

Catastrophic flooding: November 14 – 18, 2021

Flood recovery snapshot: March 16, 2022



In our role as a connector of people, ideas and resources, the Whatcom Community Foundation remains deeply involved with the human services organizations, business recovery leaders and local government partners dedicated to flood relief and recovery. The need is still great. We hear consistently from those helped by Resilience Fund dollars that it is neighbors like you who have shown up first and most. Here's what we know, four months after the flood.

As with the Covid-19 pandemic, this disaster both highlights and intensifies major community deficits:

- Affordable/available housing – particularly for households with children
- Affordable/available childcare
- Access to healthcare/ mental health services
- Food security

500

people displaced due to floods

80%

of homes in Sumas alone were damaged by flooding

75%

of the homes flooded in November are still not occupied

~101

people still living in hotels, families as well as individuals

Challenges:

- Meals – most hotels/motels don't have kitchens
- Pet care – many hotels/motels can't accommodate pets
- Transportation – Many people lost cars lost in the flooding. For those down to one or no car, it adds another layer of hardship and complexity
- Stress and trauma – fear of more flooding, uncertainty about the future, financing for repairs, pandemic strain and illness taking a toll on health and wellbeing

2-3 years:

the amount of time affected people need support, based on other community disasters. We have a lot of work ahead of us.

\$235,160:

Resilience Fund grants since Feb.1, including \$100,000 to the Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG, formerly Whatcom Strong) and \$50,000 to the Whatcom Small Business Recovery Fund.

Hidden Suffering

In December Nooksack Valley School District identified 177 families whose kids hadn't returned to school. A second round of follow-up with these families is in process. Many face language and cultural barriers and so far, none are living in permanent housing. Many are doubled and tripled up with family and friends or living in housing that is developing severe mold issues.

Extra hands

One full-time and four part-time Disaster Case Managers have been hired by the LTRG to help support 1,000 of our neighbors who are navigating flood recovery for themselves and their families. This support will be provided from anywhere from one to three years. More than 1,496 people have registered for FEMA assistance. Applications closed March 7.



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