



Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery

February 9, 2026

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Today's Agenda

Call to Order, Introductory Remarks | *Sen. Kevin Corbin, Co-Chair*

Long-Term Economic Recovery Subcommittee Report | *David Jackson, Co-Chair, Long-Term Economic Recovery Subcommittee*

Remarks | *Governor Josh Stein*

Resilience Subcommittee Report | *Mary Roderick, Co-Chair, Resilience Subcommittee*

North Carolina Private Road and Bridge Program | Don Campbell, Division of Emergency Management, NC Department of Public Safety

Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program | David Williams, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services; Matt Safford, Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program Manager

Recovery Updates | *Matt Calabria and Emily Gangi, GROW NC*

Next Steps | *Matt Calabria, GROW NC*

Adjourn





Long-Term Economic Recovery Subcommittee Report

David Jackson, Co-Chair, Long-Term Economic Recovery
Subcommittee





Remarks

Governor Josh Stein



Resilience Subcommittee Report

Mary Roderick, Co-Chair, Resilience Subcommittee





North Carolina Private Road and Bridge Program

Don Campbell, Chief of Staff, Division of Emergency Management,
NC Department of Public Safety



Implementing Language

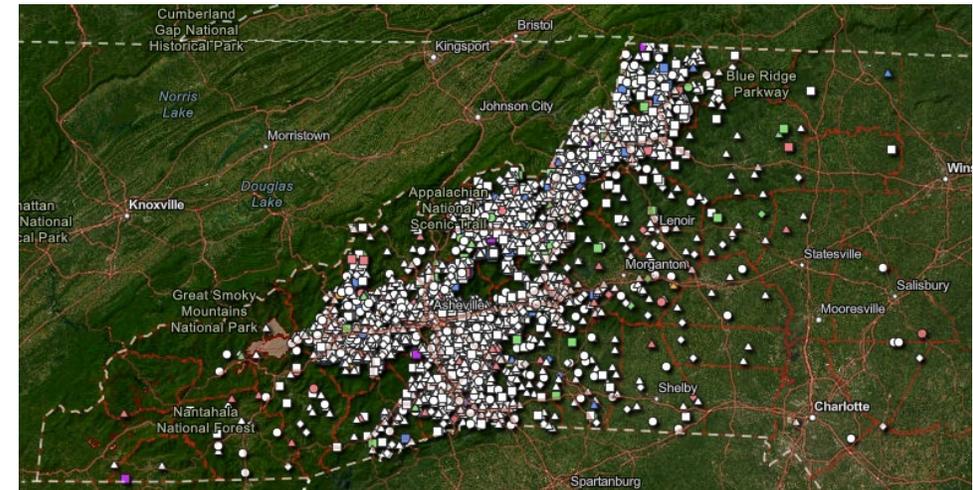


- Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 – Part 1
 - Provided \$100 Million in funding
 - Requires prioritization to sites that resolve the sole access for emergency services to residential properties occupied for over six months of the year.
 - Additional prioritization is to provide access to multiple residential, recreation, or commercial facilities
 - HOA's are responsible for 50% of costs
 - Can not duplicate benefits received by FEMA
 - Ability to provide grants to non-profits in addition to direct contracting
- Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 – Part 2
 - Added an additional \$75 Million to the program
 - \$25 Million was designated for a reimbursement program for residential sites



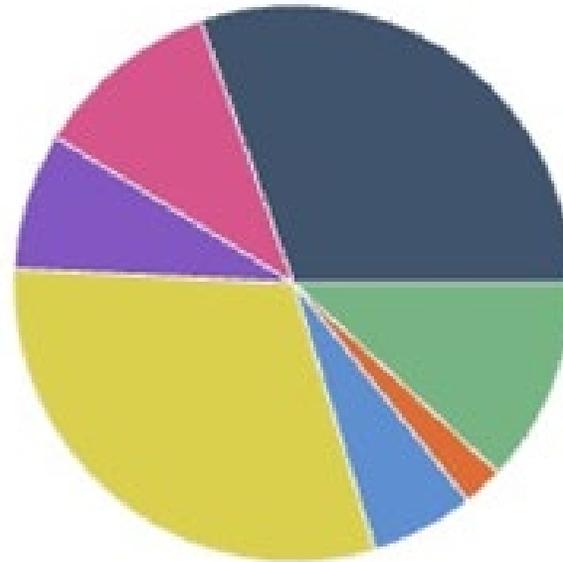
Construction Program

- Online interest forms collected 6,528 requests
- Engineering firms retained for design and program support
- Each site assessed resulting in 3,610 unique projects
- Data collected for each site based on the legislative priorities
- Estimated cost to repair / replace all unique sites is more than \$500 Million
- Sites were prioritized and categorized based on implementing legislation
- Standard designs created and complex designs in progress





Structure Type



Bridge

Bridge, Culvert

Culvert

Road

Road, Bridge

Road, Bridge,
Culvert

Road, Culvert





Construction Program

- 51 sites completed serving 248 households
 - 17 Bridges
 - 16 Roadways
 - 18 Pipes / Culverts
- 236 additional sites in progress
- Coordination and support to non-profits
- Coordination with other state programs





Reimbursement Program

- 447 requests have been received to date
- Online application period closes on 28 February 2026
- Up to 50% reimbursement for residential projects
- Can not duplicate benefits received by FEMA
- \$612,569 has been awarded serving 218 households





Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program

David Williams, Director, Division of Soil and Water Conservation,
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Matt Safford, Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program
Manager

Previous StRAP Work in WNC

- Funds from FY22 and FY24 rounds of StRAP have already helped address damages in Helene-affected counties.
- From 10/1/2024 – 2/2/2026, DSWC reimbursed \$4,590,896.51 for completed work in counties affected by Helene
 - After Helene, all StRAP grantees in Helene-affected counties were given flexibility to adjust their scope of work to focus already-awarded StRAP funds on damages caused by Helene.
 - 26 grantees have completed work on stream segments in Helene affected counties since the storm hit.



Helene Funding Overview

- **\$40 million allocated to DSWC by General Assembly**
 - Division will retain 5% (\$2 million) for program operating costs.
 - \$38 million awarded to grantees.
- **Eligible grantees:**
 - Eligible organizations in the 39 counties (and EBCI) listed in the FEMA Disaster Declaration DR-4827-NC:
 - Soil & Water Conservation Districts
 - Political subdivisions (city/county government, water/sewer district, municipal service district, sanitary district, drainage district)
 - Nonprofit Organizations
 - Damages must be caused by Hurricane Helene



Eligible Projects

- Eligible Projects: all the project types that fall under the umbrella of stream work eligible for StRAP funding
 - Stream Debris Removal
 - Streambank Stabilization
 - Stream Restoration
 - Sediment Removal (includes cobble/rocks)
 - PL-566 Small Watershed Structure Repair
 - Other projects as needed (culvert replacement, repair of non-PL-566 dams, etc.).
- Damages must have been caused by Hurricane Helene (or existing damages exacerbated by Helene).



Applications

- Multiple Batches of applications
 - Based on General Assembly’s requirement that StRAP “shall not expend funds.... On any activities that will be, or likely will be, covered by federal funds.”
 - Refers primarily to FEMA-funded projects and Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) through NRCS
 - Begin accepting applications in counties once FEMA & EWP-eligible sites are identified.

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/programs-initiatives/strap>



Application Windows

Application Window	Dates Applications Accepted	Organizations in the following counties are eligible to apply in each application window:
Application Window 1	December 8, 2025- February 20, 2026	Alexander, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Iredell, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Mecklenburg, Nash, Stanly, Surry, Swain, Union, Yadkin
Application Window 2	January 15, 2026 - March 13, 2026	Alleghany, Ashe, Buncombe, Caldwell, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford, Watauga, Wilkes
Application Window 3	Pending identification of final EWP sites (no later than 2/24)	Avery, Burke, Cleveland, Haywood, Polk, Rowan, Transylvania, Yancey, ECBI



Application Process

- Steps to application:
 1. **Disaster Assessment & Reporting Tool (DART)**
 - Applicants use DART to record information on each individual site to be included in application.
 - Originally created by DSWC after Helene to assist grantees in applying for EWP.
 2. FormSite Survey- once all sites are submitted using DART, applicants use FormSite to log organization-level information to complete application.

Encouraging organizations to coordinate through the local soil and water conservation district to avoid duplication of effort



Applications submitted to Date

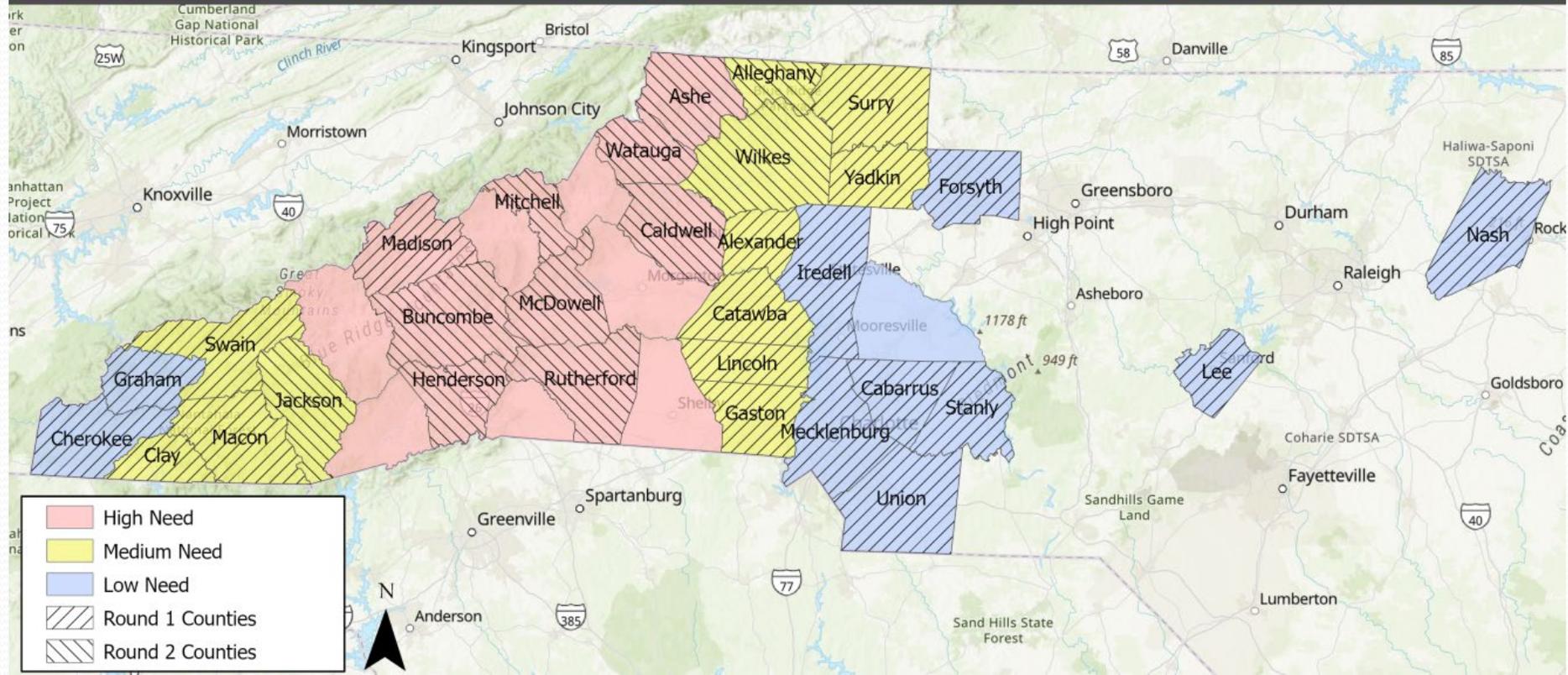
- As of 2/6/2026, 24 organizations in 19 counties have submitted applications for 125 separate stream segments.
- Applied-for work includes:
 - 33.7 miles of stream repair
 - Estimated cost of \$16.6 million
 - Would benefit:
 - 1,213 structures
 - 134 utilities
 - 17.9 miles of road
 - 3911 acres of farmland



Awards

- Per-county award caps based on need within each county
 - High Need Counties: \$1,496,250 total
 - Medium Need Counties: \$536,154 total
 - Low Need Counties: \$310,909 total

Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program



Awards

- If multiple organizations in a county apply, funds will be split based on benefits outlined in application
- DSWC will award funds based on total application - won't pick individual sites for funding.
 - Grantees will have flexibility to adjust their SOW as needed through length of project.
 - Emphasis based on locally-led project prioritization.
- Timeline: Plan to have 1st batch of awards approved at March 18th SWCC meeting.
- Contracts will last until 12/31/2028, with option for extensions as needed.





Recovery Updates

Matt Calabria, Director, GROW NC

Emily Gangi, Chief Deputy Director, GROW NC

Status of existing funding for Helene recovery



\$60 BILLION IN
DAMAGE FROM
HURRICANE
HELENE



\$7 BILLION IN
FEDERAL FUNDS
AWARDED TO
NC FOR HELENE



\$5 BILLION IN
INSURANCE
AND MORE
THAN
\$1.4 BILLION IN
PHILANTHROPIC
FUNDS FOR
RECOVERY



\$2.5 BILLION IN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
APPROPRIATIONS
AND \$592+ MILLION
IN REDIRECTED
STATE AGENCY
FUNDS

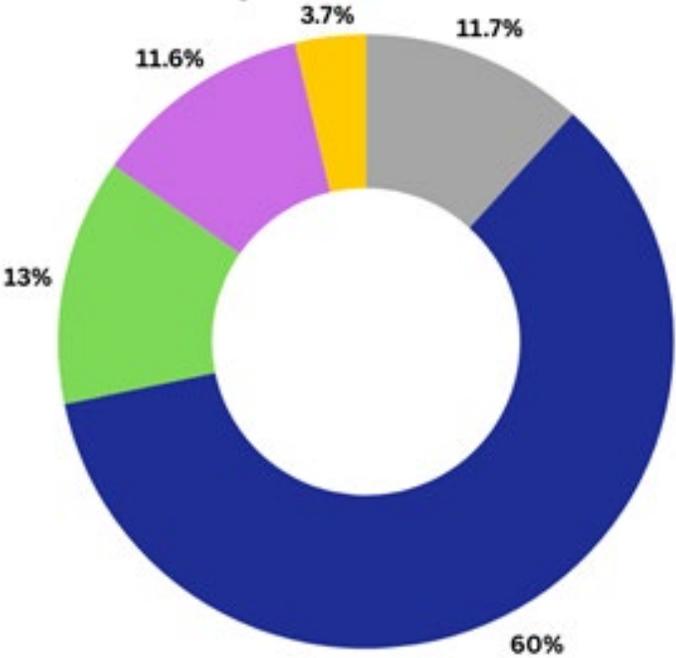
Philanthropic and private funding: GROW NC and our partners continue to pursue all available sources of financial support for Helene recovery.

At least \$1.4 billion in direct private and philanthropic support for Helene recovery

- The total impact of neighbors helping neighbors in the aftermath of this storm can never be fully quantified.
- The \$1.4 billion number shared here is a conservative estimate based on documented support by business, nonprofit, and volunteer partners.
- GROW NC continues to coordinate with the private and nonprofit sectors to fill funding gaps in the areas of housing, utility assistance, and small business support.

Largest Components of North Carolina's Congressional Request

Governor Stein's \$13.5 Billion Appropriations Request for Helene Recovery

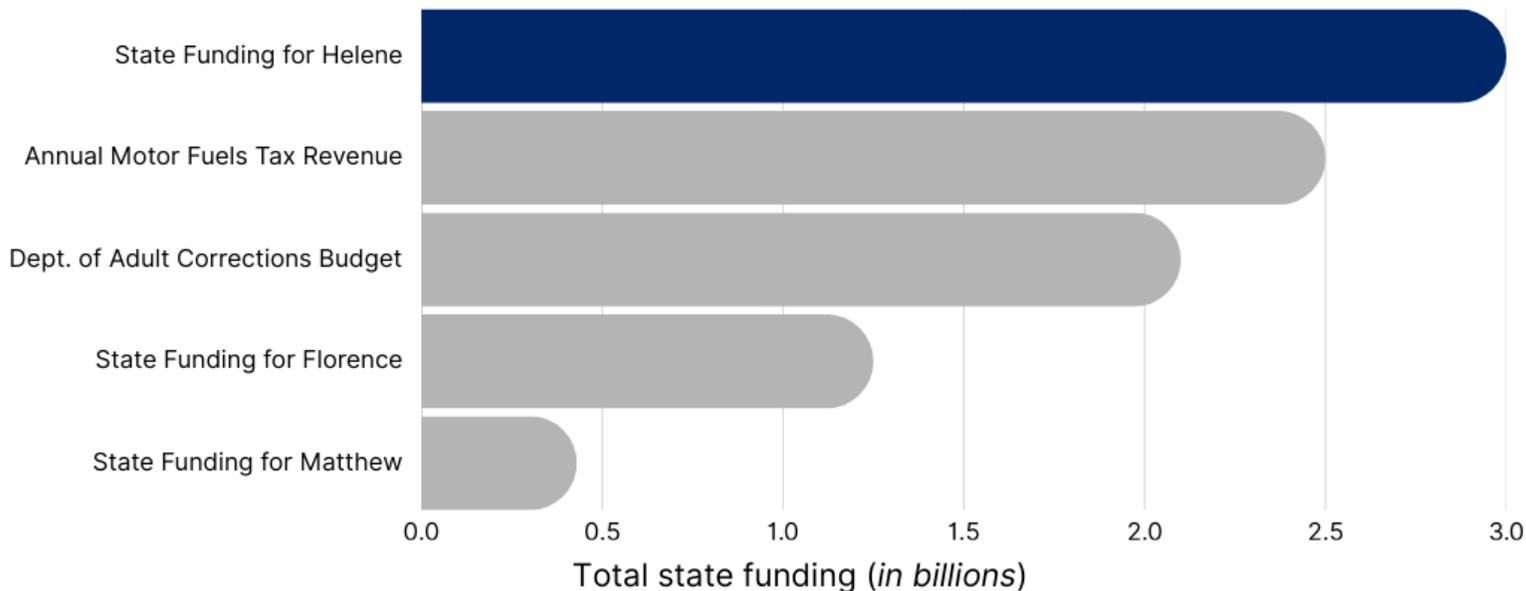


4 programs make up \$11.9 billion (88%) of North Carolina's \$13.5 billion request of Congress:

- HUD CDBG-DR: \$8.1 billion
- FEMA Community Disaster Loans: \$1.75 billion
- FHWA Emergency Relief: \$1.56 billion
- EPA Clean Water SRF: \$500 million
- Other: \$1.58 billion

State Funding: A historic \$2.5 billion in state appropriations and \$592+ million in redirected agency resources invested in Helene recovery.

A historic \$2.5 billion in state appropriations and \$592+ million in agency funding for Helene recovery



- State appropriations: \$2.5 billion appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly in the largest investment in disaster recovery in North Carolina's history
- Redirected agency resources: \$592+ million in agency resources redirected from existing uses for Helene recovery efforts, much of which will be eligible for federal reimbursement



Select State Program Updates



Lowe's Contributes \$50,000 to Support Travel Trailer and Camper Winterization

Lowe's Home Improvement has offered to provide \$50,000 to two western North Carolina organizations working to winterize travel trailers and campers.

Rebuild Haywood and The Beacon Network will each receive a gift card for \$25,000 to purchase supplies for their work installing insulation, wrapping windows, and making other winterization repairs.

- **The Beacon Network has completed winterization on more than 110 campers and paid for over 10 essential repairs projects.**
- **Rebuild Haywood has completed more than 7 winterization projects and is positioned to complete 15 more in the next couple of weeks.**

[Read More](#)



GROW NC Convenes Educators for Behavioral Health Education Forum

On January 29, educators, administrators, counselors, and social workers from NC K-12 and higher education convened at Appalachian State University for a Behavioral Health Education Forum.

Attendees learned trauma-responsive, healing centered strategies; received support for educator well-being and recovery; strengthened collaboration within school systems; and were provided tools and resources to address behavioral health and recovery needs in classrooms, homes, and on campus.



GROW NC hosted the event in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ([Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response](#)) and U.S. Department of Education, with support from the [AMY Wellness Foundation](#).

Download resources: wncrecovery.nc.gov/resilience-our-schools-and-communities/open

NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Announces \$7.6M to WNC Farmers and Growers

Commissioner Troxler on Feb. 3 announced \$7.6M in grants focused on atmospheric controls for agricultural products to benefit farmers and growers in counties affected by Hurricane Helene. Grants will help expand manufacturing and food processing capacity for the farmers and growers below:

- Apple Ridge Farms (Henderson)
- Apple Wedge Packers & Cider (Henderson)
- Blue Ridge Pure (Henderson)
- Encompass Farm (Rutherford)
- Flat Rock Cider Company (Henderson)
- Flavor 1st Growers & Packers (Henderson)
- Flavor Full Farms (Henderson)
- Foster USA (Forsyth)
- Smokey Hollar Tree Farm (Alleghany)
- WH Farms (Forsyth)



Photo courtesy: NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

[Read More](#)

Clear Filters

Crop Loss Disbursements Tracker

Data as of: 1/30/2026



\$447.97M

Grant Funds Allocated



\$275.37M

Disbursements



\$1.51M

Obligated



\$0

Refunds

County

All

Disaster Category

All

Payment Category

All

Presidential

Secretarial

Funds from Both
Declarations

Cleared Payments

7,098

\$255.69 M

Number of Payments by Status

Obligated

23

Paid

466

Cleared

7,098

0 2,000 4,000 6,000

Number of Payments by Payment Category

Crop

6,922

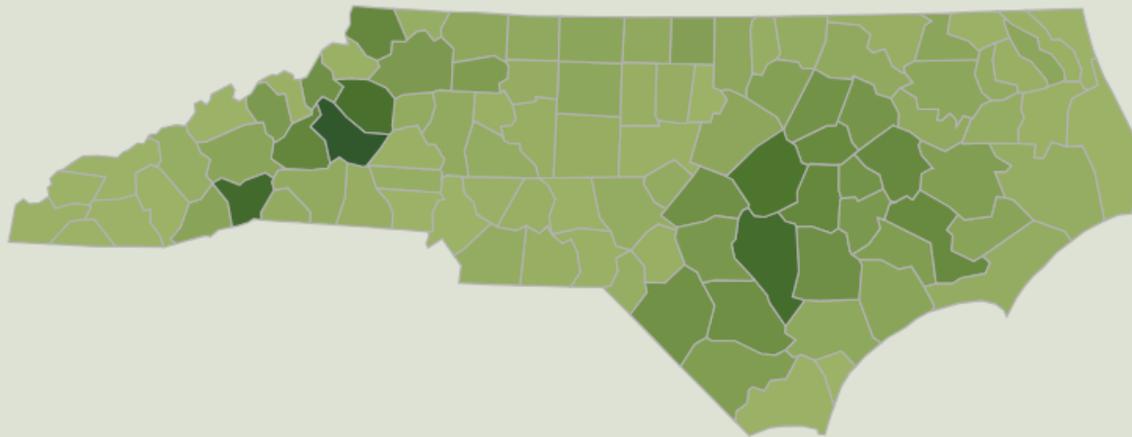
Nursery

658

Aquaculture

7

0 2,000 4,000 6,000



\$4,261

\$21,461,427

For more information: ncagr.gov/ag-disaster-dashboard



Grant Funding to Support Recycling and Waste Reduction in WNC

Supports WNC communities in rebuilding and strengthening waste reduction and recycling systems following Hurricane Helene. The program provides up to \$25M in grants over multiple phases.

Eligibility: Local governments may apply for up to \$5M per project, with no local match. Eligible projects may include but aren't limited to:

- Construction or improvement of recycling or composting facilities;
- Development of regional collection (hub-and-spoke) systems;
- Upgrades to convenience centers or household hazardous waste programs;
- Purchase of recycling trucks, containers, or carts;
- Related feasibility studies or education and outreach

Extended Deadline: February 20, 2026

For more information: bit.ly/Helene-Recycling-Infrastructure



Applications Open for NC Small Business Infrastructure Grants

Part of \$55M appropriation from the NC General Assembly to assist small businesses by expediting infrastructure repairs impacting the operation and patronage of small businesses in the affected area.

Nearly \$32 million remaining; max award per project: \$1 million

Eligibility: Local governments impacted by Hurricane Helene and designated under a major disaster declaration from Helene. Special consideration given to local governments in Tier 1 and Tier 2 Counties.

Timeline: Applications accepted on a rolling basis;
awards announced:

- June 30, 2025 – \$7.3m announced
- November 12, 2025 – \$13.8m announced

- February 28, 2026 (anticipated)
- June 30, 2026 (anticipated)



For more information: commerce.nc.gov/SmBIZ

Partners Launch NC Local Government Disaster Recovery Portal

The NC Local Government Disaster Recovery Portal is a one-stop resource to help local governments in the Helene impacted area access disaster recovery funding resources, training, and practical guidance.

The portal is a joint effort of the Southwestern Commission, Land of Sky Regional Council, High Country Council of Governments (COG), Foothills Regional Commission, Western Piedmont COG, Centralina University Local Government Training Program, the NC Assn. of County Commissioners, the NC League of Municipalities, and the UNC School of Government.

Link to the portal: ncrecoveryportal.com

The screenshot displays the NC Local Government Disaster Recovery Portal interface. It features several sections:

- Training:** "Funding and Strategies In-Person Workshop for NC Water Utilities" (Wed, Feb 11, 2026) with a "Register" button.
- Office Hours:** "Finance Office Hours" (Wed, Feb 11, 2026) at 8:30 AM.
- Funding Deadlines:** "Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) Helene" (Fri, Feb 20, 2026) and "Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grants" (Fri, Feb 20, 2026).
- Filter Options:** A sidebar with filters for Federal/State/Local/Private, Current Status (Open, Coming Soon, Maxed Out, Closed, Archived), One time or recurring?, Responsible Organization, and Assistance Type.
- Table of Funding Opportunities:** A table with columns: Name, Current Status, Responsible Organization, Assistance Type, Upcoming Application Deadline, and Who is eligible?.

Name	Current Status	Responsible Organization	Assistance Type	Upcoming Application Deadline	Who is eligible?
Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program	Open	NC Department of Commerce	Grant	Rolling	City County
Hurricane Helene State Revolving Fund (SRF) - Drinking Water and Clean Water	Open	Division of Water Infrastructure	Loan	March 2, 2026	City County Investor-owned drinking water corporations Sanitary district Units of local government Water and sewer authority
CWSRF Helene Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWTS)	Open	Division of Water Infrastructure	Loan	March 2, 2026	Nonprofits Nonprofit Water/Wastewater Corporations Units of local government
Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Grant Program - Readiness Path	Open	Economic Development Administration	Grant	Rolling	Economic Development Districts Economic development organizations Federally recognized tribes Institutions of higher education Nonprofits Public-private partnerships State governments
Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Grant Program - Readiness Path	Open	Economic Development Administration	Grant	Rolling	Economic Development Districts Economic development organizations Federally recognized tribes

Nominations Open for 2026 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

The Governor's Volunteer Service Awards acknowledge the efforts of North Carolinians and groups who make a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service.

Eligibility: An individual person or a group from the public, nonprofit, or private sector.

Nominations are sent to the award coordinator in the county where the nominee resides for review and evaluation. The nomination closing date for county award coordinators is February 27, Coordinators may select an earlier deadline for nominations. Please check with your county. A list of county award coordinators is available at the link below.



nc.gov/working/volunteer-opportunities/volunteernc/governors-volunteer-service-awards



Select Federally Supported Program Updates



Renew NC Single-Family Housing Dashboard

2/6/2026 9:34:18 AM

Latest Data Refresh

**Applications in Progress
But Not Submitted**

2,159

**Total Applications
Submitted**

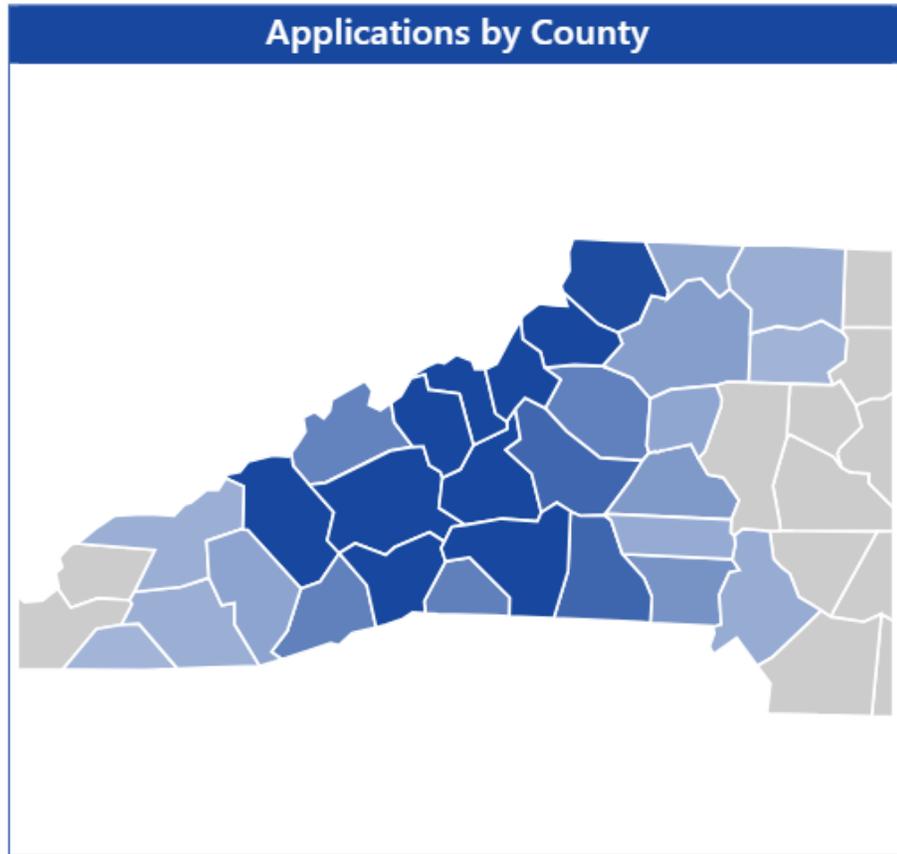
7,924

**Total Active
Applications**

4,771 ⓘ

**Inactive or Ineligible
Applications**

3,153 ⓘ



Application Submission Deadline

January 31, 2026

Verified Eligible Phase and Priority ⓘ

Phase	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Total
Phase 1	1,133	197	78	9	1,417
Phase 2	170	63	10	6	249
Phase 3	61	2	N/A	N/A	63
Phase 4	346	13	N/A	N/A	359

Hover over the information bubble for Phase and Priority definitions.

Applications will be processed beginning with Phase 1, followed by Phase 2, etc.



RENEW NC SMALL RENTAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

PROGRAM DETAILS

Eligible Properties

- 1-4 units
- Landlord-owned properties in HUD and State MID areas
- Damaged or destroyed by Helene

Award Range

\$250K - \$1.5M

Requirements

Landlords must agree to provide affordable rent rates for a 10-year period for 80% or less AMI.

Apply

- Online at www.renewnc.org
- By phone at 1-888-791-0207
- Through the app

Renew NC Small Rental Rehabilitation Program

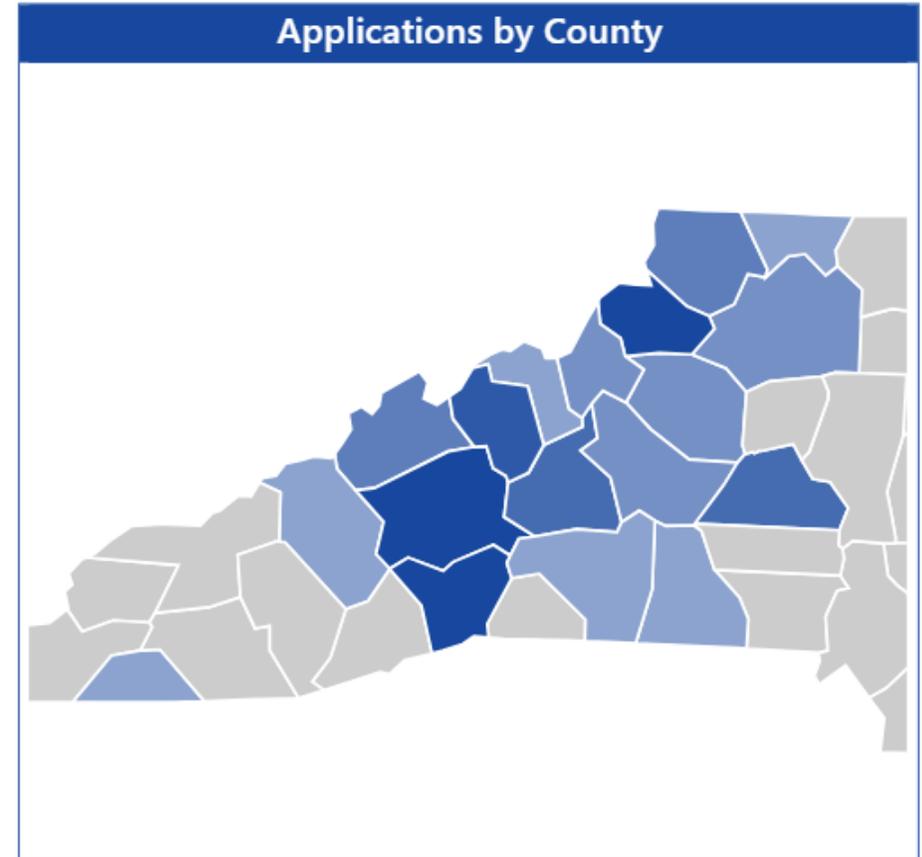
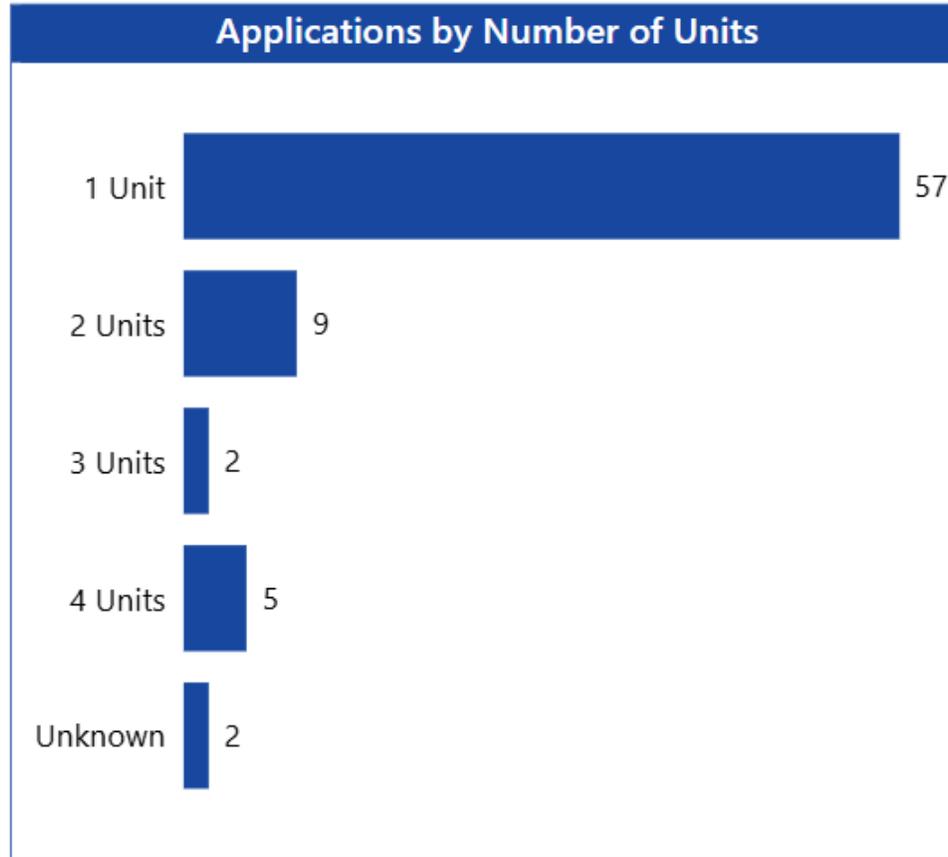
Qualifications

Do You Qualify?

- Your property has 1–4 rental units and sustained unrepaired damage from Hurricane Helene (Sept. 27, 2024).
- The property is located in a HUD- or State-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) county.
- Units are VACANT at the time of application (no evictions to qualify).
- You owned the property at the time of the storm and still own it (priority).
- You are current on property taxes or on an approved payment plan, and loan obligations, including mortgages, are current.
- You agree to lease assisted units to income-eligible households at restricted rents for 10 years.

For more information: commercerecovery.nc.gov/smallrentalrehabilitationprogram

Total Applications Submitted	75
Total Number of Units	101
Total Active Applications	69 (i)
Inactive or Ineligible Applications	6 (i)





Wrap Up and Next Steps

Matt Calabria, GROW NC

Next meeting: Friday, March 6, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
In-person location to be determined

Stay Connected

GROW NC is sharing recovery news, resources, progress metrics, and more.

