and essential medical equipment for those seeking refuge.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Areas of Improvement</b></p> <p><b>Limited Staffing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Fire Department, when serving as an emergency shelter, faces the problem of insufficient volunteers and staff. This is due to the fact that most of the shelter's volunteers and staff are firefighters who subsequently have to respond to emergency incidents that are impacting the community.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recommendation:</b> The Fire Department can facilitate in-person or online campaigns within the community to recruit additional volunteers specifically for emergency shelter duties.</li> <li>• <b>Recommendation:</b> The Fire Department may consider reaching out to retired firefighters or those in reserve capacities who may be willing to contribute their expertise to support the department as an emergency shelter.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Limited Parking:</b></p>	

### Roanoke Wildwood Volunteer Fire Department

- The Fire Department has limited parking abilities, which is significant as ample parking is crucial for accommodating both shelter occupants and volunteers. Not only does it limit the options for transportation, but it also limits the opportunities to source deployable resources such as restroom and shower trailers, CASTs, etc.
  - **Recommendation:** Collaborate with nearby businesses, schools, or public facilities to secure offsite parking for the Fire Department.
  - **Recommendation:** Coordinate with local transportation services or companies to provide shuttle services in order to address the department's limited parking. This effort should also ensure that the transportation shuttles are accessible and ADA-compliant.
  - **Recommendation:** The department may consider investigating the possibility of using temporary parking solutions, such as gravel lots in remote areas.
  - **Recommendation:** While there is limited onsite parking, the Fire Department should consider designating a portion of its spaces those who have access and/or functional needs.

#### Needed Space for Pets:

- The Fire Department does not have enough space to provide shelter to household pets.
  - **Recommendation:** The Fire Department may consider collaborating with animal services to seek local animal boarding support. These service providers may offer resources such as trailers or kennels to accommodate pets such as CASTs.
  - **Recommendation:** The Fire Department may consider seeking partnerships with local businesses or organizations to provide temporary shelter for household pets.

## Warren County Central Shelter/John Graham Gym

Table 11: Warren County Central Shelter/John Graham Gym

Warren County Central Shelter/John Graham Gym	
<b>Services Provided by Warren County Central Shelter/John Graham Gym as an Emergency Shelter</b> Safe Place to Sleep, Meals, Snacks, Water, Health Services, and Family Reunification.	<b>Capacity</b> ~ 500 people for overnight sheltering.
<b>Capabilities</b> <b>Utilities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The facility is equipped with a power transfer switch. This form of backup power has the ability to secure uninterrupted flows of electricity that can be used to power the entire shelter, including its HVAC systems.</li> </ul>	
<b>Areas of Improvement</b> <b>Resource Concerns:</b>	

### Warren County Central Shelter/John Graham Gym

- The facility has only 125 cots when it is able to host 500 people, emphasizing the urgent need for additional bedding equipment to accommodate a greater population if needed.
  - **Recommendation:** The facility could apply for grants specifically designed for emergency shelters to secure funding for essential equipment, including cots.
  - **Recommendation:** The facility could seek partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, or government agencies that may be willing to donate cots and other dormitory supplies.
  - **Recommendation:** The facility has the ability to secure additional cots through North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM).

#### Needed Space:

- The facility can only accommodate up to 25 household pets. This poses an issue because it may deter individuals from seeking refuge at this location if they are at their maximum capacity for household pets.
  - **Recommendation:** The facility may consider collaborating with the County's two animal shelters to seek local animal boarding support. These service providers may offer resources such as trailers or kennels to accommodate pets such as CASTs.
  - **Recommendation:** The facility may consider seeking partnerships with local businesses or organizations to provide temporary shelter for household pets.

#### Accessibility Features:

- Information regarding accessibility features was not shared during the development of this report.
  - **Recommendation:** The shelter should utilize Red Cross ADA checklists and other relevant resources to evaluate the ADA-compliance of the shelter.

## Warren County Health Facility

*Table 12: Warren County Health Facility*

Warren County Health Facility	
<p><b>Services Provided by Warren County Health Facility as an Emergency Shelter</b></p> <p>Meals, Snacks, Water, Health Services, Spiritual Care Services, Disaster Recovery Case Workers, Childcare Services, Mental Health Services, Family Reunification, and Warming Shelter.</p>	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>~ 30 people can be serviced when the facility is a warming shelter.</p> <p>-This shelter does not operate as an overnight shelter.</p>
<p><b>Capabilities</b></p> <p><b>Utilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This facility is a full-service facility equipped with backup power capable of operating the entire building if needed. This is crucial for securing uninterrupted services during emergencies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate Services:</b></p>	

## Warren County Health Facility

- Though the health facility does not operate as an overnight emergency shelter, it does have the resources to operate a cooling or warming center when needed. The health facility's ability to function as a warming and cooling center serves as a vital resource to the community as it secures a safe space for individuals to seek relief from extreme temperatures during emergencies.

### Areas of Improvement

#### Limited Staffing:

- The health facility, when serving as an emergency shelter, faces the problem of insufficient volunteers and staff. Because of this, the shelter may run into the issue of not being able to provide adequate support and care to those seeking refuge during emergency situations.
  - **Recommendation:** The health facility can facilitate in-person or online campaigns within the community to recruit additional volunteers specifically for emergency shelter duties.

#### Needed Space for Pets:

- The health facility is not accommodating to household pets. This poses an issue because it deters individuals from seeking refuge at this location if they have household pets.
  - **Recommendation:** The health facility may consider creating separate areas for occupants who are allergic to animals. This will create a boundary between those with allergies to animals.
  - **Recommendation:** The health facility may consider collaborating with animal services to seek local animal boarding support. These service providers may offer resources such as trailers or kennels to accommodate pets such as CASTs.
  - **Recommendation:** The health facility may consider seeking partnerships with local businesses or organizations to provide temporary shelter for household pets.

#### Service Animal Needs:

- The health facility is not accommodating to service animals. This poses an issue because it deters individuals from seeking refuge at this location if they have service animals. Additionally, the church not allowing service animals on its premises infringes on individuals' rights.
  - It is recommended that The health facility institutes a policy to accept service animals at its location when operating as an emergency shelter.

#### Needed Health Protocols

- The health facility's lack of quarantine services and protocols poses a gap as it hampers the facility's ability to isolate individuals with contagious diseases if an outbreak occurs while they are in operation.
  - **Recommendation:** The health facility should consider creating social distancing and hygiene protocols for its occupants.
  - **Recommendation:** The health facility may consider budgeting for creative zoning solutions, such as privacy curtains or dividers. These solutions may create more areas for occupants who have an illness or are experiencing symptoms.

# Warren County High School

Table 13: Warren County High School

Warren County High School	
<p><b>Services Provided by Warren County High School as an Emergency Shelter</b></p> <p>Safe Place to Sleep Meals, Snacks, Water, Health Services, Disaster Recovery Case Workers, and Family Reunification.</p>	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>~ 500 people for overnight sheltering.</p>
<p><b>Capabilities</b></p> <p><b>Utilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The high school is equipped with a power transfer switch and a portable generator. These backup power sources have the ability to secure uninterrupted flows of electricity that can be used to power the entire school.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Areas of Improvement</b></p> <p><b>Operational Concerns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school is in need of more cots, emphasizing the urgent need for additional bedding equipment to accommodate a greater population if needed.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Recommendation:</b> The school could apply for grants specifically designed for emergency shelters to secure funding for essential equipment, including cots.</li> <li><b>Recommendation:</b> The school could seek partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, or government agencies that may be willing to donate cots and other dormitory supplies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Utility Concerns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Though the school does have a portable generator and a transfer switch to power the school, the transfer switch does not have the ability to run the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC). Not only should an emergency shelter have an HVAC system to maintain a comfortable indoor environment for its occupants, but it is also needed to reduce the risk of airborne diseases.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Recommendation:</b> The high school may want to consider applying for grant funding that allows it to procure a transfer switch that has the ability to power HVAC systems. If obtained, this backup transfer switch could allow the emergency shelter to mobilize as cooling and heating centers if needed.</li> <li><b>Recommendation:</b> The school might consider applying for grant funding that allows it to procure solar panels. These solar panels, coupled with an efficient battery power storage system, can provide sustainable and reliable power to HVAC systems.</li> <li><b>Recommendation:</b> The high school may consider procuring portable HVAC units. These units are powered by batteries and have the ability to move to different rooms and areas as needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

# Warren County Middle School

Table 14: Warren County Middle School

## Warren County Middle School

### Services Provided by Warren County Middle School as an Emergency Shelter

Safe Place to Sleep Meals, Snacks, Water, Health Services, Childcare Services, and Family Reunification.

### Capacity

~ 250 people for overnight sheltering.

### Capabilities

- *N/A. This emergency shelter does not get utilized during emergencies since other shelters in the County maintain a more functional environment.*

### Areas of Improvement

#### Utility Concerns:

- The school's absence of an existing backup power source and a transfer switch for a generator poses vulnerabilities. Without these essential back-up systems, the school's ability to provide a secure and functional environment during emergencies to those seeking refuge can be hindered.
  - **Recommendation:** The school can apply for funding that allows it to invest in a reliable backup power system, such as UPS units or generators, to ensure continuous power during outages.
  - **Recommendation:** The school can apply for funding that allows it to invest in a transfer switch that accepts portable generators.

#### Operational Concerns:

- The middle school lacks cots for occupants to sleep on. This highlights a critical need for bedding and sleeping arrangements to ensure the well-being and comfort of those seeking refuge during emergencies.
  - **Recommendation:** The school could apply for grants specifically designed for emergency shelters to secure funding for essential equipment, including cots.
  - **Recommendation:** The school could seek partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, or government agencies that may be willing to donate cots and other dormitory supplies.

#### Accessibility Accommodations:

- The school's ADA capabilities are not fully known at this time.
  - **Recommendation:** In order to make sure that the school appropriately operates as an emergency shelter that caters to all individuals in the community, the school should execute a Needs Assessment evaluation to identify needed accessibility features. The school may consider using the Kerr-Tar Emergency Shelter Checklist and ARC checklist to aid them in this effort.

## Zion United Methodist Church

*Table 15: Zion United Methodist Church*

## Zion United Methodist Church

### Services Provided by Zion United Methodist Church as an Emergency Shelter

Safe Place to Sleep, Meals, Snacks, Water, and Spiritual Care Services.

### Capacity

~ 50 people for overnight sheltering.

### Capabilities

- *N/A. This emergency shelter does not get utilized during emergencies since other shelters in the County maintain a more functional environment.*

### Areas of Improvement

#### Utility Concerns:

- The church's absence of an existing backup power source and a transfer switch for a generator poses vulnerabilities. Without these essential back-up systems, the church's ability to provide a secure and functional environment during emergencies to those seeking refuge can be hindered.
  - **Recommendation:** The church can apply for funding that allows it to invest in a reliable backup power system, such as UPS units or generators, to ensure continuous power during outages.
  - **Recommendation:** The church can apply for funding that allows it to invest in a transfer switch that accepts portable generators.
  - **Recommendation:** The church might consider applying for grant funding that allows it to procure solar panels. These solar panels, coupled with an efficient battery power storage system, can provide sustainable and reliable power for emergency sheltering purposes.

#### Operational Concerns:

- The church lacks cots for occupants to sleep on. This highlights a critical need for bedding and sleeping arrangements to ensure the well-being and comfort of those seeking refuge during emergencies.
  - **Recommendation:** The church could apply for grants specifically designed for emergency shelters to secure funding for essential equipment, including cots.
  - **Recommendation:** The church could seek partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, or government agencies that may be willing to donate cots and other dormitory supplies.

#### Needed Space for Pets:

- The church is not accommodating to household pets. This poses an issue because it deters individuals from seeking refuge at this location if they have household pets.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider creating separate areas for occupants who are allergic to animals. This will create a boundary between those with allergies to animals.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider collaborating with animal services to seek local animal boarding support. These service providers may offer resources such as trailers or kennels to accommodate pets such as CASTs.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider seeking partnerships with local businesses or organizations to provide temporary shelter for household pets.



**Service Animal Needs:**

- The church is not accommodating to service animals. This poses an issue because it deters individuals from seeking refuge at this location if they have service animals. Additionally, the church not allowing service animals on its premises infringes on individuals' rights.
  - It is recommended that the church institute a policy to accept service animals at its location when operating as an emergency shelter.

**Limited Space:**

- The church's limited space poses concerns as it restricts the shelter's ability to provide privacy and comfort to occupants. Adequate spaces for various needs contribute to the overall well-being of individuals seeking refuge.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider budgeting for creative zoning solutions, such as privacy curtains or dividers. These solutions may create more areas for childcare, quiet areas, entertainment, etc.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider utilizing its external spaces to their fullest potential in order to alleviate its internal shelter space constraints.

**Limited Emergency Services:**

- The church's lack of medical and hygiene services poses a significant issue, as access to these services is essential to the well-being and health of occupants. Without proper medical facilities and hygiene services, the shelter may struggle to address health concerns, maintain sanitation standards, and respond effectively to medical emergencies.
  - **Recommendation:** The church may consider collaborating with local healthcare providers or organizations to establish onsite medical clinics.
  - **Recommendation:** The Church can explore the possibility of contracting with mobile health clinics that can visit the shelter periodically to provide medical services.
  - **Recommendation:** The church can seek volunteers from the medical community to provide health services to their shelter during emergencies.
  - **Recommendation:** The church can provide pre-made sanitation kits to occupants when they first arrive at the shelter. This kit can include disinfectant supplies as well as sanitation brochures educating occupants on how to keep themselves and their area clean.

# County Summaries



The following section aims to consolidate and synthesize the key findings from all components of the Gap Analysis (i.e., Emergency Shelter Database Overview, Regional Hazard Summary, and County Shelter Capabilities). This section serves as a crucial component of this Report as it provides concise overviews of each County's current readiness posture.

Following each county summary will be a list of shelters that make up each county. The list of shelters only includes those that the COG communicated during the data collection process. Hence, some shelters may be missing from each county's list if they were not provided for inclusion in the project. Furthermore, shelters with completed surveys will be marked with a check. It is advised to complete the survey and utilize the Checklist and appropriate resources for shelters without checkmarks. An assumption for this report is that emergency management will assist with future Mass Care and Shelter planning, and resource requests as needed for supporting shelter operations.

## Franklin County

In this Report, five shelters represent Franklin County's emergency shelter readiness. Each shelter representing this County is a school, all of which have similar, if not the same, strengths and areas of improvement. With the exception of Long Mill Elementary, all of Franklin County's shelters have some form of a backup power source (i.e., transfer switches or generators). This invaluable resource is essential to possess in an emergency shelter and distinguishes it from most other counties that lack this crucial element. Though almost all of Franklin County's shelters have a form of backup power supply, they do have their areas of improvement. Most notably, only the gyms and cafeterias are open to shelter occupants and staff when operating as an emergency shelter. Franklin County can adopt the recommendations found in **Table 1**, **Table 2**, and **Table 3** to aid in addressing this area of improvement, as well as others.

Emergency shelters that make up Franklin County:

- 1. Bunn Middle School
- 2. Louisburg Elementary School
- 3. Royal Elementary School

4. Franklin High School
5. Long Mill Elementary School

## Granville County

Granville County, in this Report, is represented by two schools and a community Expo center. Though they may not all be the same type of facility, they do share similar strengths, such as having ample parking space for shelter occupants, staff, CASTs, and other trailers. Additionally, all of the schools ensure unrestricted access to every room and area when serving as an emergency shelter. Though there are many strengths that these shelters share, there are some essential elements that they lack, such as forms of backup power resources, specifically at the schools. It would be best practice if the schools followed suit of the Expo center and applied for and were awarded grants to install generators and ATs at all their locations. The rest of the shelters can also consider adopting the recommendations found in **Table 4**, **Table 5**, and **Table 6**. to grow their capabilities.

It is also noted that though only two Granville County schools are listed in this report, all Granville County public schools may be utilized for shelter operations. The schools not represented in this report possess similar gaps to the schools that are in this report, such as an absence of a backup power source, poor cell phone service, First Responder VIPER radio signal, no available laundry services, and limited staffing concerns. Recommendations for these unrepresented schools can be gleaned from the tables in Granville's section.

Emergency shelters that make up Granville County:

1. Granville County Expo Center
2. Mount Energy Elementary School
3. Northern Granville Middle School
4. South Granville High School

## Person County

Person County, though represented by a single shelter (i.e., Warren's Grove Methodist Church), provided in-depth detail regarding its strengths and areas of improvement, which further informed actional recommendations the County could adopt to further enhance its emergency shelter readiness. Many strengths were identified at this shelter, such as ADA-compliant features, environment controls, and ample breakout rooms to separate populations if needed. Though there are many strengths at this shelter, it became apparent that the shelter currently functions primarily as a cooling and/or

warming center due to its size, emphasizing the County's need to identify larger shelters that can activate in case the church reaches its maximum capacity. This strategic approach, along with the recommendations provided in **Table 7**, encourages the County's ability to effectively accommodate and support the community in times of need.

Emergency shelters that make up Person County:

1. Warrens Grove Methodist Church
2. Clement Baptist Church

## Vance County

Similar to Person County, Vance County was represented by a sole shelter in this report. That shelter is Eaton-Johnson Services Center. The service center, like all shelters, proved to have areas of improvement, such as non-functional showers and a need for more supervision due to its number of available rooms. However, the center's capabilities prove to far outweigh its areas of improvement. The Eaton-Johnson Service Center is broken into three separate centers: a social services center, county senior center, and an unused gymnasium. This shelter has the potential to utilize the areas across all centers, greatly increasing the number of shelter occupants it can support. Each center within the shelter also has vast capacities of its own, many of which meet and exceed emergency shelter requirements. The social services center has the capacity to provide a monitored children's area, and the county senior center has the ability to provide an operating kitchen area. Throughout the centers are T.V.s and intercoms that can disperse announcements and updates as needed. The shelter would benefit even more if it would consider the recommendations outlined in **Table 8** to address its few areas of improvement.

Emergency shelters that make up Vance County:

1. Eaton-Johnson Service Center
2. EM Rollins Elementary School
3. Vance County High School
4. Vance County Middle School
5. Henderson City Operations
6. Henderson Middle School

## Warren County

Warren County was represented by seven shelters (i.e., **Table 9, Table 10, Table 11, Table 12, Table 13, Table 14, and Table 15**) in this report. All shelters shared similar areas of

improvement, such as limited dormitory space, a need for more cots, and limited capacity to accommodate household pets. Though there are areas of improvement at these shelters, the County is focusing its various resources on the John Grham Gym shelter so that it can operate as the County's Central Shelter once completed. A few, yet impactful, strengths that can be found at this shelter is that it is large enough to support 500 occupants and is already equipped with a generator and power transfer switch. As the County continues to focus its attention and resources on this shelter, its capabilities will continue to grow.

Emergency shelters that make up Warren County:

1. Olive Grove Baptist Church
2. Roanoke Wildwood Volunteer Fire Department
3. Warren County Central Shelter/John Graham Gym
4. Warren County Health Facility
5. Warren County High School
6. Warren County Middle School
7. Zion United Methodist Church

# Acronyms

Acronym	Term
ACS	American Community Survey
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ATS	Automatic Transfer Switch
ATSDR	Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CAST	Companion Animal Shelter Trailer
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CBCG	Capacity Building Competitive Grant
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
COG	Council of Governments
DDRS	Self-Care Difficulty (ACS Disability)
DEAR	Hearing Difficulty (ACS Disability)
DEYE	Vision Difficulty (ACS Disability)
DOUT	Independent Living Difficulty (ACS Disability)
DPHY	Ambulatory Difficulty (ACS Disability)
DREM	Cognitive Difficulty (ACS Disability)
EOP	Emergency Operation Plan
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HIFLD	Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Data
HMP	Hazard Mitigation Plan
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
NCEM	North Carolina Emergency Management
NFHL	National Flood Hazard Layer
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
POC	Point of Contact
SVI	Social Vulnerability Index

UPS	Uninterruptible Power Supply
The U.S.	United States
VOIP	Voice Over Internet Protocol