



WNC Recovery
POWERED BY GROW^{NC}

Hurricane Helene Relief and Recovery

Quarterly Report

Quarter Two, Fiscal Year 2026

February 13, 2026

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

Introduction	1
--------------------	---

HELENE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Agriculture	3
Disaster Preparedness & Hazard Mitigation	6
Economy	9
Education	13
Health Care	21
Housing	24
Human Services	28
Infrastructure	32
Local Capacity for Recovery	40
Multi-Category	49
Natural Resources	52
Other	56

APPENDICES

Other Federal Funds	57
Completed State Programs	59

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the state and federal funds dedicated to Hurricane Helene relief and recovery efforts through December 31, 2025, and how North Carolina uses those resources to aid affected communities, as required by [SL 2025-2 \(HB 47\), § 4.1\(g\)-\(h\)](#) and continued by [SL 2025-92, § 1D.1.\(g\)](#). Unless otherwise noted, this quarterly report encompasses activities from the onset of the storm through December 31, 2025.

Hurricane Helene’s Impact – \$59.6 billion

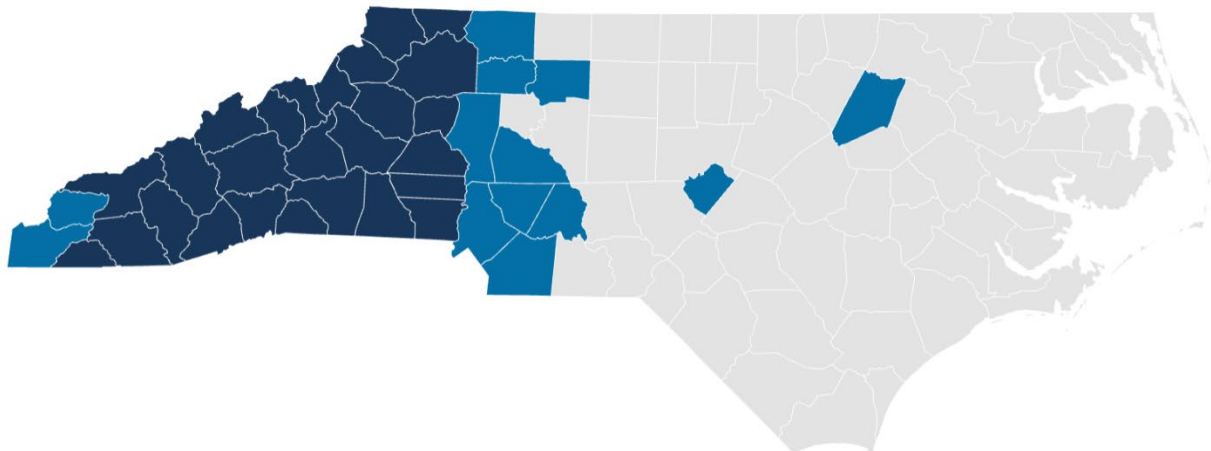
Hurricane Helene reached North Carolina on Friday, September 27, 2024, generating historic rainfall, strong winds, landslides, and tornadoes, among other weather impacts.

President Biden subsequently declared a Major Disaster, and FEMA designated 39 counties for federal disaster assistance. An estimated 4.6 million people – more than 40% of the state’s population – live in one of the designated counties. The region accounts for 45% of the state’s gross domestic product (GDP).

North Carolina Disaster Declaration - Hurricane Helene

Counties and Tribal areas qualifying for FEMA IA and PA Assistance

- Categories A-B
- Categories A-G
- No Designation



Designations as of 10/15/2024

Hurricane Helene had a significant, long-term impact on western North Carolina. In addition to the devastating loss of more than 100 lives, the storm destroyed thousands of homes and damaged tens of thousands more. Millions of North Carolinians lost access to critical services such as water and sewer, electricity, telecommunications, and health care. Thousands of miles of roads and bridges were damaged, cutting off communities and limiting access for residents, first

responders, and recovery teams. The region’s economy suffered severely, threatening livelihoods and the long-term outlook of some communities.

Estimates as of December 13, 2024, indicated that Helene caused direct damages of \$44.4 billion in the region, caused an additional \$9.4 billion in indirect or induced damages, and necessitated \$5.8 billion more for strengthening and mitigation.¹ Totaling more than \$59.6 billion across the state, these damages and needs are more than three times the \$16.7 billion impact of Hurricane Florence in 2018.

Government Funding for Recovery Efforts – \$11.4 Billion

As of December 31, 2025, more than a year after the storm, the federal government and North Carolina state government had directed approximately **\$11.4 billion** to aid western North Carolina communities in their efforts to recover from Hurricane Helene. State funding includes about **\$2.5 billion** made available by the North Carolina General Assembly following the storm. State agencies have expended significant funding from their own existing resources, including **\$1.3 billion** spent by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and at least **\$595 million** in previously appropriated funds redirected by state agencies other than NCDOT toward response and recovery work. Agencies anticipate that most of these expenditures will be eventually reimbursed by the federal government. The federal government has contributed approximately **\$7 billion** toward the recovery—around 12% of the storm’s estimated impact—including funds to state agencies and direct assistance to individuals, businesses, and local governments.

State agencies are working to deploy funding effectively and efficiently to accelerate recovery efforts. The funds provided by the General Assembly include more than \$700 million for state matching funds to draw down federal program dollars and more than \$300 million for loans to local governments or businesses. Some state appropriations require certain conditions to be met before state agencies may expend them.

Scope of Data Included

This quarterly report provides an updated overview of Hurricane Helene recovery funding, expenditures, and activities by state agencies through December 31, 2025.²

¹ Office of State Budget & Management (Dec 13, 2024). “Hurricane Helene Recovery, Revised Damage and Needs Assessment.” <https://www.osbm.nc.gov/hurricane-helene-dna/open>

² Note: We collect spending information for some third-party recipients of state funds, and we continue working to make data collection from these entities more systematic.

HELENE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Agriculture

Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Purpose: The 2024 Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Program is established to provide financial assistance to farmers with verified losses from an agricultural disaster in North Carolina in 2024. This funding is for Helene-specific damage of agriculture, aquaculture commodities, or farm infrastructure.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$3,174,037.57	\$268,000,000.00	\$707,476.43	\$65,313,184.71	\$201,979,338.86

Activities: Payments totaling more than \$65 million have “cleared” from the Helene disaster crop loss program, meaning checks were sent by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and deposited by applicants. Payments for Helene-damaged program crops, specialty crops, nursery crops, and aquaculture are continuing, while payments for Helene-damaged infrastructure will begin in 2026.

Crop and Timber Loss Supplemental Appropriation

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Purpose: The North Carolina Disaster Block Grant for Helene is for production losses not covered by USDA programs or crop insurance. The program will cover four categories of eligible losses: infrastructure damage, market losses, future economic losses, and timber losses. It will apply to the 39 counties that received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Disbursed	Federal Funds Not Yet Disbursed	Obligations as of Dec. 2025	FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$221,200,000.00	\$0.00	\$221,200,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$221,200,000.00

Activities: In September 2025, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture signed an agreement for a \$221 million block grant to aid farmers who sustained losses and damages from Hurricane Helene.

The NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services created a federally mandated work plan, which is under review by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Once the work plan is approved, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will open an application process to gather documentation of crop and farm infrastructure losses from Hurricane Helene and award grants.

North Carolina Agricultural Manufacturing and Processing Initiative Grants

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Purpose: This program funds and promotes the establishment of value-add agricultural manufacturing and food processing facilities across North Carolina. For Helene recovery, this appropriation will be applied to atmosphere-controlled projects in the affected area.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$14,000.00	\$8,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$14,000.00	\$7,986,000.00

Activities: The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services opened the application for the NC Agriculture Manufacturing and Processing Initiative (NCAMPI) program in September 2025. This application included special guidance for eligible applicants impacted by Hurricane Helene, as outlined in SL 2025-26. The application deadline for the NCAMPI program was October 3, 2025. The department announced awards on Feb. 3, 2026.

Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Purpose: Funds appropriated for purposes in the affected area authorized under the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP), which funds projects that help reduce flooding, restore streams, and protect the integrity of drainage infrastructure across North Carolina’s waterways, such as vegetative debris removal, streambank stabilization, stream restoration, and rehabilitation of critical watershed structures.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$12,811.34	\$40,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$36,538.13	\$39,963,461.87

Activities: The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services facilitates work between local governments and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, then invests Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) funds to meet unaddressed needs. The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services opened an initial round of StRAP applications for select Helene-impacted counties on December 8, 2025, with future rounds of applications to come as EWP sites are finalized.

Disaster Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation

Wildfire Assets and Preparedness

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Purpose: The North Carolina Forest Service will use this funding for contractors and equipment to respond to and fight wildfires.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$531,924.85	\$15,000,000.00	\$3,710,491.09	\$531,924.85	\$10,757,584.06

Activities: The NC Forest Service (NCFS) focused on increased capability and capacity with this funding. NCFS plans to hire four additional fire equipment operators; purchase new trucks, bulldozers, fire engines, utility terrain vehicles, and other firefighting equipment; enhance aviation capabilities with new infrared imaging and water-handling tools; and fund pre-positioned firefighter services to surge personnel to incidents.

NCFS is also bolstering physical mitigation efforts via enhanced prescribed burning capabilities, installation of fire breaks, and removal of vegetation, and is building public awareness efforts based on increased capabilities to monitor weather and educate the public about wildfire preparedness.

Landslide Hazard Mapping

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality

Purpose: Funding to conduct landslide mapping in the Helene-affected area and develop an early alert system.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$6,135.00	\$3,000,000.00	\$832,708.00	\$6,135.00	\$2,161,157.00

Activities: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Landslide Hazards Program is updating landslide susceptibility and debris flow runout models for western North Carolina.

Thirty-one North Carolinians lost their lives to landslides during Hurricane Helene. Because landslides will inevitably occur post-Helene, continuous landslide model updates will be necessary. The landslide mapping team began this work with a list of prioritized areas based on local input and now continuously updates landslide inventory mapping based on ever-changing slopes and weather events. The program is also developing a landslide early warning system to provide county emergency management with the capability to issue targeted area-specific landslide warnings, evacuation statements, and resource staging during extreme weather events.

Disaster Recovery Constituent Portal

Responsible State Agency: Department of Information Technology (DIT)

Purpose: Directs DIT to issue a request for proposals for the development of a disaster relief portal that will serve as a hub for all constituent-focused resources.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$3,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000,000.00

Activities: DIT solicited input from relevant state agencies to develop a request for proposals from vendors. The department plans to publish the request for proposals in February 2026 and accept vendor bids for evaluation.

Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety

Purpose: Provides grants to local governments for projects that reduce the risk of future damage from flooding: culvert or bridge retrofits or replacements, stormwater and drainage system improvements, relocation of at-risk infrastructure, and hardening of critical facilities and utilities.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$20,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000,000.00

Activities: The deadline for applications to the Helene-focused Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund (DRMF) was November 28, 2025. Eligible applicants are units of local government and nonprofit organizations. Funding can be used for flood mitigation, transportation infrastructure resilience against natural disasters, and engineering assistance grants to identify and design shovel-ready projects. The division expects to make award announcements in February 2026.

Economy

Small Business Recovery Bridge Loans

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce

Purpose: The allocated funds support a no- or low-interest loan program for small businesses in areas impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$50,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: The WNC Strong: Helene Business Recovery Fund is administered by Mountain BizWorks in partnership with the Golden LEAF Foundation (Golden LEAF). As of December 31, 2025, the NC Department of Commerce had distributed \$50,000,000 to Golden LEAF, which in turn allocated the full \$50,000,000 to Mountain BizWorks. Mountain BizWorks has disbursed \$47,738,361 of these funds as loan capital to small business applicants.

Overall, including state and private funds, \$56,788,621.45 has been disbursed from the program in loan capital to 965 entities, helping to retain a total of 6,953 jobs.

Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce

Purpose: This program provides grants to local governments to expedite infrastructure repairs impacting the operation and patronage of small businesses in the affected area.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$19,274.65	\$55,000,000.00	\$20,066,701.00	\$47,175.44	\$34,886,123.56

Activities: In the first round of Small Business Infrastructure grants, the Department of Commerce made nine awards totaling \$7.3 million. On November 12, 2025, the department announced a second round of 19 awards totaling \$13.8 million. Projects awarded grants will help

restore sidewalks, stormwater systems, and water and sewer lines. Future awards are anticipated in February and June 2026.

Visit NC Tourism Promotion

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce

Purpose: Provides funds to the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina’s Visit NC division to support and revitalize western North Carolina’s tourism economy.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$14,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$14,000,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: Visit NC leverages these funds to expand the reach of tourism marketing initiatives to benefit western North Carolina.

The breakdown of spending as of December 31, 2025, includes:

- Total domestic media – \$11,730,000
- Total international media – \$500,000
- Total creative production – \$811,900
- Total marketing consulting – \$645,000
- Total public relations – \$165,000
- Total research – \$148,100

Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes Disaster Relief

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Purpose: This appropriation provides one-time disaster relief grants to eligible child care providers (including child care centers, homes, and Pre-K sites) in the impacted counties and tribal communities. These restricted funds are to be utilized for capital costs, lost revenue, retention, recruitment, repairs, maintenance, or overcrowding expansion.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$10,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: DHHS transferred \$5 million to the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC), which contracts with local Smart Start Partnerships to manage the application and allocation process for the child care centers. NCPC received funds in February 2025. As of December 2025, these funds have served 6,248 children in 14 of 16 eligible counties. Local partners have until June 30, 2027, to expend the funds and are working with centers to determine needs and allocation.

Local Partner Expenditures (As of December 31, 2025):

Local Partnership ^{1,2,4,7}	Primary Counties Served	Total Award Amount	Funds Received ³	Spending to Date
Alexander Partnership for Children ⁵	Alexander	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000	\$ 50,024
Partnership of Ashe	Ashe	\$ 590,000	\$ 277,427	\$ 230,553
Blue Ridge Partnership for Children	Avery, Mitchell, Yancey	\$ 500,000	\$ 319,183	\$ 51,429
Buncombe County Partnership for Children	Buncombe	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 1,542,092	\$ 1,129,075
Burke County Smart Start Inc. ¹²	Burke	\$ 817,387	\$ 817,387	\$ 455,418
Caldwell County Smart Start: A Partnership for Young Children	Caldwell	\$ 826,835	\$ 238,418	\$ 105,856
Cleveland County Partnership for Children, Inc.	Cleveland	\$ 289,158	\$ 144,579	\$ 85,366
Partnership for Children of the Foothills ⁹	McDowell, Polk, Rutherford	\$ 112,251	\$ 112,251	\$ 112,245
Smart Start Partnership for Children	Henderson	\$ 1,100,657	\$ 550,329	\$ 209,759
Smart Start Partnership for Children ⁵	Transylvania	\$ 273,302	\$ 136,651	\$ 100,744
Madison County Partnership for Children and Families, Inc.	Madison	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Children's Council of Watauga County, Inc.	Watauga	\$ 800,000	\$ 510,692	\$ 433,565
Total		\$ 7,312,590	\$ 4,752,009	\$ 3,014,034

- 1 - Wilkes Community Partnership for Children serving Wilkes County was initially awarded \$60,000, but returned the funds to NCPC after private funding was made available to the centers in their community. These funds are being redistributed to other Local Partnerships.
- 2 - Funds were offered to the Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties serving Lincoln and Gaston Counties, but they stated there was insufficient need at the time.
- 3 - NCPC maintained \$50,000 for administration expenses.
- 4 - Region A was initially awarded \$250,000. On May 2, 2025 they requested termination of their contract after private funding was made available to centers in their community. All funds were returned to NCPC and are being redistributed to other Local Partnerships.
- 5 - Smart Start of Transylvania County transitioned organizational leadership. To facilitate the distribution of funds within the community, the Board of Directors requested the assistance of Smart Start Partnership for Children (Henderson).
- 6 - Alexander County Partnership for Children was initially allocated \$70,000. On July 2, 2025 they returned \$17,000 of their funds to NCPC after determining the maximum need for their community.
- 7 - Alleghany Partnership for Children initially received an allocation of \$26,861. After discussions with local providers, no needs were present and funds were returned.
- 8 - Caldwell County Smart Start returned \$175,000 to NCPC for redistribution to other local partnerships.
- 9 - Partnership for Children of the Foothills returned \$141,099 to NCPC for redistribution to other local partnerships.
- 12 - Burke County Smart Start - Received additional funds and had total award amount reduced to match total expected expenses.

County	Current Expenses	YTD Expenses	Total Expenses	Children Served
Alexander	\$ -	\$ 50,024.45	\$ 50,024.45	303
Ashe	\$ 49,530.47	\$ 215,319.15	\$ 230,552.91	273
Avery	\$ 285.01	\$ 5,012.48	\$ 24,694.15	86
Buncombe	\$ 35,423.12	\$ 962,878.66	\$ 1,129,074.98	2836
Burke	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 455,418.00	337
Caldwell	\$ -	\$ 105,856.19	\$ 105,856.19	472
Cleveland	\$ 6,039.43	\$ 70,114.33	\$ 85,365.59	256
Henderson	\$ 17,274.70	\$ 89,396.80	\$ 209,758.90	428
Madison	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	147
McDowell	\$ -	\$ 107,310.87	\$ 112,245.14	153
Mitchell	\$ 285.01	\$ 6,632.98	\$ 10,335.70	111
Polk	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
Rutherford	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
Transylvania	\$ (1,866.61)	\$ 100,743.69	\$ 100,743.69	82
Watauga	\$ 73,566.07	\$ 424,424.05	\$ 433,564.99	736
Yancey	\$ 285.01	\$ 1,465.29	\$ 16,399.18	28
LP Sub-Totals	\$ 180,822.21	\$ 2,139,178.94	\$ 3,014,033.87	6248
NCPC Allocation	\$ 2,057.52	\$ 23,116.32	\$ 38,722.46	
Grand Total	\$ 182,879.73	\$ 2,162,295.26	\$ 3,052,756.33	6248

As of December 31, 2025.

Dislocated Worker Grant

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Labor

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce

Purpose: To provide temporary clean-up and humanitarian jobs for eligible dislocated workers. Workers hired will be limited to working up to 12 months or up to 2,080 hours, whichever comes first. The employment and training activities include career and training services.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Disbursed	Federal Funds Not Yet Disbursed	Obligations as of Dec. 2025	FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$10,000,000.00	\$10,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,816,732.44	\$1,307,713.70	\$4,183,267.56	\$0.00

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, seven workforce development boards received funding to support 84 enrolled worksites and 326 enrolled participants in the program.

Education

Additional Mental Health Funds for Public Schools

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction

Purpose: Provides funds for mental health support for students and staff in districts and education institutions impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$187,677.54	\$5,000,000.00	\$3,004,878.20	\$1,995,121.80	\$0.00

Activities: All eligible Participating School Units (PSUs) impacted by Helene received a funding allocation. The staff hired by these funds will be deployed throughout each school district and will serve all impacted schools within that district. Funds have been budgeted and expended to provide salary and contractual services for school social workers, school counselors, health professionals, and school psychologists. As of December 31, 2025, 275 public and charter schools benefited from this funding.

Capital Recovery Funds: Public School Facilities

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction

Purpose: Funds for repair and renovation of facilities for local school administrative units and lab schools in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene. These funds are for unmet needs not covered by insurance or available federal aid.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$3,383,643.00	\$81,300,000.00	\$0.00	\$52,906,594.09	\$28,393,405.91

Activities: This program served 21 schools in eight districts with an initial appropriation of \$50,000,000. SL 2025-26 appropriated \$31,300,000 in additional funds, of which DPI distributed \$2,906,594 to schools. DPI is in the process of reviewing applications for another \$12,075,992.

Competitive Grant Program for Public School Infrastructure

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction

Purpose: Creates a competitive grant program for public schools in the impacted area to repair or replace school buildings or infrastructure damaged by the disaster. The funds are intended to support schools for damages or repairs that were denied insurance coverage and federal aid, as opposed to the broader capital recovery program administered by DPI. The maximum award amount is \$500,000.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$8,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000,000.00

Activities: The application and award process for this program is similar to “Capital Recovery Funds: Public School Facilities.” However, grant applications for this fund require documentation that the applicant’s property insurance coverage and federal disaster relief programs denied payment for the requested purpose, which causes delayed timelines for distribution. The Department of Public Instruction is accepting and reviewing applications for maximum grants of \$500,000.

School Nutrition Food, Supplies, and Equipment Loss

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction

Purpose: Funds for the repair or replacement of food nutrition equipment, food, and food nutrition supplies in public school units participating in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,469,280.29	\$3,530,719.71

Activities: The Department of Public Instruction distributed funds to public school units that serve 318 schools and 149,470 students. As of December 31, 2025, 45 schools reported expending funds. Public school units have until June 30, 2030, to expend the funds.

Technology Funds for Public Schools

Responsible state agency: Department of Public Instruction

Purpose: Funds for the replacement of school technology, particularly student and teacher devices, in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$3,779.35	\$5,000,000.00	\$296,473.65	\$533,526.35	\$4,170,000.00

Activities: The application process remains open for the program, and participating public school units expend the funding allotted to them within procurement requirements. Seven public school units and four charter schools report expending funds for this program. Public school units have until June 30, 2030, to expend the funds.

Emergency Grants for Affected Community College Students

Responsible State Agency: NC Community College System

Purpose: Grants to assist students impacted by Hurricane Helene with tuition, fees, and emergency expenses that impact a student’s ability to remain enrolled.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$33,711.00	\$11,663,029.00	\$35,256.36	\$10,243,484.96	\$1,384,287.68

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, 10,541 students received support from this program.

Expanded Mental Health Support for Affected Community College Students

Responsible State Agency: NC Community College System

Purpose: Provides funds for mental health support for students and staff at higher education institutions impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$66,189.80	\$1,250,000.00	\$4,785.56	\$459,258.79	\$785,955.65

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, 7,735 students and 2,298 staff received support through this program.

Tuition Grants for Students Attending Impacted Community Colleges

Responsible State Agency: NC Community College System

Purpose: Funds to provide grants that cover the cost of tuition and state registration fees for eligible students attending community colleges designated as having the most or medium impact by the System Office.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$20,680.00	\$1,363,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,363,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, 3,357 students benefited from this funding. A portion of this funding was reallocated by the General Assembly in Session Law 2025-26.

Community College Enrollment Stabilization

Responsible state agency: NC Community College System

Purpose: Funds to support community colleges that are located in the area impacted by Hurricane Helene and experienced enrollment declines from the 2023-2024 academic year to the 2024-2025 academic year.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$2,473,971.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,473,971.00

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, no funds have been obligated or expended for this program.

Capital Recovery for the School for the Deaf

Responsible State Agency: North Carolina School for the Deaf (NCSD)

Purpose: NCSD plans to use these funds to make repairs to infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00

Activities: The North Carolina School for the Deaf (NCSD) is compiling a project plan and following the procurement process for the scope of work that needs to be completed. NCSD anticipates that funding will be spent to repair damages to its campus caused by Hurricane Helene by June 2026.

Private Colleges Capital Recovery

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management

Purpose: Funds will be used to support capital recovery costs and repair damages to the six identified institutions: Brevard, Gardner-Webb, Lees-McRae, Lenoir-Rhyne, Mars Hill, and Montreat.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$3,500,000.00	\$4,250,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,500,000.00	\$750,000.00

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, the identified institutions are in various stages of receiving quotes, hiring contractors, and utilizing funds to meet needs. Funds will be used on multiple projects across campuses to repair damage caused by Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures by College as of December 31, 2025:

- Lees-McRae College: \$1,500,000

Obligations by College as of December 31, 2025:

- Gardner-Webb: \$144,135.59

Tuition Grants for Students Attending UNC Asheville

Responsible State Agency: University of North Carolina at Asheville

Purpose: Funds to provide grants that cover the cost of tuition for eligible students.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$417,995.79	\$5,500,000.00	\$37,250.00	\$4,291,572.79	\$1,171,177.21

Activities: Awards issued to 1,468 students in Spring 2025, 1,121 in Summer 2025, 418 in Fall 2025, and 350 obligated in Spring 2026 for a total of 3,357 awards as of December 31, 2025. Remaining funds are obligated for continued student assistance.

UNC System Schools Capital Recovery

Responsible State Agency: University of North Carolina System

Purpose: To disburse grants to Western Carolina University, Appalachian State University, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and the North Carolina Arboretum to repair, replace, renovate, or construct buildings or infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene and for resiliency and hazard mitigation projects on campus property to prepare for future disasters.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$6,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000,000.00

Activities: Institutions provided plans for utilization to the UNC System Office. These investments will focus on improving emergency communication and response capabilities, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring continuity of operations in the face of extreme weather events. The initial campus plans were approved by the UNC Board of Governors in September 2025, and the UNC System Office transferred the funds to the institutions. The setup of the capital projects is in progress as of December 31, 2025.

Yancey County Schools Capital Recovery

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction

Purpose: Transfer \$25,000,000 in interest earned from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund to Yancey County for public school repair and replacement. Project must have been denied by insurance and FEMA.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$25,000,000.00	\$25,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Activities: The Yancey County Board of Education voted unanimously in August 2025 to spend the appropriated funds on an elementary school to replace the losses of Micaville and Clearmont elementary schools to the devastating floods from Hurricane Helene. As of December 31, 2025, Yancey County Schools is working with FEMA and insurance to ensure maximum utilization of all funding sources.

Warren Wilson College Damage Repair

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management

Purpose: Funds will be used to support capital recovery costs and repair damages at Warren Wilson College.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, the college has received the full \$1.5 million from OSBM and is in the process of receiving quotes, hiring contractors, and utilizing funds to meet needs. Funds will be used on multiple projects across campus to repair damage caused by Helene. The College has expended \$32,862.71 so far.

UNC Asheville Capital Recovery and Mitigation

Responsible State Agency: University of North Carolina System

Purpose: Funding to the UNC Board of Governors to disburse a grant to UNC Asheville for an additional Helene Fund Grant appropriation to repair, replace, renovate, or construct buildings or infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene, and for resiliency and hazard mitigation on campus property to prepare for future disasters.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00

Activities: The UNC System Office is working with the university to identify and set up capital projects.

Health Care

Crisis Counseling Regular Services Program

Federal Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose: This second phase of the FEMA Crisis Counseling Grant Program provides funding for mental health services to individuals and communities affected by natural and human-caused disasters for up to nine months after the presidential disaster declaration.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Disbursed	Federal Funds Not Yet Disbursed	Obligations as of Dec. 2025	FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$9,709,292.07	\$2,593,843.62	\$7,115,448.45	\$2,033,849.00	\$688,144.22	\$2,593,843.62	\$5,081,599.45

Activities: The FEMA Crisis Counseling Grant provides funding for the Hope4NC program, which assists individuals in communities recovering from Hurricane Helene’s devastating impacts. As of December 31, 2025, the grant provided more than 90,500 in-person contacts and answered nearly 14,500 hotline calls. Services include:

- Individual Crisis Outreach and Support
- Group Crisis Outreach
- Public Education
- Community Networking and Support
- Assessment, Referral, and Resource Connections
- Media Campaigns and Outreach Programs

North Carolina filed for and has received two no-cost extensions of the program to allow the services to continue through at least April 24, 2026.

Local Health Department Support

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose: Funds to assist Local Health Departments (LHDs) in counties under a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene with restoring essential functions, including temporary staffing, communicable disease and infection prevention efforts, environmental health efforts, and private well water quality efforts.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$1,025,960.13	\$12,000,000.00	\$9,553,197.16	\$2,446,802.84	\$0.00

Activities: Funds were allocated to all Local Health Departments in the impacted area, and 18 LHDs accepted funds. As of December 31, 2025, 16 LHDs expended funds to serve a total of 20 counties for staffing, emergency supplies, repairs, and equipment. The remaining impacted counties declined funds for reasons such as no disruption or little to no impact on essential public health functions, services, or programs. LHDs have until May 31, 2030, to expend the funds and until June 30, 2030, to draw down funds for reimbursement.

Local Health Department	Allocated Funds	Expended Funds
Appalachian Health District	\$ 1,266,033.00	\$ 575,475.00
Buncombe	\$ 2,166,210.00	\$ 931,834.05
Burke	\$ 849,691.00	\$ 188,450.00
Caldwell	\$ 800,010.00	\$ 9,102.08
Clay	\$ 245,610.00	\$ -
Cleveland	\$ 434,610.00	\$ 22,314.47
Foothills Health District	\$ 1,210,862.00	\$ 52,585.36
Graham	\$ 226,459.00	\$ 101,713.91
Haywood	\$ 667,530.00	\$ 132,540.25
Henderson	\$ 1,064,970.00	\$ 60,781.66
Jackson	\$ 316,170.00	\$ 64,232.54
Macon	\$ 301,050.00	\$ 8,516.24
Madison	\$ 369,451.00	\$ 43,167.46
Polk	\$ 361,171.00	\$ 46,981.56
Swain	\$ 250,650.00	\$ -
Toe River Health District	\$ 664,382.00	\$ 41,474.07
Transylvania	\$ 452,251.00	\$ 59,612.88
Yancey	\$ 352,890.00	\$ 108,021.31
Total	\$ 12,000,000.00	\$ 2,446,802.84

Mental Health Crisis Supports and Support for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose: Funds to strengthen behavioral health supports to ensure the Division of Mental Health can adequately respond to the expected rise in behavioral health needs of the more than 4 million individuals in the impacted counties, including crisis care, detoxification, and continued access to telehealth.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$1,336,080.88	\$25,000,000.00	\$16,499,999.07	\$7,047,327.02	\$1,452,673.91

Activities: Behavioral health crises tend to increase beginning six months after a disaster and into the recovery period. Helene-impacted areas report a continued increase in the number of residents seeking mental and behavioral health support. Funds are being used to provide services through more than 20 programs, including

- counseling services and supports for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals;
- transitional housing, employment, and mental health/substance use services for veterans;
- support for federally qualified health centers to increase the amount of mental health support services they can offer;
- mobile units to support substance use treatment;
- expanded peer support center services;
- critical incident debriefing and counseling for first responders;
- crisis services and counseling for children and families;
- disaster preparedness training for group homes and organizations that support vulnerable populations;
- critical incident training and stress management for Division of Social Services employees;
- school-based mental health support;
- mental health crisis intervention, response, and counseling services;
- summer trauma recovery camps for children and families; and
- transition to community living.

While a significant portion of the funding is obligated to local partners through letters of allocation, delayed invoice submission for reimbursement from the local partners results in an actual expenditures lag. All funds are obligated, and DHHS anticipates spending down the remaining funds by June 2026.

Housing

Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH)

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose: The RUSH Program serves people experiencing or at risk of homelessness whose needs are not otherwise served or fully met by other federal disaster relief programs. RUSH funding can be used to provide emergency shelter, rapid rehousing with up to 24 months of rental assistance, move-in financial aid, and supportive services for those already experiencing homelessness before the disaster. It can also be used for rental and utility assistance, supportive services, and outreach to help individuals at risk of homelessness stabilize their housing situations.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Disbursed	Federal Funds Not Yet Disbursed	Obligations as of Dec. 2025	FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$4,910,417.00	\$625,493.12	\$4,284,923.88	\$4,284,923.88	\$201,055.75	\$625,493.12	\$0.00

Activities: The state received two allocations of funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The first allocation of immediate funding for \$3 million and the second allocation of \$1.9 million are fully obligated to partners by the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Awards were made to 14 subrecipients, and 12 subrecipients have programs in operation. Two subrecipients are in the contracting process. From the awards made, there are three street outreach programs, five shelter programs, eight rapid rehousing programs, and five homelessness prevention programs. The lack of available, affordable housing impacts the timeline for expending funds. The program lasts until October 31, 2026.

Weatherization Assistance

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Purpose: Funds to supplement existing federal funds – North Carolina’s Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) – for weatherization services in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene. Weatherization reduces utility bills and energy costs and increases home safety.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$357,032.55	\$10,000,000.00	\$9,629,311.21	\$370,688.79	\$0.00

Activities: Many homes damaged by Hurricane Helene need minor repairs (like a roof patch or structural fix) before they can qualify for rebates for comprehensive energy-saving upgrades. This program covers those pre-weatherization repairs. DEQ allocated \$6 million to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to manage pre-weatherization. DEQ also allocated \$4 million to 10 weatherization providers in western North Carolina. The program’s goal is to serve 575 households.

Ongoing Repair and Reconstruction (Volunteer Organizations)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety

Purpose: Grants to volunteer organizations actively involved in actual and ongoing repair and reconstruction projects from Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$1,081,051.97	\$28,000,000.00	\$9,900,000.00	\$1,081,051.97	\$17,018,948.03

Activities: The Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management issued a notice of funding opportunity and received applications for the initial \$10 million appropriated to this grant program. Awards were issued in August 2025, and 14 organizations accepted the awards for a total of \$9.4 million. An additional \$500,000 was granted to two organizations in December 2025 to support winterization efforts of impacted homes. Those funds are obligated to the organizations and expended on a reimbursement basis. Organizations began work on their projects.

SL 2025-26 appropriated an additional \$18 million to this program. The application for those funds closed on December 31, 2025. Awards will be made in the first quarter of 2026.

Private Road and Bridge Repair

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety

Purpose: For the repair and replacement of private roads, culverts, pipes, and bridges damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Helene. The department shall prioritize applications for the repair and replacement of private roads or bridges that provide the sole option for ingress and egress for (i) emergency services to a residential property that is occupied by the owner for more than six months of the calendar year, (ii) multiple residential homes, or (iii) recreation or commercial facilities. These funds may be used for program costs incurred for the engineering, design, and construction of private roads, culverts, pipes, and bridges and funding to nonprofit organizations supporting bridge repairs. These funds may also be used to provide technical support and assistance for individuals and local governments to comply with no-rise certification requirements required by FEMA under the National Flood Insurance Program.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$12,004,750.96	\$175,000,000.00	\$61,499,330.52	\$24,262,914.53	\$89,237,754.95

Activities: Approximately 6,500 interest forms were submitted through the state’s Private Road and Bridge program online interest portal. Review of these forms uncovered a significant number of duplicate forms, therefore, approximately 3,650 unique sites are in the program queue. Duplication occurred because multiple residents served by the same damaged road or bridge submitted interest forms.

All sites in the Private Road and Bridge program have been assessed and cost estimates produced for each site. The estimated cost for repair or replacement of all sites is more than \$500 million. The overall cost estimate will adjust as more actual costs become available. Approximately half of the sites require private road repair, a quarter require private bridge repair/replacement, and another quarter require repair/replacement of privately owned pipes and culverts.

Construction is underway: 49 sites completed construction, 12 sites are in progress, 109 sites are assigned for construction (meaning contractors will begin work as soon as they are available), 39 sites are in pre-construction and do not require design work, and 37 bridge sites deemed particularly complex are in the design phase of pre-construction. Using available funding and prioritization guidelines set by the North Carolina General Assembly, 85% of the private road and bridge sites selected are in development or complete.

SL 2025-26 appropriates \$25 million for reimbursement of private roads and bridges repaired by western North Carolina property owners. A reimbursement portal opened on September 1, 2025,

and will close on February 28, 2026. The reimbursement program has received 429 submissions totaling requested reimbursements of \$7 million.

Human Services

Child Welfare Essential Services

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose: This program distributes funds to county departments of social services in the impacted counties to provide essential services and support to children involved in the child welfare system who were impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$3,000,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$2,700,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: The department distributed nearly all funding to county departments of social services but held \$300,000 in reserve for counties outside of the declared disaster area that may be impacted if they had children placed with families in one of the affected counties.

A total of 25 counties have access to funds, and 15 of those 25 counties expended allocated funds. So far, 2,439 households have been served by the program.

These funds have been used to provide funding to replace essential items that children and families receiving child welfare services lost during the disaster and to provide support for children and impacted families that reduces the risk of maltreatment and prevents entry into foster care. FEMA, insurance, and other funds (such as community donations) assisted families early on, but more needs materialize as these resources are exhausted.

County	Child Welfare Allocation
Alexander	\$33,525
Alleghany	\$18,051
Ashe	\$92,266
Avery	\$63,757
Buncombe	\$769,011
Burke	\$132,323
Caldwell	\$111,245
Catawba	\$65,085
Clay	\$13,220
Cleveland	\$70,525
Gaston	\$57,085
Haywood	\$193,427
Henderson	\$174,422
Jackson	\$23,271
Lincoln	\$23,746
Macon	\$19,475
Madison	\$26,133
McDowell	\$78,095
Mitchell	\$62,763
Polk	\$147,017
Rutherford	\$252,627
Transylvania	\$65,139
Watauga	\$42,017
Wilkes	\$39,576
Yancey	\$59,199
Other*	\$367,000
Total	\$3,000,000

*State allocated to support the other 75 counties with clients placed in one of the 25 impacted counties.

Essential Services for Vulnerable Adults

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose: Supports individuals receiving adult protective services or guardianship services, helping vulnerable adults remain in their communities following the impact of Hurricane Helene, reducing institutionalization, and ensuring their essential needs are met.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$1,400,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$1,260,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: The Department of Health and Human Services distributed nearly all funding to county departments of social services. The remaining \$140,000 not distributed provides a reserve for the 75 counties outside of the declared disaster zone that had individuals in guardianship in the 25 affected counties.

As of December 31, 2025, 1,249 households have been served by the funds. All funds are expected to be expended by January 2026.

County	Adult Services Allocation
Alexander	\$14,503
Alleghany	\$4,825
Ashe	\$90,086
Avery	\$16,545
Buncombe	\$233,618
Burke	\$151,441
Caldwell	\$41,806
Catawba	\$79,272
Clay	\$6,573
Cleveland	\$61,202
Gaston	\$26,656
Haywood	\$63,812
Henderson	\$174,625
Jackson	\$8,951
Lincoln	\$9,650
Macon	\$6,734
Madison	\$18,270
McDowell	\$65,994
Mitchell	\$34,724
Polk	\$111,269
Rutherford	\$28,356
Transylvania	\$65,542
Watauga	\$9,724
Wilkes	\$7,370
Yancey	\$65,452
Other*	\$3,000
Total	\$1,400,000

*State allocated to support the other 75 counties with clients placed in one of the 25 impacted counties.

Line of Duty Death Benefits

Responsible State Agency: Department of State Treasurer

Purpose: Allocates funds to the Department of State Treasurer to pay line of duty death benefits to the dependents of public safety employees in counties with a Helene federal disaster declaration.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$300,000.00

Activities: These funds are administered by the State Treasurer in accordance with guidance from the Industrial Commission. Of the \$500,000 appropriated for line of duty death benefits in Helene-affected counties, \$200,000 has been expended for two awards.

Infrastructure

Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds Helene Supplemental

Federal Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality

Purpose: The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds offer low-interest loans to state and local governments for a variety of water quality projects.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Disbursed	Federal Funds Not Yet Disbursed	Obligations as of Dec. 2025	FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$685,613,000.00	\$0.00	\$685,613,000.00	\$356,336,993.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$329,276,007.00

Activities: In September 2025, the State Water Infrastructure Authority (SWIA) approved the first loans for eligible drinking water and wastewater systems in Helene-impacted communities. Fourteen loans totaling approximately \$86 million were awarded by SWIA. North Carolina was the first among Helene-impacted states to award EPA Disaster State Revolving Funds. In December 2025, SWIA made another 58 awards in 26 western North Carolina counties, totaling approximately \$270 million. Applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis until March 2, 2026, and awards will be made in SWIA meetings in February and April 2026.

Dam Safety Grants

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality

Purpose: The Dam Safety Grant Fund will issue grants to eligible dam owners for the purpose of dam repair, modification, or removal if the dam was damaged by a natural disaster. The Department of Environmental Quality will prioritize grants that serve as the state match to FEMA High-Hazard-Potential Dams eligible projects.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$10,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000,000.00

Activities: DEQ opened applications for the Dam Safety Grant Fund on October 13, 2025. DEQ assessed that approximately 40 dams in western North Carolina are eligible applicants based on the guidelines of the grant fund. The application submission deadline was December 12, 2025. The earliest anticipated announcement of funding selection is March 2, 2026, though the announcement date may be extended based on the number of complete and/or incomplete applications received.

Emergency Loans for Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Repair

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality

Purpose: The General Assembly appropriated \$100 million to provide emergency bridge loans to local government units in counties with a federal disaster declaration for water and wastewater infrastructure repairs.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$6,210,991.10	\$75,000,000.00	\$62,965,881.33	\$12,034,118.67	\$0.00

Activities: SL 2025-26 reallocated \$25 million from this program for other use. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) awarded loans totaling \$75 million to approximately 20 local governments in western North Carolina. Local governments have individual control of when to begin drawing down loans. The DEQ anticipates more requests for more emergency loans for water/wastewater infrastructure, as well as requests from awardees to expand their loan amounts. SL 2025-26 adjusted the loan terms to make them more favorable for local governments. The maximum loan amount is \$3 million.

Underground Storage Tank Repair

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality

Purpose: To provide emergency bridge loans to owners and operators of commercial underground storage tanks for testing and repair of that infrastructure in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$300,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$681,637.00	\$854,136.35	\$464,226.65

Activities: SL 2025-26 reallocated \$20 million from this program for other uses. The Department of Environmental Quality awarded loans to all eligible applications. The department distributed notice letters to potential loan recipients, visited 35 sites in western North Carolina to meet with owners and operators, and reached out to inform more than 3,800 facilities about the loan program.

Railroad Repair Funds

Responsible State Agency: Department of Transportation

Purpose: Temporarily reclaims NC Railroad Dividend to be deposited in the Highway Fund. Dividend represents 25 percent of the company’s prior year income. In FY 26, appropriations of this dividend are as follows: \$2 million to Blue Ridge Southern Railroad, \$2 million to Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, and \$600,000 to the Department of Transportation. (The \$600,000 is reflected in the Transportation Infrastructure Repair entry in this report.)

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$2,000,000.00	\$4,000,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: The Department of Transportation signed grant agreements with both Blue Ridge Southern Railroad and Great Smoky Mountains Railroad to facilitate the disbursement of funding. The funds for Great Smoky Mountains Railroad were disbursed in December 2025, and funds for Blue Ridge Southern Railroad are anticipated to be disbursed in February 2026. The dividend payment from NC Railroad was received by the Department of Transportation.

Aerial Asset Accessibility Grant Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety

Purpose: This funding provides grants for airports damaged by Hurricane Helene. The maximum grant is \$5 million per eligible recipient.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$25,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000,000.00

Activities: The Department of Public Safety recently filled a newly created, state-funded long-term recovery coordinator position, which will administer this program and other state-funded grant programs within the Department of Public Safety.

Floodplain Mapping

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety

Purpose: Funds floodplain mapping in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene. The funds will be used to revise existing floodplain maps according to new data and imagery that will capture changes in the region such as new high-water marks.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Activities: The Department of Public Safety is developing new models, incorporating new post-Helene LIDAR data along with high-resolution rainfall, stream gauge, and storm damage data to identify areas for future updates to flood zones for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulatory digital flood insurance rate maps, in coordination with affected local communities. The new flood hazard data will also support building-level risk assessments and the evaluation of mitigation strategies, aiding local rebuilding efforts. Updated modeling will focus on watersheds that received the heaviest rainfall and where significant channel migration occurred.

The department used this funding for post-processing of LIDAR mapping scans, which provide critical input for updating the state’s floodplain mapping, understanding shifts that occurred due to Helene, and evaluating how flood risks evolved as a result. LIDAR map processing occurs in two stages. The first stage – which is a 2D base level elevation map – became available to counties in 2025 as completed. The second stage, which requires FEMA input and approval, will take longer to complete.

Debris and Sediment Removal

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management

Purpose: Funding for state agencies and units of local government for debris and sedimentation removal unmet needs.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$20,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,500,000.00	\$7,500,000.00

Activities: The Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) distributed funds to NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), and NC Department of Public Safety (DPS) for debris removal unmet needs.

DEQ allocated funds to:

- MountainTrue, a nonprofit conservation organization, to conduct waterway debris removal of smaller streams and tributaries across western North Carolina;
- Haywood Waterways Association, a nonprofit organization, to support clean-up and restoration efforts in the Pigeon River Watershed; and
- Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council to pilot the use of mobile equipment that converts downed trees into biochar, a soil-enhancing carbon product that may benefit farmland damaged by Helene and will help remove hazardous woody debris, lower wildfire risks, and improve soil health.

DNCR uses funding to pay for debris removal operations on state parks in western North Carolina that were denied FEMA Public Assistance Category A (debris removal) funding.

DPS continues collaboration with FEMA to gain a better understanding of which debris removal operations will not be covered by federal reimbursement through FEMA before deciding how to use these funds.

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

Responsible State Agency: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Purpose: Funds can be used for the state parks system or state recreational forests.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$7,962,500.00	\$7,962,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Activities: The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is using this portion of funding in the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for capital projects, for repair and renovation of park facilities damaged by Hurricane Helene, and for land acquisition. This funding is for projects that are not eligible for FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement.

Hurricane Helene Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Information Technology

Purpose: To award grants to eligible entities to purchase installation materials for satellite internet service. Installation materials and internet service must be for the grantee’s own use and not for distribution to other parties. No portion of funds granted under this section shall be used for internet service subscriptions.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$20,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000,000.00

Activities: The Department of Information Technology will prioritize grant applicants that operate in one of the 39 counties designated as a disaster area due to Hurricane Helene and may also prioritize applicants that offer emergency services, disaster relief, educational services, or economic development.

Broadband Recovery Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Information Technology

Purpose: To provide grants to help internet service providers rebuild and repair broadband infrastructure destroyed by Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$50,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000,000.00

Activities: The Broadband Recovery Program prioritizes funding for the restoration of broadband service. Applications for the Broadband Recovery Program were due on November 24, 2025, and the Department of Information Technology received applications for more than \$143 million. The department plans to make awards by the end of April 2026.

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks

Federal Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality

Purpose: This federal award from the Environmental Protection Agency provides funding for the Department of Environmental Quality’s Leaking Underground Storage Tank program, primarily for corrective action.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Disbursed	Federal Funds Not Yet Disbursed	Obligations as of Dec. 2025	FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$14,250,000.00	\$28,422.55	\$14,221,577.45	\$0.00	\$28,423.00	\$28,423.00	\$14,221,577.00

Activities: This corrective program investigates suspected petroleum releases and performs corrective action on these releases. Sites affected by Hurricane Helene will be assessed and based upon their condition. The Department of Environmental Quality will clean up the Underground Storage Tank (UST) releases and/or provide oversight of corrective action, site-specific corrective action, and enforcement.

Fiber Network Restoration

Responsible State Agency: Department of Information Technology

Purpose: SL 2025-97 directs funds from the Stop-Gap Solutions – Federal Broadband Funds to MCNC, a nonprofit organization.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$12,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000,000.00

Activities: MCNC will use these funds to rebuild and reinforce fiber networks impacted by Hurricane Helene that can be completed by December 31, 2026.

Transportation Infrastructure Repair

Responsible State Agency: Department of Transportation

Purpose: The General Assembly authorized the Department of Transportation to use up to \$423,761,418 of previously appropriated state funds for transportation infrastructure repair and reconstruction, state cost share for eligible federal funding, and aid for the department's cash flow. This funding is composed of the following:

- \$125 million from the Transportation Emergency Reserve
- Up to \$270 million in Credit Balance Funds
- \$28,161,418 in unexpended Hurricane Dorian funds
- \$600,000 from the NC Railroad Dividend

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$423,761,418.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$423,761,418.00

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, the Department of Transportation had spent \$1.29 billion of existing operational funds on Hurricane Helene recovery. The department has not yet used the funding made available for Helene recovery by the General Assembly. As of December 31, 2025, the department estimates \$5.8 billion in total transportation costs for Hurricane Helene recovery.

Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program

Federal Agency: Federal Highway Administration

Responsible State Agency: Department of Transportation

Purpose: These federal funds reimburse the state for costs associated with damage to roads and bridges in the National Highway System. North Carolina received authorization for \$1.9 billion in reimbursements from the Emergency Relief program. As of December 31, 2025, the Department of Transportation had spent \$1.29 billion of existing operational funds on Hurricane Helene recovery. As of December 31, 2025, the department estimates \$5.8 billion in total transportation costs for Hurricane Helene recovery.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Disbursed	Federal Funds Not Yet Disbursed
\$ 1,900,000,000.00	\$ 239,446,466.00	\$ 1,660,553,534.00

Activities: The Emergency Relief program provides spending authority from which the NC Department of Transportation may seek reimbursement. As of December 31, 2025, the Federal Highway Administration reimbursed approximately \$241.2 million for Helene-related purposes.

Local Capacity for Recovery

Technical Assistance for Assessments and Design

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality

Purpose: Allocates funds to provide technical assistance to local government units in counties with a federal disaster declaration for assessment and design of water and wastewater infrastructure repair, including the feasibility of regionalization.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$509,177.25	\$7,000,000.00	\$5,688,261.13	\$1,311,738.87	\$0.00

Activities: The Department of Environmental Quality provided 19 technical assistance grants to local governments for preliminary engineering as part of their emergency bridge loans, which could also apply to preparation for the federal Environmental Protection Agency State Revolving Fund allocation for repair of water infrastructure. Another 14 technical assistance grants have

been obligated to local governments to assess and/or design interconnections for resiliency with other local government partners.

State and Local Government Unmet Needs

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety

Purpose: Funding for state agencies and units of local government in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene for unmet needs not covered by insurance or available federal aid.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$10,826,634.69	\$50,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$45,463,484.04	\$4,536,515.96

Activities: The Department of Public Safety uses these funds to pay costs associated with Hurricane Helene recovery that are not covered by the federal government.

The department transferred \$26 million to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to administer grants designed to address unmet needs for small business support and housing repairs. OSBM administered a grant for \$20 million to expand the Western North Carolina Small Business Initiative and leverage additional philanthropic investment of \$10 million from the Dogwood Health Trust and \$5 million from the Duke Endowment. These funds expanded the small business grant program, which provided a total of \$55 million in grants to 2,182 businesses.

OSBM administered grants to Baptists on Mission and Habitat for Humanity for \$3 million each (\$6 million total). These grants were designed to meet immediate housing needs while the state completed the extensive requirements to create the federally funded housing repair and reconstruction program in the Department of Commerce and launch its operations. Baptists on Mission expended funds solely for rehabilitation projects and immediate needs. The organization spent a maximum of \$30,000 per home on repairs. As of December 31, 2025, Baptists on Mission repaired 450 homes with these funds and exhausted the funds. Habitat for Humanity will use the funding to provide permanent repairs for 160 homes, construction of six new homes, and temporary housing for 12 households for up to six months. Habitat for Humanity completed 66 projects as of December 31, 2025.

Governor’s Recovery Office for Western NC Funding

Responsible State Agency: Office of the Governor

Purpose: These funds will serve as operating costs for the Governor’s Recovery Office for Western North Carolina and help fund initiatives beyond staffing and operations, like technical assistance efforts and long-term economic recovery planning.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$525,665.85	\$10,000,000.00	\$358,652.00	\$1,139,201.09	\$8,502,146.91

Activities: The Governor’s Recovery Office for Western North Carolina facilitates coordination among state agencies working on the recovery, reports on the status of the recovery to the Governor and the General Assembly and assists local governments, nonprofit organizations, and residents in western North Carolina with efforts to recover from Hurricane Helene. As of December 31, 2025, the Recovery Office employed 15 staff.

Hurricane Helene Local Government Capital Grant Program

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management

Purpose: \$50 million made available to local governments and federally recognized tribes in western North Carolina for capital grants to repair, renovate, or replace infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene; \$20 million was made available specifically for Madison County.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$20,037,834.20	\$70,000,000.00	\$49,750,000.00	\$20,037,834.20	\$212,165.80

Activities: The Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) opened applications for the Helene Local Government Capital Grant program in September 2025. The application deadline was November 21, 2025. Capital grants are intended to repair, renovate, or replace infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene. In December 2025, OSBM awarded all available funding for 80 local government infrastructure projects.

Technical Assistance for Local Governments

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management

Purpose: Provide technical assistance with local recovery funds, including applying for federal financial aid, planning and permitting assistance, and building capacity for building and trade inspectors. Counties with a population of less than 250,000 will be given priority for these grants.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$13,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$13,500,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: The Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) disbursed all funds equally among the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina League of Municipalities. The organizations are using this funding to provide technical support to western North Carolina communities.

Grants to Fire Departments and Rescue Squads

Responsible State Agency: Office of the State Fire Marshal

Purpose: SL 2025-2 provided the initial appropriation of \$10 million for the purpose of disbursing grants to small and volunteer fire departments to cover expenses incurred due to Hurricane Helene, to purchase equipment, or to make capital improvements to assist with readiness for future emergency response. SL 2025-26 appropriated \$18 million for similar purposes.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$1,928,437.37	\$28,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$23,035,843.07	\$4,964,156.93

Activities: The Office of the State Fire Marshal is awarding grants and disbursing payments as of December 31, 2025. The office received grant requests totaling more than \$54.5 million to repair or replace equipment and facilities damaged by Hurricane Helene and to enhance wildfire response and preparedness.

Local Government Cash Flow Loans

Responsible State Agency: Department of State Treasurer

Purpose: Allocates funds to the Department of State Treasurer to administer a cash flow loan program to support local governments. Loans are intended to serve as bridge loans until FEMA reimbursement is received.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$151,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$151,500,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: The Office of the State Treasurer expended all funds appropriated for this program in both SL 2024-53 and SL 2025-26. A total of \$148,529,411.77 was wired across three rounds of funding through 109 loans to local governments. Remaining funding was used to cover administrative expenses.

As of December 31, 2025, \$126,238.03 has been repaid by local governments.

Round 1

County	Local Government Unit	Loan Amount	Wire Date
Ashe County	Ashe County	\$ 468,678	4/3/2025
Ashe County	Lansing	\$ 207,673	5/2/2025
Avery County	Avery County	\$ 1,973,034	5/8/2025
Avery County	Banner Elk	\$ 769,419	3/26/2025
Avery County	Sugar Mountain	\$ 428,865	3/13/2025
Avery County	Crossnore	\$ 266,444	4/10/2025
Avery County	Elk Park	\$ 178,731	4/3/2025
Avery County	Newland	\$ 166,206	3/7/2025
Buncombe County	Buncombe County	\$ 8,449,310	3/7/2025
Buncombe County	Asheville	\$ 2,791,793	3/27/2025
Buncombe County	Biltmore Forest	\$ 1,028,198	4/10/2025
Buncombe County	Black Mountain	\$ 705,703	3/12/2025
Buncombe County	Woodfin	\$ 664,984	3/13/2025
Buncombe County	Montreat	\$ 120,716	5/13/2025
Burke County	Morganton	\$ 5,460,967	6/5/2025
Caldwell County	Caldwell County	\$ 1,146,530	7/17/2025
Cleveland County	Cleveland County	\$ 1,162,090	7/10/2025
Cleveland County	Boiling Springs	\$ 149,625	6/6/2025
Haywood County	Canton	\$ 1,958,746	6/18/2025
Haywood County	Waynesville	\$ 503,483	6/13/2025
Haywood County	Clyde	\$ 126,238	2/24/2025
Haywood County	Maggie Valley	\$ 23,440	3/18/2025
Henderson County	Henderson County	\$ 4,197,973	5/15/2025
Henderson County	Laurel Park	\$ 1,512,214	3/11/2025
Henderson County	Hendersonville	\$ 1,172,005	3/19/2025
Henderson County	Mills River	\$ 133,954	4/1/2025
Jackson County	Sylva	\$ 203,929	4/1/2025
Madison County	Madison County	\$ 1,601,939	2/28/2025
Madison County	Marshall	\$ 1,040,338	6/2/2025
McDowell County	Old Fort	\$ 573,328	3/20/2025
McDowell County	McDowell County	\$ 217,051	3/21/2025
Mitchell County	Mitchell County	\$ 2,887,431	3/18/2025
Mitchell County	Spruce Pine	\$ 2,831,869	4/1/2025
Mitchell County	Bakersville	\$ 76,766	3/7/2025
Polk County	Polk County	\$ 1,654,939	4/4/2025
Polk County	Tryon	\$ 164,467	5/28/2025
Polk County	Saluda	\$ 150,546	3/20/2025
Rutherford County	Lake Lure	\$ 3,423,123	3/20/2025
Rutherford County	Rutherford County	\$ 1,836,666	4/29/2025
Rutherford County	Spindale	\$ 160,985	5/1/2025
Surry County	Dobson	\$ 48,053	4/2/2025
Watauga County	Beech Mountain	\$ 3,825,337	3/3/2025
Watauga County	Watauga County	\$ 895,478	4/8/2025
Watauga County	Seven Devils	\$ 112,986	6/13/2025
Wilkes County	Wilkesboro	\$ 227,252	4/16/2025
Yancey County	Yancey County	\$ 3,680,783	4/16/2025
Yancey County	Burnsville	\$ 2,171,711	3/10/2025
Total		\$ 63,551,998	

Round 2

County	Local Government Unit	Loan Amount	Wire Date
Ashe County	Ashe County	\$ 309,259	8/15/2025
Avery County	Avery County	\$ 1,301,914	7/11/2025
Avery County	Sugar Mountain	\$ 282,988	6/20/2025
Buncombe County	Buncombe County	\$ 5,575,310	6/24/2025
Buncombe County	Asheville	\$ 1,842,175	7/2/2025
Buncombe County	Biltmore Forest	\$ 678,460	7/2/2025
Buncombe County	Black Mountain	\$ 465,661	7/2/2025
Buncombe County	Woodfin	\$ 438,792	6/20/2025
Buncombe County	Montreat	\$ 79,655	8/1/2025
Cleveland County	Cleveland County	\$ 766,810	7/10/2025
Haywood County	Waynesville	\$ 332,225	8/1/2025
Haywood County	Maggie Valley	\$ 216,710	7/10/2025
Henderson County	Henderson County	\$ 2,770,048	7/2/2025
Henderson County	Laurel Park	\$ 997,840	7/18/2025
Henderson County	Mills River	\$ 88,390	7/2/2025
Madison County	Madison County	\$ 1,057,046	7/29/2025
Madison County	Marshall	\$ 686,471	7/3/2025
Madison County	Hot Springs	\$ 94,506	8/7/2025
McDowell County	Old Fort	\$ 378,313	8/1/2025
Mitchell County	Mitchell County	\$ 1,905,283	6/20/2025
Mitchell County	Spruce Pine	\$ 1,868,620	7/2/2025
Polk County	Polk County	\$ 1,092,018	7/2/2025
Polk County	Tryon	\$ 108,524	6/26/2025
Polk County	Saluda	\$ 99,338	7/29/2025
Rutherford County	Lake Lure	\$ 2,258,761	7/23/2025
Rutherford County	Rutherford County	\$ 1,211,931	7/29/2025
Rutherford County	Spindale	\$ 106,227	6/18/2025
Watauga County	Beech Mountain	\$ 2,524,163	7/10/2025
Watauga County	Watauga County	\$ 590,884	7/3/2025
Yancey County	Yancey County	\$ 2,428,779	6/24/2025
Yancey County	Burnsville	\$ 1,433,012	7/2/2025
Total		\$ 33,990,111	

Round 3

County	Local Government Unit	Loan Amount	Wire Date
Ashe County	Ashe County	\$ 485,631	10/14/2025
Avery County	Avery County	\$ 1,227,536	9/25/2025
Avery County	Banner Elk	\$ 578,609	9/17/2025
Avery County	Sugar Mountain	\$ 263,135	9/19/2025
Avery County	Elk Park	\$ 67,633	9/4/2025
Buncombe County	Buncombe County	\$ 5,418,434	9/11/2025
Buncombe County	Asheville	\$ 12,218,317	9/16/2025
Buncombe County	Biltmore Forest	\$ 657,303	9/17/2025
Buncombe County	Black Mountain	\$ 1,233,911	9/22/2025
Buncombe County	Woodfin	\$ 400,072	9/18/2025
Buncombe County	Montreat	\$ 65,472	9/17/2025
Cleveland County	Cleveland County	\$ 507,228	9/22/2025
Haywood County	Waynesville	\$ 298,672	9/10/2025
Haywood County	Haywood County	\$ 998,885	9/5/2025
Haywood County	Maggie Valley	\$ 231,051	9/4/2025
Henderson County	Henderson County	\$ 5,276,144	9/4/2025
Henderson County	Laurel Park	\$ 676,827	9/19/2025
Madison County	Madison County	\$ 902,849	9/26/2025
Madison County	Marshall	\$ 523,951	10/1/2025
Mitchell County	Mitchell County	\$ 2,706,171	9/4/2025
Mitchell County	Spruce Pine	\$ 3,364,027	10/7/2025
Polk County	Polk County	\$ 911,230	9/19/2025
Polk County	Tryon	\$ 107,514	9/8/2025
Rutherford County	Lake Lure	\$ 2,328,479	8/27/2025
Rutherford County	Rutherford County	\$ 1,557,449	9/16/2025
Rutherford County	Spindale	\$ 52,345	9/22/2025
Watauga County	Beech Mountain	\$ 1,499,749	9/11/2025
Watauga County	Watauga County	\$ 3,268,633	9/4/2025
Watauga County	Seven Devils	\$ 41,466	10/1/2025
Yancey County	Yancey County	\$ 1,920,977	8/27/2025
Yancey County	Burnsville	\$ 1,197,600	9/9/2025
Total		\$ 50,987,303	

Town of Canton Wastewater Treatment

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management

Purpose: Funds for acquisition of the former Pactiv wastewater treatment facility and other related properties for the purpose of constructing a new regional wastewater treatment facility and other related infrastructure outside of the floodplain for disaster mitigation and recovery.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$16,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,000,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: Funds have been transferred to the Town of Canton. The town will use this funding to acquire the current wastewater treatment plant and additional property.

State Parks and Local Government

Responsible State Agency: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Purpose: Funds available to units of local government as matching funds.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$4,287,500.00	\$4,287,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Activities: The Helene Recovery Fund through the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for the acquisition and/or development of park and recreational projects to serve the public. The Division of Parks and Recreation announced the availability of grant funding on October 1, 2025, and the deadline for applications is January 30, 2026. Grant recipients will be announced in March 2026.

Multi-Category

Renew NC: Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce

Purpose: Grant to support housing repair, affordable housing construction, rental assistance, local redevelopment capacity, and mitigation activities.

Expenditures:

FEDERAL FUNDS		
Awarded	Obligated	Reimbursed
\$1,428,120,000.00	\$79,067,678.87	\$4,829,661.11

STATE FUNDS		
Appropriated	Obligated	Expended
\$125,000,000.00	\$17,212,643.84	\$344,588.77

Note: The Renew NC program operates using a combination of state and federal funds, as described in more detail below. Generally speaking, the Division of Community Revitalization expends state funds and then draws down federal reimbursements for those expenditures.

Activities: Governor Josh Stein established the Division of Community Revitalization (DCR) within the NC Department of Commerce for the purpose of administering North Carolina’s CDBG-DR grant for Helene Recovery. The General Assembly appropriated \$5 million in SL 2025-2 to support DCR’s operations. DCR finalized a grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for \$1.4 billion in CDBG-DR funding, which will support multiple programs as approved in the state action plan submitted to HUD in March 2025:

- \$807 million: Single-Family Housing Program
- \$191 million: Multi-Family Housing Program
- \$53 million: Workforce Housing for Ownership
- \$194 million: Community Infrastructure Program
- \$111 million: Economic Revitalization Program
- \$71 million: Program Administration

The General Assembly appropriated \$120 million to DCR in SL 2025-02 to allow the state to begin the Single-Family Housing Program before receiving the HUD funds. This program operates to improve the timeline for single-family housing repair and reconstruction while the state works with federal partners to receive the \$1.4 billion allocation of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). The program launched on June 16, 2025, under the name Renew NC, and applications for the Single-Family Housing program were accepted until January 31, 2026.

The Department of Commerce Division of Community Revitalization (DCR) obligated \$81,495,887.42 for the implementation vendor contract for the Renew NC Single-Family Housing program. DCR structured the contract to pay for outcomes, not activities. Payments will be made as the vendor meets the milestones set out in the contract. By structuring the contract to award outcomes instead of activities, DCR used a different contracting model than the state used in previous recoveries. The state began drawing down funds for the Single-Family Housing program from HUD in October 2025.

As of December 31, 2025, 7,163 applications had been submitted. Of these, 1,734 were determined eligible for the program, 191 as ineligible, and the remainder requiring review. Most of the eligible applications were confirmed to be Phase 1, Priority 1 under the program, meaning they are at or below 60% area median income, are in a HUD-identified Most Impacted and Distressed Area, and have a child, person with a disability, or elderly adult in the home.

The portion of the Multi-Family Housing Program dedicated to small unit rentals (1-4 units) began accepting applications on December 15, 2025. The remaining programs in the HUD action plan are in development and did not launch prior to December 31, 2025.

The table below provides a breakdown of applications and ongoing work in the Renew NC Single-Family Housing program by county.

County	Applications	Reconstruction	Rehabilitation	Replacement	Reimbursement	Total
Alexander	41	0	0	0	0	0
Alleghany	38	0	0	0	0	0
Ashe	276	1	0	1	0	2
Avery	317	3	0	0	0	3
Buncombe	1772	17	4	3	0	24
Burke	197	1	0	0	0	1
Caldwell	134	0	0	0	0	0
Catawba	71	2	0	0	0	2
Clay	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	161	0	0	2	0	2
Gaston	79	1	0	0	0	1
Haywood	410	3	0	0	0	3
Henderson	827	7	4	1	0	12
Jackson	43	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	28	1	0	0	0	1
Macon	17	0	0	0	0	0
Madison	117	0	1	1	0	2
Mecklenburg	24	4	1	0	0	5
McDowell	557	0	0	0	0	0
Mitchell	287	5	1	0	0	6
Polk	109	1	0	2	0	3
Rutherford	294	2	0	1	0	3
Surry	21	0	0	0	0	0
Swain	18	0	0	0	0	0
Transylvania	123	0	0	0	0	0
Watauga	316	2	1	0	0	3
Wilkes	61	1	0	1	0	2
Yadkin	6	0	0	0	0	0
Yancey	388	1	0	0	0	1
Total	6734	52	12	12	0	76

Numbers as of December 15, 2025

Natural Resources

Soil and Water Conservation Technical Assistance

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Purpose: Funds to provide technical support to soil and water conservation districts in the affected area, including the creation of time-limited positions.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$79,412.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$117,209.66	\$1,882,790.34

Activities: The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services established two time-limited positions in the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Funding also supports seven additional positions to be contracted through local soil and water conservation districts. These contracts took effect July 1, 2025, and run through June 30, 2028.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Funds

Federal Agency: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Purpose: The NC Department of Environmental Quality received supplemental federal funding from EPA to support hazardous waste, recycling, and solid waste management recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Disbursed	Federal Funds Not Yet Disbursed	Obligations as of Dec. 2025	FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$61,006,486.00	\$17,771.97	\$60,988,714.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60,988,714.03

Activities: This funding, called the North Carolina Hurricane Helene Supplemental Appropriation for Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste Management Financial Assistance Grants, provides critical support for disaster response, emergency preparedness, and long-term resilience. Funding is distributed across several divisions and programs and will be used to support immediate response efforts and long-term resilience projects. An outline of programs and funding is below.

The largest of these grant programs is the Helene Recycling Infrastructure Grant. Proposal requests for these grants are being accepted through February 20, 2026.

Grant Programs	Funding	Description
Recycling Infrastructure	\$26,355,456	Grants to local governments to replace or improve recycling infrastructure damaged by the storm, build resilient convenience centers and transfer stations, and coordinate workshops.
Debris Recovery and Disposal	\$20,394,893	Direct funding for local governments and nonprofits to manage disaster debris, storage, reduction, disposal, and non-hazardous waste collection.
Brownfields Redevelopment	\$5,025,931	Identification, assessment, and remediation of contaminated sites as well as community planning efforts for areas that were previously in productive use.
Emergency Response and Cleanup	\$2,351,705	Environmental contracts to remove orphaned containers, contaminated soil, and other hazardous materials caused by Hurricane Helene.
Hazardous Waste Preparedness	\$1,147,393	Groundwater sampling at impacted sites and field response for storm-related emergencies. This funding source will be utilized for internal projects only.
Waste Management Workshops and Grant Support	\$1,381,669	Administer grant, develop resources, and provide resilient solid waste, recycling, and household hazardous waste infrastructure workshops for local government solid waste and recycling managers. This funding source will be utilized for internal projects only.
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	\$4,349,438, subaward	Collection events and disposal programs for unusable pesticides, including mini-bulk containers at farm and dealer sites, with education and training components for long-term safety.

Good Neighbor Agreement: Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest Restoration

Federal Agency: United States Forest Service

Responsible State Agency: Wildlife Resources Commission

Purpose: This agreement between the Wildlife Resources Commission and the US Forest Service is derived from the US Forest Service’s Good Neighbor Authority, a tool that makes it easier for the US Forest Service to team up with non-federal partners to care for forests. The agreement is the largest of its kind for the US Forest Service. The agreement empowers the Wildlife Resources Commission to perform comprehensive recovery efforts across the Pisgah and Nantahala national forests during the next 10 years.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Disbursed	Federal Funds Not Yet Disbursed	Obligations as of Dec. 2025	FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$290,388,237.00	\$0.00	\$290,388,237.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$290,388,237.00

Activities: The Wildlife Resources Commission will partner with the US Forest Service to remove storm debris, repair roads and recreation areas, manage invasive species, restore damaged watersheds, and improve wildlife habitat in the Pisgah and Nantahala national forests.

Good Neighbor Agreement: Assessment of Biological and Ecological Resources of the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests

Federal Agency: United States Forest Service

Responsible State Agency: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Purpose: This agreement between the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the US Forest Service is derived from the US Forest Service’s Good Neighbor Authority, a tool that makes it easier for the US Forest Service to team up with non-federal partners to care for forests. This collaborative effort is to assess the impacts of Hurricane Helene on the unique biological and ecological resources of the Pisgah and Nantahala national forests and adjacent lands with a focus on documenting rare species populations.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Disbursed	Federal Funds Not Yet Disbursed	Obligations as of Dec. 2025	FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$10,196,603.87	\$382.96	\$10,196,220.91	\$0.00	\$382.96	\$382.96	\$10,196,220.91

Activities: This agreement will support staff assessment and monitor damage over a period of 10 years. Assessments will inform recommendations for restorations and management actions for long-term resilience of rare species and their natural habitats. The agreement supports eight new Natural Heritage Program permanent, time-limited positions for a 10-year period.

Other

Office of the State Auditor Helene Recovery Dashboard

Responsible State Agency: Office of the State Auditor

Purpose: Funds for the Office of the State Auditor to provide and maintain its public dashboard on Hurricane Helene recovery.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000,000.00

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, the Office of the State Auditor had neither obligated nor expended any of these funds.

State Matching Funds

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety

Purpose: Session Laws 2024-51 and 2024-53 provided a total of \$395 million for state matches required for federal disaster assistance programs for state and local governments.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q2 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of December 31, 2025	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$8,571,949.86	\$395,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$79,076,130.72	\$315,923,869.28

Activities: These funds are expended when the federal government requires a state match for certain recovery services, such as debris removal. Therefore, funds will not be expended immediately but over time as the federal government reimburses the state for eligible work. The rate of spend from this fund has increased since April 2025, when FEMA denied the state’s request to extend the 100% federal cost share for expenses covered by FEMA Public Assistance. In addition to FEMA Public Assistance, the state should expect to cover 25% of FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The state received a “lock-in” amount of \$1.543 billion in funding for HMGP, meaning the state’s 25% cost share equates to \$513 million.

Appendix I: Other Federal Funds

Other Federal Funding as of December 31, 2025

This table shows federal funds disbursed to North Carolina recipients that are not a state agency of North Carolina (e.g., individuals, small business owners, local governments, etc.).

Individual and Business Assistance		Disbursed
FEMA Individual Assistance	Housing Assistance	\$277,319,636
	Other Needs Assistance	\$270,434,786
	Private Roads and Bridges	\$33,743,901
Small Business Administration	Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)	\$53,203,900
	Physical Damage Loans	\$206,386,000
	Home and Personal Property Disaster Loan Program	\$163,422,000
Unemployment Insurance	Department of Labor	\$ 57,901,080
	FEMA Disaster Unemployment Assistance	\$42,287,672
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP)	\$2,434,611
Assistance to State Agencies, Local Governments, and Nonprofits		Allocation or Obligated Cost³
FEMA Public Assistance	(A) Debris Removal	\$127,839,214.10
	(B) Emergency Protective Measures	\$333,085,629.47
	(C) Roads and Bridges	\$340,685,651.83
	(D) Water Control Facilities	\$4,372,546.43

³ Source of FEMA program numbers is FEMA Portal as of December 31, 2025. Reflects approved projects by FEMA. Once a project becomes obligated funds become available for recipient(s) to draw down.

	(E) Buildings and Equipment	\$33,973,662.90
	(F) Utilities	\$71,055,857.93
	(G) Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Other Items	\$39,630,348.41
	(Z) Management Costs	\$32,996,628.84
FEMA Hazard Mitigation	Management Costs	\$16,366,733.00
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Disaster Assistance Fund	\$25,000,000.00
	Emergency Watershed Protection	\$23,700,000.00
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Asheville	\$647,415.80
U.S. Department of Education	School Emergency Response to Violence (SERV)	\$7,350,907.00

Appendix II: Completed State Programs

Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina Business Loss Assessment

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce

Purpose: Allocates funds to the NC Department of Commerce for its contract with the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) to conduct a business loss assessment in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00

Activities: The NC Department of Commerce transferred all funds to the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, which spent approximately \$60,000 conducting the Business Loss Assessment through research and data collection. The report has been finalized and released.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Facility Repairs

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Purpose: Funding for Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services facility repairs in the Helene-affected area.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$210,000.00	\$152,600.00

Activities: SL 2024-57 allowed the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to consolidate and reallocate existing capital project funds up to \$210,000. The department repurposed \$152,600 for facility repairs.

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose: Funds to assist the Department of Health and Human Services and county departments of social services in matching federal funds for the administrative expenses incurred in operating D-SNAP, a federal program to provide food assistance to low-income households with food loss or damages caused by Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$6,000,000.00	\$3,771,792.61

Activities: A total of \$7,543,585.22 was spent on D-SNAP – 50 percent state and 50 percent federal. The funds served 72,703 households with food support following Hurricane Helene. There will be no further updates to this program or expenditures made.

Crisis Counseling Immediate Services Program

Federal Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose: Crisis Counseling Immediate Services Program is a short-term disaster relief initiative designed to provide immediate psychological and emotional support to individuals and communities affected by disasters. FEMA activated the program to address the mental health needs of residents dealing with stress, trauma, and challenges resulting from the disaster.

The Hope4NC Crisis Counseling Program provides immediate support and crisis counseling services at no cost for North Carolinians following Helene via the Hope4NC Helpline.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Cumulative Expenditures
\$56,297.01	\$56,297.01

Activities: The FEMA grant provided funding for the Hope4NC program, which assists individuals in communities as they recover from Hurricane Helene’s devastating impacts.

Unspent funds from the Crisis Counseling Immediate Services Program reverted to FEMA once the Regular Services Program grant became available in January 2025.

School Extension Learning Recovery Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction

Purpose: A voluntary school extension learning program to provide instruction on specific subjects and enrichment to students in grades four through eight to address learning losses and other negative impacts caused by unusual and extraordinary conditions related to Hurricane Helene in the 2024-2025 school year.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$9,000,000.00	\$4,547,457.78

Activities: In all, 14 local education agencies, 16 charter schools, and the North Carolina School for the Deaf accepted funds to offer summer programming for students. Programs were required to offer math and reading courses, as well as time for enrichment programming and physical activity each day. Programs served 79,447 students.

School Nutrition Employee Compensation

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction

Purpose: Compensation of school nutrition employees located in federal disaster declaration counties that would have been provided by school meal receipts as part of the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program. Funds are only for employees in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$3,500,000.00	\$2,556,692.72

Activities: Schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program in Helene-impacted areas were eligible for these funds, and that included nearly all of the region’s public schools and some charter schools.

Funding was made available to all schools in the impacted districts to cover Helene-related missed days and non-Helene missed days. Funds served 29 school systems and three charter schools.

The General Assembly reallocated \$12.5 million in disaster relief funding previously allocated to the Department of Public Instruction in SL 2025-26. The program closed on June 30, 2025. No further expenditures will be made.

Emergency Grants for Affected Private College and University Students

Responsible State Agency: North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Purpose: Funds to distribute to eligible private colleges and universities to assist students impacted by Hurricane Helene with paying for tuition, fees, and emergency expenses that impact a student’s ability to remain enrolled.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$1,000,000.00	\$846,660.50

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, 607 students benefited from these grants. All private institution requests have been covered.

Emergency Grants for Affected UNC Students

Responsible State Agency: University of North Carolina System

Purpose: To assist students impacted by Hurricane Helene with paying for tuition, fees, and emergency expenses that impact a student’s ability to remain enrolled.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00

Activities: Emergency grants were awarded to 5,021 students. All funds are expended, and the program is now closed.

Need-Based Scholarship for Public College and University Students – Attending Outside Disaster Area

Responsible State Agency: North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Purpose: Funds for the Need-Based Scholarship for Public Colleges and University Students program to make additional award funds available to be used to provide additional financial aid to eligible disaster-impacted students.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$3,500,000.00	\$3,500,000.00

Activities: These funds are for awards to students from Helene-impacted counties attending a UNC institution or community college outside the impacted area. These funds provided 4,082 awards to those students.

All funds have now been spent.

Need-Based Scholarship for Public College and University Students – Attending in Disaster Area

Responsible State Agency: North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Purpose: Funds for the Need-Based Scholarship for Public Colleges and Universities program to make additional award funds available in FY 2024-25 to provide additional financial aid to eligible disaster-impacted students.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$15,600,000.00	\$15,600,000.00

Activities: These awards were for students at Appalachian State University, University of North Carolina at Asheville, and Western Carolina University, along with directly impacted UNC and community college students. As of December 31, 2025, 21,397 students received awards from this program. No further funds are expected to be expended.

Awards for Summer 2025 completely expended the original \$15.6 million appropriated by the General Assembly in Session Law 2024-53. The NC State Education Assistance Authority reallocated unobligated Next NC need-based funding to further supplement this program, allowing the program to support more students.

Need-Based Scholarships for Students Attending Private Colleges and Universities – Additional Awards

Responsible State Agency: North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Purpose: Allows for use of unobligated funds available for need-based scholarships for students attending private institutions of higher education to provide additional financial aid to eligible disaster-impacted students.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$2,500,000.00	\$2,394,945.00

Activities: These awards were for students at Helene-impacted institutions and students from Helene-impacted counties attending private institutions outside the impacted area. As of December 31, 2025, 3,226 students received awards. It is not expected that additional funds will be expended.

Rental Assistance

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose: Distribution of funds to county departments of social services in counties with a federal disaster declaration to provide rental assistance to households that suffered hardship due to Hurricane Helene and face a housing crisis, such as imminent risk of eviction. Funds can be used to pay for up to two rent payments per household.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00

Activities: A total of 862 households received support through this program as of December 31, 2025. DHHS allocated the full appropriation of \$1 million to the counties, and the counties spent the maximum amount possible based on the reimbursements submitted so far. No other funds are expected to be spent.

Utility Assistance

Responsible State Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose: This funding is for county departments of social services, in counties with a federal disaster declaration, to provide utility assistance to households that suffered hardship due to Hurricane Helene and face a housing crisis.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$9,000,000.00	\$6,306,530.41

Activities: As of December 31, 2025, 10,089 households received assistance under the program. DHHS allocated the full appropriation of \$9 million to the counties, and the counties spent the maximum amount feasible.

Support for Administration of 2024 Elections

Responsible State Agency: State Board of Elections

Purpose: Allocates funds to the State Board of Elections for items such as technology and internet connectivity, printing and communications, temporary staff, and mobile voting units and related supplies and equipment.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$2,750,000.00	\$523,010.00

Activities: These funds were allocated specifically to conduct the November 2024 elections. From the \$5 million previously appropriated for the 2024 election in the affected area, \$2.25 million was reappropriated for other uses in SL 2025-26. The General Assembly also authorized the State Board of Elections to spend the remaining \$2,226,990 for conducting future elections in the impacted area.



GOVERNOR'S RECOVERY OFFICE FOR WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

www.wncrecovery.nc.gov