

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25**  
**NORTH CAROLINA SHOWCASE STATE PARTNERSHIP FOR NATURAL DISASTER**  
**RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE**

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is vulnerable to hurricanes, flooding, winter storms, hail, drought, earthquakes, tornadoes, wildfire and other natural hazards that have resulted in the loss of life, economic distress, and have caused billions of dollars in damages; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, North Carolina has experienced the two most costly natural disasters in the State's history, hurricanes Fran and Floyd, resulting in the deaths of over 50 people and causing over three billion and five billion dollars in losses respectively; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is presently experiencing a state and local government budget crisis, due in part by lost tax revenues and cash expenditures associated with several recent disasters, and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is experiencing rapid growth in known high-hazard areas; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has embarked on a nationally recognized effort to reduce the future impacts of natural hazards, including the acquisition and elevation of over 6,000 flood-prone residences, the initiation of a statewide mitigation planning effort, the re-mapping of the State's floodplains, and the establishment of the Blue Sky Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about risk reduction techniques that can be incorporated into new or existing construction; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina seeks to further ongoing risk reduction efforts through an expansion of public and private partnerships utilizing the framework established by the Institute for Business & Home Safety titled the "Showcase State for Natural Disaster Resistance and Resilience"; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Showcase State partners currently include the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety , the Blue Sky Foundation of North Carolina, Inc., The North Carolina Department of Insurance, Nationwide Insurance, Royal & SunAlliance Insurance, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, the Institute for Business & Home Safety, the Independent Agents Association of North Carolina, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Department of City and Regional Planning, the North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension Service, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, , Land's End Development Companies, Rufty Homes, Inc., Old Station Corporation/Sykes Construction, Carolinas Concrete Masonry Association, North Carolina Sea Grant, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and North Carolina Baptist Men, with the intention of including local governments and the business community; among others; and

WHEREAS, the Showcase State Initiative will provide the catalyst to bring together state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, local governments, developers, insurers, financiers, and the business community to seek creative ways to comprehensively address the rapid increase in our State's vulnerability to natural hazards and share the burden of mitigating the risk in cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, since there are significant efforts underway that address many of the initiatives below, by government, the private and nonprofit sectors, a collaborative process that fosters leveraged resources and shared knowledge will allow partners to extend better service to more citizens of North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Michael F. Easley, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of North Carolina proclaim the State of North Carolina a "Showcase State for Natural Disaster Resistance and Resilience" as a means to further reduce the vulnerability of our citizens and the built environment to the risks associated with natural hazards. The state, working in collaboration with its Showcase State partners, and to the extent to which existing state budgetary and staff resources allow, will work on the following initiatives:

1. Identify government agencies, private sector and nonprofit entities responsible and accountable for implementing actions of each of the areas listed below. Executives with authority and accountability in these areas will coordinate their respective planning and develop a collaborative five-year strategy together, with one-year action plans.
2. Conduct a statewide hazard identification and risk assessment for all natural hazards in our state, including providing the assistance and training to local governments needed to undertake jurisdictional-level assessments.
3. Develop partnerships between stakeholder businesses and the public sector to identify mitigation opportunities and better coordinate preparedness, response and recovery activities. Partnerships should include critical businesses involved in disaster recovery operations (e.g., utilities, communications, transportation, food/water suppliers, and medical facilities) and those businesses whose losses would impact the ability of the local and state economy to recover.

4. Promote and support the adoption and enforcement of a current model code by the state and promote the voluntary code-plus *Fortified. . . for Safer Living* program for new construction.
5. Encourage the use of state and local hazard risk assessments to inform land use decisions, particularly those that place people and structures in harm's way.
6. Maintain a state hazard mitigation plan, develop a disaster recovery plan and provide technical assistance to local governments to assist in the development of Hazard Mitigation Plans as required under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and North Carolina SC 2001-214.
7. Ensure that local governments are given the information needed to make an informed decision regarding participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the implications for disaster assistance stated in SC 2001-214. Encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program and ensure compliance among participants. Promote and support participation in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.
8. Incorporate disaster protection into capital improvement budgets of public lifelines and critical facilities, such as utilities, telecommunication systems, transportation infrastructure, water supply, hospitals, wastewater treatment facilities, etc. and promote incorporation of disaster protection into capital improvements of similar private facilities.
9. Encourage the development of a disaster-resistant state, including the encouragement of disaster-resistant communities within the State, in collaboration with the Blue Sky Foundation's *Exemplary Community* initiative, NC Division of Emergency Management's *Hazard Mitigation Planning Initiative (HMPI)* and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster-resistant community initiatives.
10. Develop public outreach and awareness programs on the importance of mitigating damages caused by natural disasters and provide information on how citizens can prevent or reduce property damages as a result of a natural disaster event.
11. Support the appropriate incorporation of natural hazard awareness and reduction programs and information into school and college curricula.
12. Support the Institute for Business & Home Safety and its partners in the nonstructural retrofit of nonprofit childcare centers through cooperative public information efforts.
13. Conduct training for local government officials, state agencies, builders and other design professionals regarding the use of mitigation techniques in land use and building construction decisions. Encourage best practices above and beyond building code requirements.
14. Identify specific incentives and disincentives for implementing mitigation measures in the areas of regulation, policy, social values, and in the economic and environmental sectors.

15. Continue support of the North Carolina Mapping Initiative in its efforts to re-map the State's floodplains.

Implementation of this order shall be undertaken through the collaboration of Blue Sky Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the Capital City of Raleigh, North Carolina, this the \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2002.

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Michael F. Easley  
Governor

ATTEST:

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Elaine F. Marshall  
Secretary of State