



Keeping Robeson County's Children Safe

During and after disasters, children have unique and specific needs. Helping them return to regular routine after a disaster can improve a child's recovery and allow the families to get back to normal quickly. Every day in the U.S., 69 million children are separated from their families while they attend child care facilities, schools, and after school programs. We want to make sure that the organizations that serve the children of Robeson County are prepared to meet their needs.

After Hurricanes Matthew and Florence, Robeson County experienced firsthand the importance of ensuring child serving institutions are well prepared and are now working to be better prepared for the next disaster that can come our way.

Why child-focused resilience matters¹:

- 37% of American households are not confident in their community's ability to meet the needs of children during disasters;
- Over half (54%) of Americans believe they will be reunited with their children within several hours of a disaster. It took almost 7 months to reunite the last child with her family after Katrina;
- More than half of US families have been affected by a disaster.

Robeson County is part of the Resilient Children/Resilient Communities Initiative, a community-based model of child-focused disaster preparedness. Currently the initiative is in Phase II, focusing on post-disaster recovery by learning from the experiences of communities affected by recent hurricanes, including Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. This project aims to create more resources and relationships to help make children more resilient to future disasters. For more information on the RCRC Initiative, please visit <https://ncdp.columbia.edu/rcrc>.

Please visit <https://www.cisrobeson.org/> for more information about this project in Robeson County.

¹ Sources: Save the Children Disaster Report Card 2014 & Children in Disasters: Do Americans Feel Prepared? A National Survey, National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Earth Institute