

**NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Monthly Connect:  
The Critical Role and Impact of Cross-Sector Partnerships in Times of Emergency**  
Relevant Resources

This is a follow-up to the [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships](#) (OSP) October 2024 Monthly Connect: *The Critical Role and Impact of Cross-Sector Partnerships in Times of Emergency*. ([recording](#)).

OSP regularly shares information and resources after the Monthly Connect sessions. Typically, panelists or participants shared the information and resources in the virtual “chat.” This is not intended to be a comprehensive list. More about the Monthly Connect series [here](#).

Speakers at this Monthly Connect were:

**JJ Brown**, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Appalachian State University

**Brandy Bynum Dawson**, Senior Program Director, MDC

**Briles Johnson**, Executive Director, NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, Office of the Governor

**Kristy Kulberg**, President, NC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

**Jenni Owen (moderator)**, Director, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

**Jennifer Tolle Whiteside**, President and CEO, NC Community Foundation

### Resources

Descriptions are in alphabetical order and paraphrased from active links as of October 31, 2024. Links are organized by agency/organization.

#### **Appalachian State University (ASU)**

ASU is one of 17 campuses in the University of North Carolina System, with a national reputation for innovative teaching and opening access to a high-quality, affordable education for all. ASU enrolls more than 21,000 students, has a low student-to-faculty ratio, and offers more than 150 undergraduate and 80 graduate majors across its campuses and online.

#### **MDC Inc. (MDC)**

MDC equips Southern leaders, institutions, and communities with the necessary tools and strategies to advance equity—particularly racial and gender equity—and economic mobility. MDC develops and implements programs in areas such as training and employment, community college improvement, rural economic development, strategic philanthropy and leadership, workforce competitiveness, school reform and grassroots community leadership.

- The NC Inclusive Disaster Recovery Network ([NCIDR](#)) is a collaborative of public, non-profit, and faith-based organizations seeking avenues for community voice and equitable access to resources in the disaster recovery system. Formed in October 2016 in response to Hurricane Matthew, NCIDR is a way for statewide organizations to be allies to community-based leaders. The Network aims to develop stronger, better-connected community leadership with a long-term goal of developing community-based infrastructure that can levy disaster recovery resources fairly to all communities through sustained avenues.

#### **NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service ([VolunteerNC](#))**

VolunteerNC, housed in the Office of the Governor, promotes and facilitates service and volunteering to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement in NC. VolunteerNC oversees the state AmeriCorps programs, disaster volunteers and donations, the Governor's Page Program, and the Governor's Volunteer Awards, and promotes volunteer initiatives across the state.

### **NC Community Foundation ([NCCF](#))**

NCCF supports North Carolina's communities through grants and scholarships, with a special focus on the state's rural areas. Working through a network of fundholders and affiliates, NCCF makes grants to nonprofit organizations that support vital community needs, including through application-based grantmaking programs. NCCF also supports nonprofit partners through agency funds.

- The [Community Foundation of Western North Carolina](#) inspires philanthropy and mobilizes resources to enrich lives and communities in Western North Carolina.

### **NC Department of Public Safety ([NCDPS](#))**

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety aims to improve the quality of life for North Carolinians by reducing crime and enhancing public safety. DPS focuses citizen and legislative attention on law enforcement and public safety issues, such as justice reinvestment; highway safety; crime prevention; victim services; homeland security; and preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural and man-made disasters.

- [ReadyNC](#): A resource that provides North Carolina residents and visitors with information on how to be safe during disasters and hazardous events.
  - [CERT](#): Initially, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs were developed to assist communities in taking care of themselves in the aftermath of a major disaster when first responders are overwhelmed or unable to respond because of communication or transportation difficulties. As the CERT concept has taken hold across the country, however, CERTs have become much more than originally envisioned. CERTs have proven themselves to be an active and vital part of their communities' preparedness and response capabilities.

### **ncIMPACT Initiative, UNC School of Government ([ncIMPACT](#))**

Launched in 2017 by the [UNC School of Government](#), ncIMPACT is a statewide endeavor that strives to support local communities across NC. By leveraging data-driven insights and evidence-based strategies, we aim to equip civic leaders and stakeholders with the tools necessary to make informed decisions and drive innovations that enhance the well-being of their constituents.

- [25 Years Later](#): Five Recovery Insights Gained After Hurricane Floyd (article)

### **NC Office of State Budget and Management ([OSBM](#))**

OSBM provides budget and policy analysis counsel to the Governor, state agencies, and state legislature, analyzes economic and demographic data to inform decisions and maintain a balanced budget, and provides state agencies with services to support stewardship of public resources and prudent decision-making.

- [North Carolina State Demographer](#): The State Demographer produces state, county, and municipal population estimates and state and county population projections. As a member

of the Federal State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates and the Federal-State Cooperative for Population Projections, the State Demographer assists the Census Bureau in its own estimates of NC municipal and county populations by collecting input data and reviewing preliminary population estimates. Relevant blog posts shared during the session:

- [Updated Insight - The Population in Hurricane Helene's Path](#): Western North Carolina Home to Rural Communities, High Percentage of Older Residents.
- [Population Change in Western North Carolina Post Hurricane Helene](#): Past disasters offer insight into Helene's potential impact on population of region.

### **NC Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP)**

OSP develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state government and North Carolina's research and philanthropic sectors. This includes elevating state government's internal capacity to use and generate evidence in its policies and programs. As part of this work, OSP has created numerous resources about cross-sector partnerships. If you have questions about OSP or want to connect, email [partnerships@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:partnerships@osbm.nc.gov).

- Highlights (OSP e-news and resources): The OSP [October Highlights](#) includes a non-comprehensive list of links to Helene related resources from many organizations across sectors.
- [Monthly Connect](#): OSP's series of virtual panel discussions on topics relevant to partnerships among state government, research institutions, philanthropy, and others. To subscribe to OSP Highlights and Monthly Connect invitations, click [here](#).
- [Philanthropy Liaison](#): Established in 2021, the Philanthropy Liaison is tasked with building, strengthening, and institutionalizing relationships between state government and the philanthropic sector in North Carolina. The Liaison helps identify and broker strategic partnerships between the two sectors to improve and enhance the well-being of North Carolinians.

### **NC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NCVOAD)**

NCVOAD is an affiliate of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, an association of organizations that mitigates and alleviates the impact of disasters; provides a forum promoting cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration; and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster. The membership of NCVOAD consists of locally based organizations and local representatives of national organizations. NCVOAD's mission is to strengthen the capabilities of organizations working together in the state to respond to communities affected by disaster.

- Long-Term Recovery Groups ([LTRG](#)) work at the local level within the state VOAD structure. They are usually formed in the wake of a disaster with the immediate goal of meeting unmet needs (e.g., home repair/rebuild, furniture, appliances, etc.) and providing legal and financial advice to get residents back to near-normal situations.
- Community Organizations Active in Disaster ([COAD](#)) also work at the local level within the state VOAD structure. COADs work together during a disaster to coordinate services to ensure that unmet needs are addressed, provide financial assistance and supplies, and to share knowledge and resources with local residents during a disaster.