



Public Library & Information Center  
*Winner National Medal for Museum and Library Service*

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## **Public Library Receives FINRA Investor Education Foundation Grant**

*Funds will expand personal finance collections to aid residents following Hurricane Florence*

Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center announced plans to expand its personal finance collections following receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation (FINRA Foundation).

The additional tools and resources will help ensure that residents have the information they need when making critical money decisions as they repair, rebuild, and clean up following Hurricane Florence.

“When disaster strikes, the community comes together,” said Library Director Jody Risacher. “We want everyone to know that the library is both a welcoming convening place and a location where our families can obtain unbiased information to guide financial choices that will have lasting impact.”

Filing claims, accessing government resources, managing lump-sum payments from insurance companies and meeting immediate expenses when income might be disrupted are just a few of the money challenges that residents in disaster areas must navigate.

FINRA Foundation President Gerri Walsh noted, “Many of us lack experience with these decisions. Nonetheless, we have to get it right the first time around or face long-term financial consequences. Fortunately, the library has information that can help.”

The FINRA Foundation is also providing the library with multimedia materials that explain the red flags of financial fraud and [what people can do](#) to be vigilant and counter the persuasion tactics that fraudsters use.

It is estimated that consumer financial fraud costs Americans more than \$50 billion a year, according to [FINRA Foundation research](#). Financial fraud is especially prevalent following major natural disasters.

Ms. Walsh observed, “Recovery follows disaster, but the path to recovery can be smooth or very bumpy. And financial fraud can be one of the biggest potholes along the road. Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center has information to help people avoid the financial potholes and bring the route to recovery into sharper focus.”

For more information on this and the free programs and services and your library, visit [www.cumberland.lib.nc.us](http://www.cumberland.lib.nc.us) or call 910-483-7727.

*The FINRA Foundation supports innovative research and educational projects that give Americans the knowledge, skills and tools to make sound financial decisions throughout life. For more than a decade, the FINRA Foundation has providing funding, staff training and programs to build the capacity of public libraries to address the financial education needs of people nationwide. Much of this has been accomplished in partnership with the American Library Association through a program known as [Smart investing @ your library](#). For more information about FINRA Foundation initiatives, visit [finrafoundation.org](http://finrafoundation.org).*

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