



**NCORR**  
NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF  
RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY



2020  
ANNUAL REPORT



NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When we began this year, no one imagined that it would be dominated by the fight against a global pandemic.

We quickly shifted to supporting our public health partners by procuring, warehousing and transporting personal protective equipment, setting up testing sites, and making sure struggling families had enough food to eat. A year later, a vaccine is being provided and we seem to be turning the corner.

Even during a pandemic, Mother Nature didn't relent this year, as a 5.1 magnitude earthquake struck near Sparta, Hurricane Isaias came ashore near Ocean Isle and spun off a tornado in Bertie County, and flooding from Tropical Storm Eta and Isaias tragically killed several people.

The Emergency Management community responded to these events without breaking stride on hurricane recovery for Matthew, Florence, Dorian and other past storms.

We supported local and state election boards through successful primary and general elections during a presidential election cycle.

NCORR set up and operated the HOPE program, providing relief to thousands of North Carolinians who were behind on rent and utility payments and facing potential eviction during the pandemic, while remaining on-pace with its HUD-funded hurricane recovery programs.

I'm extremely proud of the NCEM and NCORR teams, and all of our local, state, federal, volunteer and private partners who have risen to meet the many challenges that 2020 has presented. One team, one mission, one family!



Michael A. Sprayberry  
Executive Director  
North Carolina Emergency Management  
North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency



## ABOUT NCEM

### Our Mission

North Carolina Emergency Management works to enhance the state's resiliency by actively collaborating, communicating and coordinating to prevent, mitigate, respond and recover from disasters.

### Authority

North Carolina Emergency Management is granted the responsibility and authority to respond to emergencies and disasters by the governor via General Statute § 166A (North Carolina Emergency Management Act). The agency is nationally accredited under the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, affirming NCEM's ability to

provide continuous and consistent response to disasters by bringing together necessary staff and resources from local, state, private and volunteer organizations.

### Responsibility

NCEM administers state and federal grants, manages multi-agency disaster responses, oversees all hazards and threat risk management, coordinates regional hazard mitigation plans, facilitates trainings and exercises and manages assets such as the regional hazardous materials response teams and search and rescue teams. In addition, the agency develops and maintains



Mountain search and rescue teams conduct winter training in western North Carolina mountains.  
photo credit - Halley Burseson/ Appalachian Exposures



Secretary Erik A. Hooks

Executive Director Michael A. Sprayberry

Public Information Officer

Private Sector Manager

Administration

**Logistics**  
Logistics Support  
Logistics Services

**Plans**  
Radiological Emergency Prep  
Natural Hazards  
Training, Exercise, CERT

**Homeland Security**  
Cyber Unit  
Intelligence  
Critical Infrastructure Protection  
School Safety, HSA Support

**Risk Management**  
Floodplain Mapping  
Information Technology  
National Flood Insurance Program  
Geodetic Survey, UAS Program

**Operations**  
Field Branches  
24-Hour Watch Center  
Emergency Services, Human Services  
Civil Air Patrol, UAS Program

**Recovery**  
Individual Assistance  
Public Assistance

Hazard Mitigation

flood maps for each county and maintains the official survey database for the state. NCEM also manages the state's Homeland Security program, partnering closely with the Center for Safer Schools and the state's cyber security agencies.

The Executive Director is appointed by the Secretary of Public Safety, serves as the state's Deputy Homeland Security Advisor and as a dual-agency head for North Carolina Emergency Management and the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency.

### Organization

North Carolina Emergency Management is currently comprised of 221 full-time positions and 74 temporary employees or reservists. Three field branch offices with 27 field staff support local communities by responding to emergencies, helping to develop response plans at the county level and fielding requests for state assets.





## NCEM FUNDING

NCEM received over \$62 million dollars in state and federal funds and receipts this past year. The \$4.4 million received from state appropriations pays for salaries and operational costs. Receipts received from the radiological protection, flood plain mapping programs and hazardous materials fees amounted to \$5.4 million and pays for salaries, operating costs and contractual obligations.

Pass thru or contracts for federal grants to county and state partners total \$52.2 million. Hazard Mitigation and Public Assistance continues to reimburse local governments and state agencies for hurricane recovery expenses.

Funding Source	Amount
Federal	\$52,289,689
State Appropriations	\$4,414,337
Receipts	\$5,497,418

Funding Uses	Amount
Salaries	\$14,630,212
Pass Through to Counties	\$37,532,972
Disaster Grants PA & HM	\$402,416,798
Disaster Grants-State	\$104,154,752
Public Assistance	\$384,427,268
Hazard Mitigation	\$17,989,530

### Each year, NCEM funds:

- provide equipment for local, county and state agencies
- provide training and exercises for first responders, emergency management staff and law enforcement
- support annual exercises to ensure state and local agencies are ready for all types of emergencies (including incidents at fixed nuclear facilities)
- operate the statewide floodplain mapping program, the geodetic survey program and the National Flood Insurance Program
- support the regional response hazardous materials program across the state
- enable response to real emergencies and disasters when they occur anywhere in the state
- facilitate long-term recovery from past disasters
- ensure the state maintains 24/7 capability assist local governments in disasters



## RESPONDING TO THE CALL



NCEM serves as the state’s repository for all emergency notifications including severe weather threats, missing persons, hazmat incidents, fish kills, search and rescue missions, forest fires, sewage leaks and a variety of other threats. All incidents are reported by local, state and federal authorities to the NCEM 24-Hour Watch Center to be documented in official records.

Three NCEM Field Branch Offices located in Conover, Butner and Kinston support local communities by responding to emergencies, helping to develop county and regional response plans and fielding requests for state assets. Field staff work with local emergency planning committees and nine domestic preparedness regions to coordinate ongoing training and exercises.

While most emergencies are typically resolved at the local level, emergency management officers are available at all hours to respond to resource requests and notify other affected agencies if needed.

### Hazardous materials responses

HazMat response involves providing technical advice to local responders and providing support

to local responders during chemical releases, transportation incidents and criminal acts.

North Carolina’s seven Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams responded to 33 state hazmat missions hundreds of local missions and introduced the NC HazMat Worst Case Analysis Tool in 2020.

2020 Calls to State EOC	
Bomb Threat	15
Complaint	230
Fire	79
Hazmat	1731
Other	53
Search & Rescue	334
Sinkhole	12
Transportation	188
Wastewater	457
Weather	467
<b>Total</b>	<b>3566</b>





## EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

*Gov. Roy Cooper declared States of Emergency for these events to allow state resources to be engaged in response and recovery and to allow for federal assistance and reimbursement.*

### **February Severe Weather**

Executive Order 115 - February 7  
Severe weather including tornadoes, torrential rainfall, major flooding, high winds and severe thunderstorms across the state.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic**

Executive Order 116 – March 10  
This State of Emergency for the COVID-19 Pandemic continued in place beyond the end of the year.

### **Spring Severe Storms**

Executive Order 132 – April 13  
Severe storms on April 12-13 brought flooding, high winds and tornadoes to several counties.

### **Hurricane Isaias**

Executive Order 154 – July 31  
Hurricane Isaias made landfall on August 3 at Ocean Isle Beach.

### **Hurricane Zeta**

Executive Order 175 – October 30  
The remnants of Hurricane Zeta brought rains and sustained tropical storm force winds to much of North Carolina.

### **Heavy Rains - Tropical Storm Eta**

Executive Order 178 – November 13  
On November 12, the state experienced heavy rainfall and flooding from the remnants of Tropical Storm Eta. Twelve people died as a result of the storm – six drowned in floodwaters and six died in weather related vehicle accidents.

## DISASTER DECLARATIONS

*State and federal disaster declarations can provide additional recovery funding and resources when the local government's capacity to recover is exceeded.*

### **FEDERAL DECLARATIONS**

#### **February Severe Storms, Tornadoes and Flooding**

DR-4543-NC – Declared May 8  
Provides public assistance in 19 counties.

#### **COVID-19 Pandemic**

DR-4487-NC – Declared March 25  
Provides the Crisis Counseling Program and public assistance reimbursement for Emergency Protective Measures statewide.

#### **Hurricane Isaias**

DR-4568- NC – Declared October 14  
Provides public assistance (Categories A-G) for 15 counties.

### **STATE DECLARATIONS**

#### **Montreat, Marion and Old Fort – Tropical Storm Alberto**

Executive Order 126 – April 3  
On May 29-30, 2018, Montreat, Marion and Old Fort experienced sustained and devastating rains from the remnants of Tropical Storm Alberto, which resulted in significant flooding.

#### **Town of Marshall**

Executive Order 127 – April 3  
This Type 1 State Disaster Declaration was issued to aid in recovery after the Town of Marshall in Madison County experienced severe flooding in December 2018 and April 2019.

#### **Village of Cedar Rock and Town of Hudson**

Executive Order 128 – April 3  
This Type 1 State Disaster Declaration was issued for Cedar Rock and Hudson in Caldwell County after more than a foot of rain brought devastating flooding in June 2019.

#### **Bertie County Tornado**

Executive Order 159 – August 21  
This Type 1 State Disaster Declaration provided individual assistance for residents in Bertie County after a tornado spawned by Hurricane Isaias struck a Windsor neighborhood.

#### **Sparta Earthquake**

Executive Order 160 – August 28  
This Type 1 State Disaster Declaration provided individual assistance for victims of a 5.1 magnitude earthquake centered near Sparta that occurred on August 9.

#### **Towns of Marion, Old Fort and Tryon**

Executive Order 174 – October 30  
This Type 1 State Disaster Declaration provided individual assistance for residents of Marion, Old Fort and Tryon affected by flooding from a storm on May 18-22.

#### **Tropical Storm Eta / Alexander County Floods**

Executive Order 182 – December 15  
This Type 1 State Disaster Declaration provided individual assistance for Alexander County and the neighboring counties of Caldwell, Catawba, Iredell and Wilkes.





## SUPPORTING OTHER STATES THROUGH EMAC

North Carolina answered the call through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, sending help where it was needed in 2020.



### Puerto Rico Earthquake

Structural engineers and architects from Urban Search and Rescue teams and building inspectors from the Office of the State Fire Marshal deployed to Puerto Rico to help with damage assessment and building inspections after a magnitude 6.4 earthquake on Jan. 7.



### Mobile Disaster Hospital

A portion of the state's mobile hospital was deployed to Atlanta, Georgia until May to provide temporary beds to Grady Memorial Hospital after a water pipe burst, flooding 3 floors of the hospital and damaging more than 200 patient rooms.

### Hurricane Laura – Louisiana

North Carolina responded to an EMAC request from Louisiana for swift water rescue teams after Hurricane Laura struck the Gulf Coast. Swift water elements from Charlotte and Greensboro Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces departed for Baton Rouge, but Louisiana canceled the mission request while they were enroute.

## HURRICANE ISAIAS



The storm made landfall at Oak Island on August 4 and spun off a tornado in Bertie County in the early morning hours of August 5. The tornado killed two people and destroyed more than a dozen homes near Windsor, leaving 20 people homeless.



The storm resulted in a Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance declaration for 15 counties along with state and SBA disaster declarations and a state-funded individual assistance program for victims of the Bertie County tornado.



## COVID-19 RESPONSE



North Carolina's response to the COVID-19 virus began in January 2020 when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention first began issuing advisories on the new virus emerging in China. Gov. Roy Cooper established a state Coronavirus Task Force in February, co-chaired by NCEM Executive Director Mike Sprayberry and State Public Health Director Dr. Elizabeth Tilson. The first North Carolina case of COVID-19 was reported on March 3.

Early efforts by NCEM included embedding staff with the Division of Public Health to monitor the global spread of the virus, establishing the Joint Information System/Center and standing up a

Unified Command with the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The State Emergency Operations Center activated on March 10 for the COVID-19 response. By year's end the SERT had been activated 297 days, and the activation continued into 2021.

NCEM was involved in the procurement, warehousing and distribution of personal protective equipment early in the pandemic. Specialized distributions of PPE were organized for long-term care facilities, schools, courts, farms and farmworkers and many other entities.



A food chain supply workgroup was established to examine ways the state could fight food insecurity during the pandemic. National Guard troops supported food banks and school nutrition programs.

Emergency managers worked to support the need for additional hospital beds. As hospitals worked to open and staff additional beds internally, many options were examined for additional beds outside existing hospitals. A recently closed hospital in Hamlet was equipped as an overflow site but was not needed before year's end.



COVID-19 testing sites were supported by local emergency managers, National Guard members and volunteers from CERT teams and the Civil Air Patrol.

As vaccines were developed the mission shifted to vaccination support and logistics, while continuing to support COVID testing. As 2021 begins and we enter a new presidential administration, NCEM is learning how federal support for vaccination will be changing and anticipates working closely with federal partners to vaccinate North Carolinians this year.



# NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

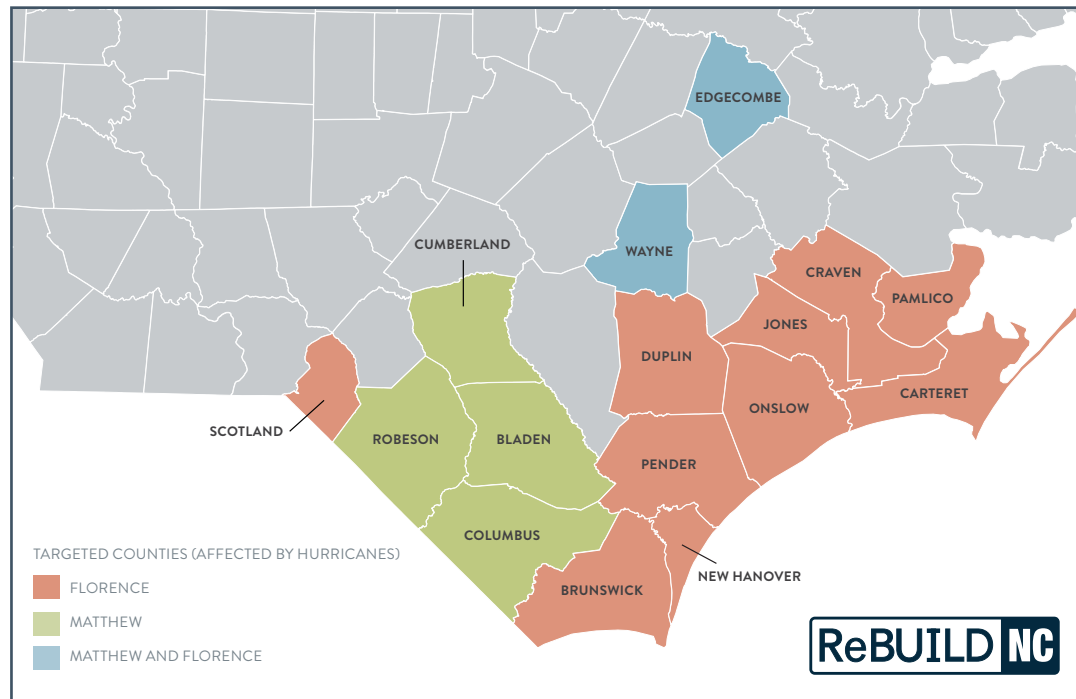


**Spending of HUD funds remains on pace**  
For more than a year, NCORR has remained on pace with spending Hurricane Matthew CDBG-DR funds, with \$216 million awarded as of Dec. 31, 2020, to homeowners for repairs and reconstructions, small businesses for recovery, local governments for infrastructure and the N.C. Housing Finance Agency for new affordable housing projects.



## Homeowner Recovery Program

In June, the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency launched its second phase of the Homeowner Recovery Program to assist homeowners with repairs, reconstruction and/or elevation of homes damaged by Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. Nearly 3,200 applications have been received from storm survivors throughout eastern North Carolina.



**HOPE Program**  
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES + PREVENTION OF EVICTIONS  
In October, NCORR launched the Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions program to assist low- and moderate-income renters experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19, while also promoting housing stability during the ongoing pandemic.

**Grants and loans to local governments**  
NCORR awarded nearly \$50 million in state-funded grants and loans to local and tribal governments to support recovery and resiliency. The funds are used for local infrastructure projects, reconstruction of community buildings, operating expenses and other additional support for disaster recovery.



**Resiliency Program**  
NCORR's Resiliency Program continues to serve as a nationwide model. Projects completed this year include the *Natural Hazards Resilience: A Quick Start Guide* in with collaboration with NCEM and the *State Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan* in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. NCORR also launched the NC Resilient Communities Program, among other achievements.

Executive Director Michael A. Sprayberry

Chief Operating Officer  
Laura H. Hogshead

Policy & Planning

Procurement

Community Development

Program Management

Program Delivery

Finance & Compliance

External Affairs

Resiliency





## TRAINING AND EXERCISES

	Classes	Students
Incident Management and Command	85	1,340
Floodplain	7	360
Search & Rescue	54	819
Hazardous Materials	3	41
Public Information/Communication	5	51
Active Assailant	6	117
Radiological Emergency Preparedness	6	275
Community Emergency Response Team	70	313
Other Federal Training	24	293
Other State Training	59	1829
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>6,890</b>

Quality training opportunities provide emergency managers, first responders and volunteers with the skills and knowledge needed during disaster response and recovery. Exercises provide a chance to test those skills and learn in simulated environments. While several large exercises and much classroom training was canceled due to the pandemic, many classes moved online. NCEM's Training Section still coordinated 319 classes that included more than 6,800 students.



### All Hazards Incident Management Team Academy

The Department of Public Safety Samarcard Training Academy in Moore County was the setting for a week-long All Hazards Incident Management Team Academy, training new members to serve on incident management teams, ready to deploy to help others where emergency management staffing is needed during an incident.

### Search and Rescue Training

Outdoor training was able to continue more freely during the pandemic, with North Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team, Swift Water Boat Operator and other search and rescue courses taking place outdoors.

## BUILDING CAPACITY, ENHANCING RESOURCES

### Non-congregate sheltering program

NCEM Human Services, Recovery and Business EOC worked with the state's Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Emergency Management Agency and local partners to create a statewide non-congregate sheltering program that is successfully providing housing in hotels for people affected by COVID-19 needing isolation or quarantine. The program can also be used to house evacuees from hurricanes or other disasters – avoiding large crowds in congregate shelters where the virus could spread easily.

### Know Your Zone

After a year-long pilot in three counties, 20 coastal counties launched pre-determined coastal evacuation zones in May as part of the Know Your Zone program. Residents can visit [KnowYourZone.nc.gov](http://KnowYourZone.nc.gov) to learn their evacuation zone and what to do when evacuations are ordered for their area. Spanish resources are available at [ConozcaSuZona.nc.gov](http://ConozcaSuZona.nc.gov).

### EM Grants Portal Streamlines Grant Administration

The full implementation of EMGrants, the online grant portal, has enhanced customer service and alleviated past issues by automating tasks, tracking multiple activities and streamlining workflow procedures and payment processing for both the NCEM public assistance team and for subrecipients across the state.

### Building Cyber Security Statewide

The state's cyber team, a partnership between National Guard, Emergency Management, Department of Information Technology and the North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association Strike Team conducted 19 incident responses during 2020 to aid in the remediation of computer networks compromised

by malicious software, to include K-12 schools systems, community colleges, city governments and county governments. These efforts, along with county cyber assessments, worked to prepare for and help ensure safe and secure elections during the 2020 election cycle. Additionally, the cyber team provided technical support to State and County Boards of Election in preparing for and conducting primary, special and general elections.

### Adding and Testing Flood Gauges

The Risk Management Section installed 54 new flood gauges across the state and added them to the Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert Network website, enhancing the state's flood monitoring and prediction capability. A new Adopt-a-Gauge program is helping to maintain the network of more than 500 gauges statewide. Low-cost flood gauges are being tested through a partnership with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and the University of North Carolina Policy Collaboratory as a cost-effective way for local governments to improve their flood monitoring and prediction.

### Training Community Emergency Response Teams

More than 180 individuals completed CERT training this year. With the addition of a new program in Whispering Pines/Moore County, there are now 93 teams in 52 counties with nearly 2,100 volunteers. CERT volunteers helped at points of distribution, COVID-19 testing sites, vaccination sites and with damage assessment and storm cleanup.

### Counties certified as Storm Ready

Ninety-one counties are now certified as Storm Ready by the National Weather Service, with Alexander, Rutherford, Polk and Surry counties attaining StormReady status in 2020. Storm Ready certification indicates that a county or organization has the skills and resources necessary to save lives and protect property in the face of severe weather.



# GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Alamance	\$124,752.80	Cumberland	\$93,360.53
Alexander	\$40,377.80	Currituck	\$54,377.80
Alleghany	\$136,377.80	Dare	\$41,377.80
Anson	\$49,827.80	Davidson	\$54,752.80
Ashe	\$40,377.80	Davie	\$40,377.80
Avery	\$42,377.80	Duplin	\$66,127.80
Beaufort	\$40,377.80	Durham	\$140,052.80
Bertie	\$44,377.80	E. Band of Cherokee Indians	\$39,377.80
Bladen	\$67,443.04	Edgecombe	\$103,377.80
Brunswick	\$54,752.80	Elizabeth City Fire	\$34,856.00
Buncombe	\$81,252.80	Forsyth	\$97,252.80
Burke	\$54,752.80	Franklin	\$40,377.80
Cabarrus	\$81,252.80	Gaston	\$107,252.80
Caldwell	\$54,752.80	Gates	\$40,377.80
Carteret	\$51,931.61	Graham	\$39,377.80
Caswell	\$40,377.80	Granville	\$40,377.80
Catawba	\$53,752.80	Greene	\$68,397.80
Chatham	\$40,377.80	Guilford	\$81,252.80
Cherokee	\$39,377.80	Halifax	\$97,377.80
Chowan	\$39,377.80	Harnett	\$196,752.80
City of Aberdeen	\$12,299.00	Haywood	\$40,377.80
City of Newton	\$25,000.00	Henderson	\$54,752.80
Clay	\$69,377.80	Hertford	\$133,277.80
Cleveland	\$54,752.80	Hoke	\$45,377.80
Columbus	\$49,877.80	Hyde	\$37,603.25
Craven	\$59,865.54	Iredell	\$59,752.80

Jackson	\$39,377.80	Robeson	\$66,752.80
Johnston	\$82,252.80	Rockingham	\$79,752.80
Jones	\$99,275.80	Rowan	\$128,352.80
Lee	\$40,377.80	Rutherford	\$39,377.80
Lenoir	\$39,377.80	Sampson	\$39,377.80
Lincoln	\$54,752.80	Scotland	\$48,377.80
Macon	\$189,877.80	Stanly	\$100,377.80
Madison	\$40,377.80	Stokes	\$115,377.80
Martin	\$39,377.80	Surry	\$48,877.80
McDowell	\$88,377.80	Swain	\$40,377.80
Mecklenburg	\$80,368.04	Town of Carolina	\$14,500.00
Mitchell	\$39,377.80	Town of Leland	\$10,000.00
Montgomery	\$40,377.80	Town of Nags Head	\$43,000.00
Moore	\$79,752.80	Transylvania	\$39,377.80
Nash	\$71,752.80	Tyrrell	\$39,377.80
New Hanover	\$156,483.67	Union	\$82,252.80
Northampton	\$39,377.80	Vance	\$40,377.80
Onslow	\$53,752.80	Wake	\$82,252.80
Orange	\$53,752.80	Warren	\$40,377.80
Pamlico	\$100,377.80	Washington	\$39,377.80
Pasquotank-Camden	\$63,002.80	Watauga	\$66,377.80
Pender	\$65,029.80	Wayne	\$53,752.80
Perquimans	\$59,377.80	Wilkes	\$40,377.80
Person	\$40,377.80	Wilson	\$53,752.80
Pitt	\$118,865.54	Yadkin	\$40,377.80
Polk	\$39,377.80	Yancey	\$39,377.80
Randolph	\$54,752.80		
Richmond	\$40,377.80	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,639,278.89</b>





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