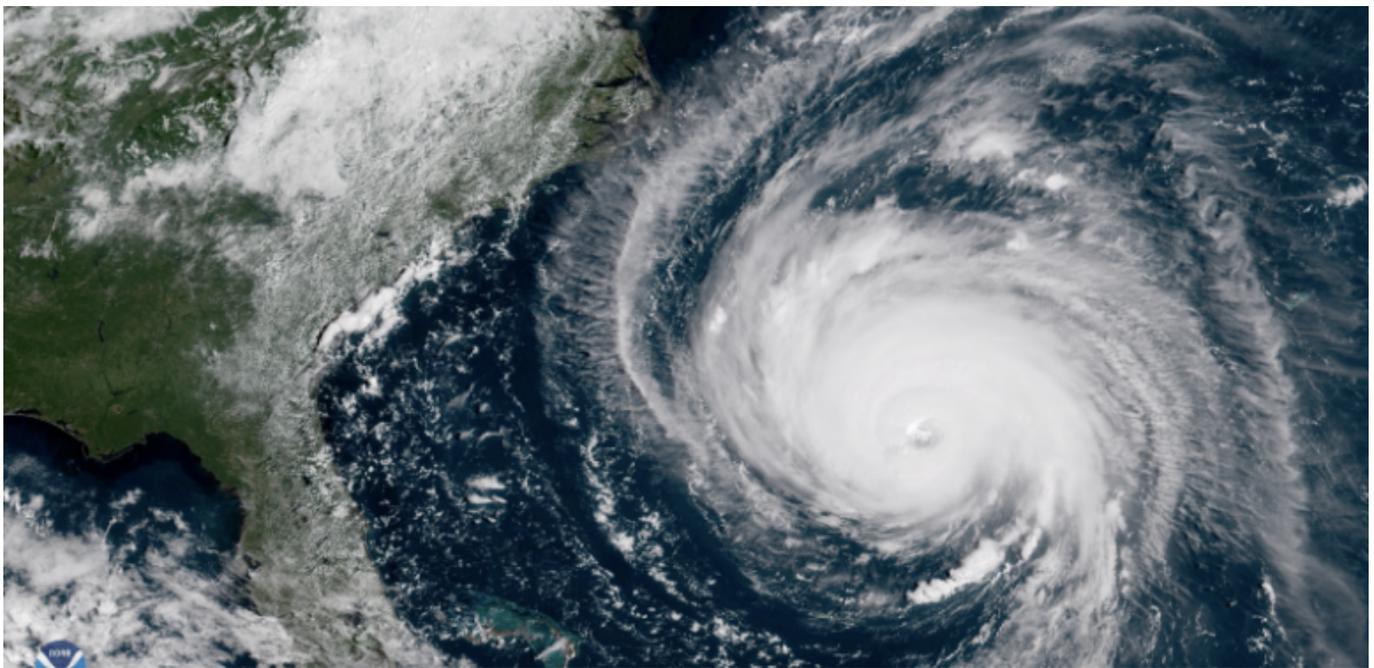


Project: How Civil Legal Help Is Vital to Recovery from Hurricane Florence (North and South Carolina & SRLN 2018)



Hurricane Florence hit North and South Carolina on Sept. 14, 2018, bringing high winds and flooding and devastating damage. Civil legal aid organizations needed to quickly identify and reach out to the most impacted individuals to provide valuable services in their time of need.

Organizations from both states reached out to SRLN to collaborate on a joint project to explain the importance of civil legal aid in a successful disaster recovery and identify which populations were most impacted. SRLN staff leveraged existing demographic data and geographic information systems (GIS) technology to rapidly

create a series of story maps to deliver much-needed information out to legal aid organizations and decision makers.

In two weeks, the SRLN team delivered a three-part series of story maps with rich, multimedia content including interactive maps, photographs, videos, and statistics describing the impacted communities. The project was funded by [North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission](#), [South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center](#), [Nelson Mullins](#), and the [South Carolina Bar Foundation](#) and supported by SRLN and [Relatable Communications Group](#). Take a look:



[Stronger than the Storm: How Civil Legal Help Is Vital to Recovery from Hurricane Florence](#)

"[GIS] wasn't originally part of our communications toolkit. But now with these maps we are able to be very specific with legislators about the need in their districts."

Jennifer Lechner, Executive Director of the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission

"This reminds me of browsing a New York Times article, which is really effective for somebody working for a nonprofit. The experience is really rich and designed for narrative storytelling."

"We have used this to show impacted areas, to support grantwriting, to support additional hiring needs to respond, to communicate with our members of the General Assembly and Governor's Office, and to help with future resource development. We hope to continue use this data to evaluate policy choices and inform strategic planning and communications."

Jennifer Simmons, Senior Projects Manager (Special Projects) of North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission

"We know many of our neighbors are struggling to recover in the aftermath of this storm. All too often the suffering left behind goes unseen, but not this time. This project has allowed us to put together an amazing resource that demonstrates the struggles of vulnerable people in our state."

"Not only will it be helpful to show the impact from this one direct need, it will also allow us to have a shelf life of really valuable information."

Sue Berkowitz, Director of South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

More information is available in the press releases from [North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission](#) and [South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center](#).

To view all of the data, maps, and apps used in this story, visit [SRLN's ArcGIS Online Group for Hurricane Florence](#).

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