



North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS HUMPHREY
LENOIR, GREENE, AND JONES COUNTIES
12TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 638 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 N. SALISBURY STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27603-5925

PHONE: (919) 733-5995

FAX: (919) 754-3227

EMAIL: chris.humphrey@ncleg.gov

COMMITTEES:

INSURANCE, CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL AND
ECONOMIC RESOURCES, VICE CHAIR
HEALTH, VICE CHAIR
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RECOVERY
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
APPROPRIATIONS

March 03, 2026

The Honorable Greg Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Community Project Funding Request – Jones County Emergency Shelter & Community Wellness Center

Dear Congressman Murphy:

I am writing in strong support of Jones County's Community Project Funding request for the Emergency Shelter & Community Wellness Center.

This project fills a critical infrastructure gap in our region. During significant hurricane events, residents are forced to evacuate beyond county lines due to the absence of a hardened shelter facility capable of withstanding Category 3-5 storms.

The county has demonstrated commitment through prior investment and land acquisition. Federal partnership is essential to ensure this lifesaving infrastructure becomes a reality.

I encourage your support of this request for the safety and well-being of our shared constituents.

Respectfully,

Representative Chris Humphrey
North Carolina House of Representatives





North Carolina General Assembly Senate

SENATOR BRENT JACKSON
9TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 2022 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 WEST JOHNES STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601

PHONE: (919) 733-5705

EMAIL: BRENT.JACKSON@NCLEG.GOV

DISTRICT: BLADEN, DUPLIN, JONES, PENDER,
& SAMPSON COUNTIES

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET
CO-CHAIRMAN
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FINANCE
REDISTRICITNG AND ELECTIONS
RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

March 03, 2026

The Honorable Greg Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

As a member of the North Carolina Senate representing this region, I strongly support Jones County's request for \$7,000,000 in Community Project Funding for the Emergency Shelter & Community Wellness Center.

Eastern North Carolina continues to face heightened vulnerability to hurricanes and severe weather events. Jones County's lack of a hardened Category 3–5 capable shelter creates serious public safety challenges during disaster declarations.

This project reflects strong fiscal responsibility, with \$1.5 million secured through a state-directed appropriation from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund, made possible by the direct support of Representative Humphrey and me. Additionally, the County has invested nearly half a million dollars to acquire suitable land for the facility. The proposed facility will enhance disaster resilience, protect vulnerable populations, and improve long-term health outcomes through integrated recreation and senior services programming.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this important investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Jackson".

Senator Brent Jackson
North Carolina Senate



Eastern Carolina Council

March 03, 2026

The Honorable Greg Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Community Project Funding Request – Jones County Emergency Shelter & Community Wellness Center

Dear Congressman Murphy,

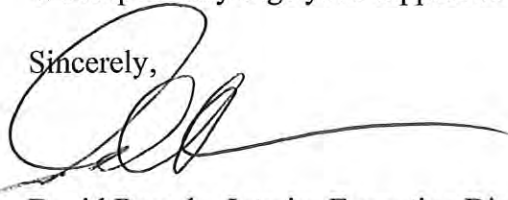
On behalf of the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments, I am pleased to support Jones County's request for Community Project Funding in the amount of \$7,000,000 dollars for the Emergency Shelter & Community Wellness Center.

Regional collaboration is essential in strengthening disaster preparedness across eastern North Carolina. This facility will significantly enhance resilience capacity within the region by providing hardened shelter space and coordinated emergency support infrastructure.

ECCOG supports investments that improve long-term stability and economic resilience for our member communities. This project aligns strongly with those goals.

We respectfully urge your support of this request.

Sincerely,



David Rosado, Interim Executive Director
Eastern Carolina Council of Governments

HANBURY

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Greg Murphy, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy:

On behalf of Hanbury, I am pleased to offer our strong support for Jones County's request for federal funding to construct the Jones County Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center.

Hanbury was recently selected through a competitive Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process as the most qualified architectural and engineering firm to assist Jones County with the planning and design of this important facility. Our team is honored to partner with the County on a project that will provide both life-saving emergency shelter capacity and year-round health, recreation, and wellness resources for residents.

Jones County has been actively working toward this project for some time. Through early planning efforts and community engagement activities, County leadership has demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring the facility reflects the needs and priorities of local residents. Hanbury has been pleased to participate in these efforts by helping facilitate conversations that have helped shape a vision for a facility that will serve residents not only during emergencies but also as a daily resource for health, recreation, and community programming.

Based on the planning work completed to date and the County's strong preparation, design and engineering can begin promptly upon appropriation, positioning the project to move efficiently into construction and implementation.

As a resident of Jones County, I am particularly proud to support a project that will provide lasting benefits to the community my family and neighbors call home. Hanbury is proud to support Jones County and stands ready to assist in delivering a facility that will serve residents for decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

R. David Cole, AIA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. David Cole", written over a horizontal line.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Re: Support for Jones County Wellness and Emergency Shelter Project

On behalf of the New River YMCA, I am writing to express our strong support for federal investment in the proposed **Jones County Wellness and Emergency Shelter Project** in Jones County.

Jones County currently has no facility capable of withstanding storms above a Category 2 hurricane. As a result, during major storm events, residents are forced to evacuate outside of the county to seek safety. This reality places an undue burden on families, seniors, and vulnerable populations, and strains neighboring communities during times of regional crisis.

This project would construct a **Category 3–5 hurricane-resistant emergency shelter**, establishing the County's first permanent, in-county disaster resiliency hub. This investment would significantly enhance public safety, reduce evacuation pressures, and strengthen long-term disaster preparedness in one of North Carolina's rural communities.

Importantly, the proposed facility would serve a dual purpose. Outside of emergency events, the building would operate year-round as a Recreation and Wellness Center in partnership with the New River YMCA. This model ensures responsible stewardship of federal resources by maximizing utilization of the facility for community benefit every day of the year.

In its daily function, the center would:

- Expand access to preventive health and wellness services
- Provide structured youth development programming
- Support senior health and fall prevention initiatives
- Reduce rural health disparities
- Strengthen overall community resilience

During times of disaster, it would:

- Serve as a hardened emergency shelter for residents
- Provide a centralized coordination point for relief efforts
- Offer critical services to vulnerable populations
- Reduce the need for out-of-county evacuation

As a nonprofit organization with a long-standing history of managing community wellness facilities and delivering youth programming throughout Onslow County and the surrounding region, the New River YMCA stands ready to provide operational expertise, programming leadership, and community engagement support for this project.

This proposal represents more than a building — it is a strategic investment in rural resiliency, public safety, and long-term community health. It aligns with federal priorities related to disaster preparedness, rural infrastructure, public health, and equitable access to community resources.

We respectfully urge your support for funding and advancing this critical initiative. We appreciate your leadership and commitment to strengthening rural communities across North Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration and continued service.

Sincerely,

Charlie Myers, President & CEO
New River YMCA
910-548-0290
charlie.myers@newriverymca.org

Jones County, North Carolina

County-Owned Health & Wellness Center

Vision

Develop a centrally located, year-round health and wellness center owned by Jones County and professionally managed by the YMCA to strengthen families, improve community health, and provide sustainable recreation access for all residents.

Community Need

- Rural county of approximately 9,400 residents
- Median age near 48 years – aging population
- Limited indoor recreation infrastructure
- Residents traveling outside county for fitness and youth programming

Partnership Structure

Jones County: Owns facility, funds construction, sets access expectations, maintains oversight.

YMCA: Manages operations, hires staff, delivers programming, provides financial assistance, ensures accountability.

Facility Concept (15,000–25,000 sq ft)

- Fitness center and group exercise studio
- Gymnasium (1–2 courts)
- Indoor walking track
- Multipurpose community rooms
- Child watch area
- Future expansion option: therapy or warm-water pool

Estimated Capital Range

\$8 Million – \$12 Million

Based on comparable rural facilities sized 15,000–25,000 sq ft. Final cost dependent upon site conditions, design scope, construction market conditions, and inclusion of specialty spaces such as aquatics.

Rural Partnership Example

Atchison, Kansas YMCA Expansion: A rural community invested approximately \$11.5 million to expand and modernize a 30,000 sq ft YMCA facility, increasing membership, creating local jobs, and establishing a long-term community wellness anchor.

The County Owns the Asset. The YMCA Operates It. The Community Benefits.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Frank Emory, Chairman
Charlie Dunn, Jr., Vice- Chairman
Michael Haddock, Commissioner
Sondra Ipock Riggs, Commissioner
James Harper, Commissioner
April Aycock, Commissioner
Charlie Gray, Commissioner



March 6, 2026

The Honorable Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy:

On behalf of the Jones County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to express our strong support for Jones County's request for \$7,000,000 in federal funding to construct a County Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center.

Jones County spans more than 500 square miles of rural communities and currently lacks a dedicated facility capable of safely sheltering residents during hurricanes, severe storms, and other disasters. During emergencies, the county must rely on temporary locations that were not designed to serve as hardened shelters. This project will address that critical gap by establishing a purpose-built facility capable of protecting residents during disasters while also strengthening community resilience year-round.

The proposed Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center will provide safe refuge for residents during disasters while also serving as a hub for essential community services during normal operations. The facility will support public health outreach, emergency preparedness activities, wellness programming, and coordinated services for vulnerable populations including seniors, families, and individuals with disabilities.

This project reflects significant local commitment and readiness. Jones County has already secured \$1.5 million in state funding through the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund, demonstrating strong support at the state level. Planning and preliminary coordination efforts are already underway, and the county is prepared to move forward with design and engineering upon appropriation.

As Chairman of the Jones County Board of Commissioners, I strongly support this request. The Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center will be a critical investment in the safety, resilience, and long-term wellbeing of Jones County residents.

Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Emory". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Frank Emory, Chairman

Jones County



Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Matthew J. Wineman

792 NC Hwy 58 South Trenton, North Carolina 28585

March 05, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express strong support for Jones County's request for federal funding to develop an Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center that will serve residents during disasters and public emergencies.

The Jones County Sheriff's Office supports the development of an Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center that will serve residents during disasters and major emergencies. During hurricanes and severe weather events, law enforcement officers often assist with evacuations, safety checks, and helping residents locate safe shelter.

A dedicated shelter facility will improve coordination among emergency responders and provide a secure environment for residents who must leave their homes during dangerous conditions.

This facility will strengthen emergency preparedness, improve coordination among first responders, and ensure that residents have access to a safe and secure location during disasters.

We strongly support this request and appreciate continued efforts to invest in the safety and resilience of rural communities.

Sincerely,


Matthew J. Wineman
Jones County Sheriff

Phone: (252) 448-0035

Facsimile: (252) 448-1693

Jones County Office of the Fire Marshal

March 05, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express strong support for Jones County's request for federal funding to develop an Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center that will serve residents during disasters and public emergencies.

Jones County Fire Marshal's Office supports the development of an emergency shelter that can serve residents during disasters and other emergencies. Access to a safe, reliable shelter location strengthens the county's ability to protect vulnerable residents during severe weather events.

Having a designated shelter facility will improve coordination among emergency services and ensure that residents have a safe and secure location when disasters occur.

We strongly support this request and appreciate the continued efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and community resilience in Jones County.

Sincerely,



Aaron Kite
Fire Marshal/EM Coordinator

Cell: 252-624-5209
Office: 252-397-0007
aaron.kite@jonescountync.gov



**Jones County Emergency Services
Director, Ryan "Sissy" Mills**

Email: rmills@jonescountync.gov

Phone Number: (252)671-3427

EM Coordinator/Fire Marshal, Aaron Kite

Email: aaron.kite@jonescountync.gov

Phone Number: (252)624-5209

March 5, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Jones County Emergency Services, I am writing to express our strong support for Jones County's request for federal funding to develop an **Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center** that will serve residents during disasters and public emergencies.

Jones County Emergency Services supports this project as a critical investment in disaster preparedness and community resilience. Emergency shelters are an essential component of protecting residents during hurricanes, flooding, severe weather events, and other emergencies that frequently impact eastern North Carolina.

A permanent Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center will allow the county to better coordinate disaster response operations and provide a safe location for residents who cannot safely remain in their homes during emergencies. During major incidents, having a dedicated facility designed for sheltering and emergency support services will significantly enhance the county's ability to protect lives and support those displaced by disasters.

This facility will strengthen emergency preparedness, improve coordination among first responders, and ensure that residents have access to a safe and secure location during times of crisis.

Jones County Emergency Services strongly supports this request and appreciates continued efforts to invest in the safety, preparedness, and resilience of rural communities.

Sincerely,

Ryan "Sissy" Mills
Emergency Services Director
Jones County Emergency Services



March 05, 2026

The Honorable Greg Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Community Project Funding Request – Jones County Emergency Shelter & Community Wellness Center

Dear Congressman Murphy,

As Mayor of the Town of Trenton, I am writing to express strong municipal support for Jones County's request for \$7,000,000 in Community Project Funding for the Jones County Emergency Shelter & Community Wellness Center.

Trenton residents are particularly vulnerable during hurricane events, as our community lacks hardened shelter infrastructure capable of protecting citizens during major storms. When hurricanes exceed Category 2 strength, residents must evacuate outside the county, placing additional burdens on families, seniors, and those without reliable transportation. This situation is unfair and intensifies an already scary situation during a time of worry and concern.

This 25,000-square-foot hardened facility will ensure our residents have a safe, in-county option during emergencies. The project also strengthens regional coordination and provides long-term wellness and recreation benefits that will serve Trenton families year-round.

The Town of Trenton fully supports this request and respectfully urges your favorable consideration. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Darlene Spivey, Mayor
Town of Trenton

Mayor

James V. Bender, Jr.

Commissioners

Maria Robles

Nancy Barbee

Sherry W. Henderson

Ellis Banks

Victor C. Bryan



314 Main Street
P.O. Box 97, Pollocksville, NC 28573
252-224-9831 Fax 252-224-0423
admin@townofpollocksville.com

Town Clerk & Finance Officer

Toni Floyd

Asst Town Clerk & Finance Officer

London Mayo

Public Works

Todd Meadows

Utilities ORC

J. J. Chadwick, Jr.

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Greg Murphy
US House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Murphy:

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Pollocksville, I am pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for Jones County's request for \$7,000,000 in Community Project Funding for the proposed Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center.

As you know, Pollocksville and Jones County have experienced repeated impacts from hurricanes. Recovery efforts still continue almost 8 years after Hurricane Florence. Our residents face significant risks due to the absence of a Category 3-5 capable shelter facility within the county's geographical boundaries. The proposed hardened structure will dramatically improve public safety preparedness and reduce evacuation displacement during major storm events. The construction of such a facility fits well into the county's long-range implementation plans for future disaster mitigation.

This project serves a dual purpose. The facility will also serve as a community wellness center, enhancing recreation and public health services that benefit residents throughout the county, including those in Pollocksville. This is simply good stewardship of taxpayer dollars by planning a facility that addresses several needs in our rural county.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We respectfully encourage your support of this worthwhile project.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James V. Bender, Jr.", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized and cursive.

James V. Bender, Jr., Mayor



Hargett's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department

Chief Dennis King

hargettscrossroadsvfd@jonescountync.gov

(910) 358-1788

March 05, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express strong support for Jones County's request for federal funding to develop an Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center that will serve residents during disasters and public emergencies.

Hargetts Volunteer Fire Department strongly supports the establishment of a dedicated emergency shelter facility in Jones County. Having a safe and reliable shelter available improves disaster preparedness and allows emergency responders to better assist residents during critical events.

Volunteer fire departments are often among the first responders during severe weather events and community emergencies. Having a designated shelter facility will improve coordination among emergency services and ensure that residents have a safe and secure location when disasters occur.

We strongly support this request and appreciate the continued efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and community resilience in Jones County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dennis King'.

Dennis King

Hargetts Volunteer Fire Department



TRENTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC

436 Hwy 58 North – Main Station
105 S Cherry Street – Sub Station
PO Box 309
Trenton, North Carolina 28585
Phone/Fax (252) 448-2646



March 5, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express strong support for Jones County's request for federal funding to develop an Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center that will serve residents during disasters and public emergencies.

Trenton Volunteer Fire Department supports the development of an emergency shelter that can serve residents during disasters and other emergencies. Access to a safe, reliable shelter location strengthens the county's ability to protect vulnerable residents during severe weather events.

Volunteer fire departments are often among the first responders during severe weather events and community emergencies. Having a designated shelter facility will improve coordination among emergency services and ensure that residents have a safe and secure location when disasters occur.

We strongly support this request and appreciate the continued efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and community resilience in Jones County.

Sincerely,

Kyle L. Koonce

Assistant Fire Chief

Trenton Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Wyse Fork Volunteer Fire & Rescue
6936 Wyse Fork Road
Dover, North Carolina 28526
Donald R. Gray, Jr., Chief



March 05, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express strong support for Jones County's request for federal funding to develop an Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center that will serve residents during disasters and public emergencies.

When major emergencies occur, fire departments play a critical role in assisting evacuations and helping residents find safety. A county emergency shelter and community wellness center will provide an important resource for residents who need a secure place during storms and other emergencies.

Volunteer fire departments are often among the first responders during severe weather events and community emergencies. Having a designated shelter facility will improve coordination among emergency services and ensure that residents have a safe and secure location when disasters occur.

We strongly support this request and appreciate the continued efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and community resilience in Jones County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donnie Gray".

Chief Donnie Gray
Wyse Fork Volunteer Fire Department



COMFORT RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE and EMS DEPARTMENT

4255 Highway 41 West
Trenton, NC 28585
910-324-4008
comfortvfd001@yahoo.com
EST. 1956

March 5, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to express my strong support for Jones County's request for federal funding to develop an Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center that will serve residents during disasters and public emergencies.

Comfort Volunteer Fire Department supports the creation of a dedicated shelter facility that residents can rely on during severe weather and other emergencies. Having a safe, dependable place to go, especially for our most vulnerable neighbors, strengthens the county's ability to protect people when conditions deteriorate quickly.

Volunteer fire departments are often among the first on scene during storms and community emergencies. A designated shelter will improve coordination across emergency services, help streamline response efforts, and ensure residents have a secure location when disaster strikes.

We fully support this request and appreciate the continued efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and community resilience in Jones County.

Sincerely

Matthew Berg – Assistant Chief and Treasurer
Comfort Volunteer Fire Department Board



Maysville Fire and EMS

PO Box 304/404 Main Street

Maysville NC 28555

910-743-2709/Fax 910-743-0400

www.maysvillefire.com/Email:maysvillefire@jonescountync.gov

March 05, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express strong support for Jones County's request for federal funding to develop an Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center that will serve residents during disasters and public emergencies.

During major storms and emergencies, our department often assists residents who must evacuate unsafe homes or who require a safe place to go. Having a reliable, well-equipped emergency shelter in Jones County will greatly improve our ability to protect residents during hurricanes, flooding, and other disasters.

Volunteer fire departments and EMS are often among the first responders during severe weather events and community emergencies. Having a designated shelter facility will improve coordination among emergency services and ensure that residents have a safe and secure location when disasters occur.

We strongly support this request and appreciate the continued efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and community resilience in Jones County.

Sincerely,

Chief Michael Jordan
Maysville Fire and EMS

Phillips Crossroads Volunteer Fire Dept
3085 NC Highway 58 North
Trenton NC, 28585

March 05, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

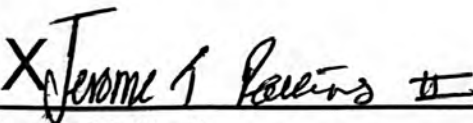
I am writing to express strong support for Jones County's request for federal funding to develop an Emergency Shelter and Community Wellness Center that will serve residents during disasters and public emergencies.

Phillips Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department supports this project to strengthen Jones County's disaster preparedness. A permanent emergency shelter and community wellness center will provide an important location where residents can receive protection and assistance during emergencies.

Volunteer fire departments are often among the first responders during severe weather events and community emergencies. Having a designated shelter facility will improve coordination among emergency services and ensure that residents have a safe and secure location when disasters occur.

We strongly support this request and appreciate the continued efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and community resilience in Jones County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome T Rollins II". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jerome T Rollins II
Assistant Chief

Phillips Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department