



WNC Recovery
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Hurricane Helene Relief and Recovery

Quarterly Report
Quarter Four, Fiscal Year 2026
August 14, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the state and federal funds dedicated to Hurricane Helene relief and recovery efforts through June 30, 2026, 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 June 30, 2026.

Hurricane Helene's Impact – \$59.6 billion

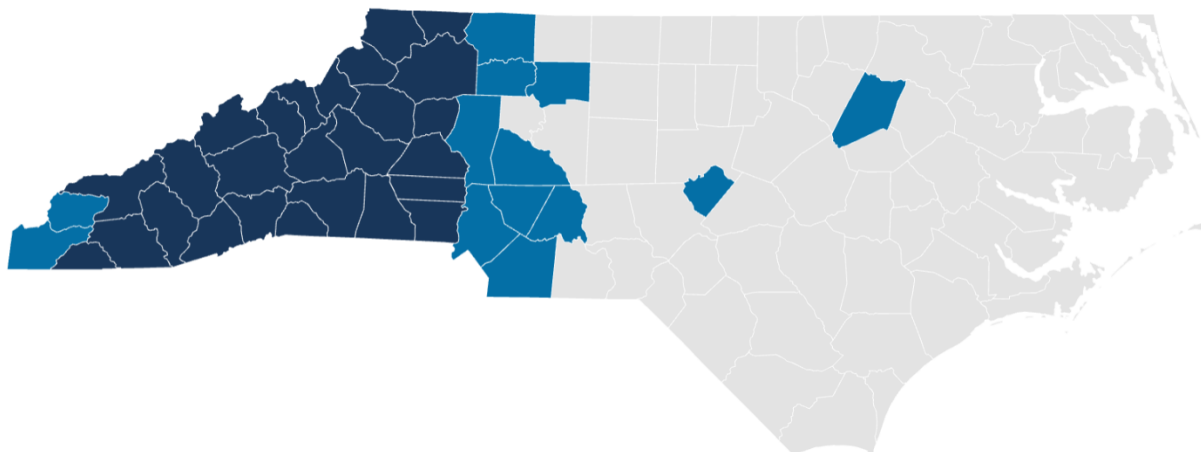
Hurricane Helene reached North Carolina on Friday, September 27, 2024, generating historic rainfall, strong winds, flooding, landslides, and tornadoes, among other weather impacts.

President Biden subsequently declared a Major Disaster, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (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 outlooks of some communities.

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

Government Funding for Recovery Efforts – \$14.4 Billion

As of June 30, 2026, the federal government and North Carolina state government had directed approximately **\$14.4 billion** to aid western North Carolina communities in their efforts to recover from Hurricane Helene. State funding includes about **\$2.4 billion** made available by the North Carolina General Assembly following the storm.² State agencies have expended significant funding from existing resources, including **\$1.7 billion** spent by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and at least **\$620 million** in previously appropriated funds redirected by other state agencies toward response and recovery work. Agencies anticipate that the federal government will eventually reimburse most of these expenditures. The federal government has approved, allocated, or awarded approximately **\$9.7 billion** for the recovery, including funds to state agencies and direct assistance to individuals, businesses, and local governments. This federal funding represents approximately **16%** of Helene's damage.

State agencies are working to deploy funding effectively and efficiently to accelerate recovery efforts. The funds provided by the General Assembly include \$395 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 spend them.

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 The appropriations provided in SL 2026-41 are not included in this report as the session law was enacted in July 2026, after the cutoff date for data included in this report.

Scope of Data Included

This quarterly report provides an updated overview of Hurricane Helene recovery funding, expenditures, and activities by state agencies through June 30, 2026.³

GROW NC applies a standardized data collection and validation process that integrates statutory appropriations data, agency-reported obligations, and expenditure data from the NC Financial System (NCFS). Data are normalized to align with statutory reporting requirements and reporting periods, then reviewed for consistency and completeness prior to inclusion in the quarterly report.

Federal Funds

This report includes grants, allocations, and assistance by the federal government to North Carolina's recovery from Hurricane Helene for which the state has formal documentation. The entries regarding federal funds in the body of the report pertain to awards from the federal government to state agencies. Appendix I describes federal funds disbursed directly to non-state entities such as individual households, businesses, local governments, and nonprofits.

State Funds

Only state funds appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly as of June 30, 2026, for the purpose of recovery from Hurricane Helene fall within the scope of this report. The appropriations provided in SL 2026-41 are not included in this report as the session law was enacted in July 2026, after the cutoff date for data included in this report. Specifically, the report contains data and information regarding the purpose, obligation, and expenditure of such appropriations, as well as activity resulting from the appropriations. The General Assembly provided these appropriations in the following laws:

- SL 2024-51;
- SL 2024-53;
- SL 2024-57;
- SL 2025-2;
- SL 2025-26;
- SL 2025-89;
- SL 2025-92; and
- SL 2025-97.

³ 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 (DA&CS)

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 Hurricane Helene-specific damage of agriculture, aquaculture commodities, or farm infrastructure.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$5,384,735.44	\$268,000,000.00	\$673,056.43	\$110,850,360.58	\$156,476,582.99

Activities: The department disbursed payments totaling nearly \$110 million, including 894 payments for crop loss, 568 payments for nursery loss, 384 payments for farm infrastructure, and seven payments for aquaculture losses.

Crop and Timber Loss Supplemental Appropriation

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

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DA&CS)

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 the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$221,200,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$221,200,000.00

Activities: In September 2025, the DA&CS and the USDA signed an agreement for a \$221 million block grant to aid farmers who sustained loss and damage from Hurricane Helene. The DA&CS created a federally mandated work plan, which was approved by the USDA in 2026. Applications opened for these funds on March 30, 2026, and were accepted until June 12, 2026. Payments will begin once review of applications is complete and information is verified. As of June 30, 2026, the department had received 1,747 applications for the USDA Disaster Block Grant.

North Carolina Agricultural Manufacturing and Processing Initiative Grants

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DA&CS)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$3,897,774.32	\$8,000,000.00	\$3,838,681.93	\$3,925,774.32	\$235,543.75

Activities: Applications opened for the NC Agriculture Manufacturing and Processing Initiative in September 2025. This application included special guidance for eligible applicants impacted by Helene, as outlined in SL 2025-26. The application deadline for the program was October 3, 2025. The department announced awards on February 3, 2026. Ten projects totaling more than \$7 million in grants were approved.

Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DA&CS)

Purpose: The Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) funds projects that help reduce flooding, restore streams, and protect the integrity of drainage infrastructure along North Carolina's waterways. Project examples include vegetative debris removal, streambank stabilization, stream restoration, and rehabilitation of critical watershed structures.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$7,796.17	\$40,000,000.00	\$24,487,483.00	\$44,382.63	\$15,468,134.37

Activities: The department facilitates work between local governments and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, then invests state Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program funds to meet unaddressed needs. Three application windows opened for affected counties:

- Application Window 1 eligible counties: Alexander, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Iredell, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Mecklenburg, Nash, Stanly, Surry, Swain, Union, Yadkin
- Application Window 2 eligible counties: Alleghany, Ashe, Buncombe, Caldwell, Jackson, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford, Watauga, Wilkes
- Application Window 3 eligible counties: Avery, Burke, Cleveland, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Haywood, Henderson, Polk, Rowan, Transylvania, Yancey

The first awards for this program were made on April 14, 2026, when more than \$4 million was awarded by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to projects in nine counties from Application Window 1. In May 2026, the commission awarded nearly \$10 million to grantees in 10 counties from Application Window 2. In June 2026, the commission awarded more than \$10.5 million to organizations in nine counties from Application Window 3.

Upcoming awards will include \$8.9 million in additional funding to grantees with unmet needs from the three rounds of applications. These planned awards will increase total StRAP awards to \$34.2 million allocated to 34 grantee organizations. An additional \$3.8 million will be reserved for future supplemental allocations. The StRAP program for Hurricane Helene recovery received applications requesting nearly \$150 million.

Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation

Wildfire Assets and Preparedness

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DA&CS)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$1,072,274.65	\$15,000,000.00	\$3,554,574.05	\$2,781,191.63	\$8,664,234.32

Activities: NCFS is focused on increasing capability and capacity with this funding. Plans include hiring four additional fire equipment operators; purchasing new trucks, bulldozers, fire engines, utility terrain vehicles, and other firefighting equipment; enhancing aviation capabilities with new infrared imaging and water-handling tools; and funding 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. NCFS is strengthening 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 (DEQ)

Purpose: Conduct landslide inventory mapping and landslide susceptibility mapping in the Helene-affected area and develop an early alert system to support emergency response.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$253,773.12	\$3,000,000.00	\$1,092,878.13	\$290,247.04	\$1,616,874.83

Activities: The DEQ Landslide Mapping 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 again, continuous landslide modeling updates will be necessary. From April through June 2026, the Landslide Mapping Program mapped 7,864 landslide features in priority areas in Buncombe, Henderson, Yancey, and Polk counties. In partnership with UNC Asheville’s National Environmental Mapping and Applications Center (NEMAC), the Landslide Mapping Program is 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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$28,328.50	\$3,000,000.00	\$2,075,577.00	\$37,537.00	\$886,886.00

Activities: DIT solicited input from relevant state agencies to develop a request for proposals from vendors. The department issued the request for proposals in February 2026 and awarded the vendor contract in May 2026. As of June 30, 2026, a state government review panel of disaster recovery professionals including North Carolina Emergency Management is reviewing a draft of the constituent portal and providing input to the vendor and DIT.

Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety (DPS)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$20,000,000.00	\$18,027,569.00	\$0.00	\$1,972,431.00

Activities: The deadline for applications to the Helene-focused Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund 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 department awarded all available funding to 21 grantees. Grantees are in the process of advertising for bids and completing early-stage engineering reports. The department received 105 applications from local governments and nonprofit organizations totaling approximately \$80 million in need.

Economy

Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce (DOC)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$203,100.45	\$55,000,000.00	\$31,755,286.00	\$309,664.49	\$22,935,049.51

Activities: In the first round of Small Business Infrastructure grants, DOC made nine awards totaling \$7.3 million. In November 2025, the department announced a second round of 19 awards totaling \$13.8 million. A third round of awards was made in March 2026, when 13 projects were funded totaling \$8.5 million. In June 2026, the department awarded a \$1 million grant to the Town of Bryson City and plans to make future awards in August 2026. Projects awarded grants will help restore sidewalks, stormwater systems, and water and sewer lines.

Small Business Recovery Bridge Loans

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce (DOC)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	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 was administered by Mountain BizWorks in partnership with the Golden LEAF Foundation (Golden LEAF). This program closed in December 2025. As of June 30, 2026, the NC Department of Commerce had distributed \$50 million to Golden LEAF, which in turn had allocated the full \$50 million to Mountain

BizWorks. Mountain BizWorks disbursed \$47,738,361 as loan capital in 794 loans 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.

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$1,350,000.00	\$10,000,000.00	\$3,650,000.00	\$6,350,000.00	\$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. In March 2026, NCPC requested an additional \$1.3 million from DHHS to continue to meet the needs of child care centers. So far, these funds have served 7,808 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 Spending

County	Current Expenses	YTD Expenses	Total Expenses	Children Served
Alexander	\$ -	\$ 50,100.63	\$ 50,100.63	303
Ashe	\$ 14,724.30	\$ 377,813.46	\$ 393,047.22	355
Avery	\$ 1,819.48	\$ 15,172.33	\$ 34,853.99	130
Buncombe	\$ 68,101.48	\$ 1,483,454.38	\$ 1,649,650.70	3676
Burke	\$ -	\$ 361,969.00	\$ 817,387.00	357
Caldwell	\$ -	\$ 105,856.19	\$ 105,856.19	472
Cleveland	\$ -	\$ 99,741.29	\$ 114,992.55	437
Henderson	\$ -	\$ 125,762.29	\$ 246,124.39	575
Madison	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	147
McDowell	\$ -	\$ 107,310.87	\$ 112,245.14	153
Mitchell	\$ 1,819.48	\$ 13,266.57	\$ 16,969.28	200
Polk	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
Rutherford	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
Transylvania	\$ -	\$ 100,743.69	\$ 100,743.69	82
Watauga	\$ 32,396.21	\$ 506,427.76	\$ 515,568.70	854
Yancey	\$ 1,819.48	\$ 51,640.61	\$ 66,394.49	67
LP Sub-Totals	\$ 120,680.42	\$ 3,399,079.06	\$ 4,273,933.98	7808
NCPC Allocation	\$ 1,041.84	\$ 34,325.13	\$ 51,988.79	0
Grand Total	\$ 121,722.26	\$ 3,433,404.19	\$ 4,325,922.77	7808

As of June 30, 2026.

Dislocated Worker Grant

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce (DOC)

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 Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$10,000,000.00	\$10,000,000.00	\$4,017,598.64	\$886,685.08	\$5,982,401.36	\$0.00

Activities: The Department of Labor disbursed funding for this program to NC Commerce in three increments, each of which had to be advocated for individually and took nearly a month to secure. As of December 2025, the final \$4 million had been disbursed to support the payrolls of enrolled participants. As of June 2026, seven workforce development boards received funding to support 83 enrolled worksites and 414 enrolled participants in the program. The Dislocated Worker Grant (DWS) Program has until October 10, 2026, to expend all funds, but a 12-month No-Cost Extension was requested. If the extension is granted, the program will continue to offer services past October 2026.

Federal Child Care Disaster Funding

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS)

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

Purpose: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), provides disaster recovery funding to support child care systems in areas affected by declared disasters. Funds are available through September 30, 2030.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$47,400,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$47,400,000.00

Activities: In February 2026, North Carolina’s DHHS was awarded \$75.6 million in supplemental disaster funds for both Hurricane Helene and Tropical Storm Debby. For work in Hurricane Helene-impacted areas, DHHS received \$47.4 million to support recovery, mitigation, and preparedness in the child care sector. In May 2026, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) approved the DHHS plan for utilization of the funds. The plan has four areas of activity:

- 1) Disaster Recovery Funding for Eligible Child Care Providers:** Providers can now request reimbursements in the Disaster Impact Report Portal to help offset storm-related damages, losses, and recovery costs associated with Hurricane Helene and Tropical Storm Debby. The NC Division of Child Development and Early Education provides a portal to serve as the primary mechanism for providers to document impacts, submit supporting information, and request reimbursement or recovery assistance.
- 2) Emergency Preparedness and Response Events:** The agency will conduct four regional preparedness and response events in 2027 for licensed child care providers focused on disaster readiness, Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans, post-disaster recovery resources, trauma-informed supports, and hands-on assistance with reporting through the Disaster Impact Report Portal.
- 3) Child Care WAGES Expansion and Workforce Stabilization:** Explore expansion of the Child Care WAGES salary supplement program into additional disaster-affected counties to support recruitment and retention of early childhood educators.
- 4) Child Care Supply and Construction Planning:** Support long-term child care recovery and supply-building efforts, including exploration of partnerships with NC community colleges to develop child care centers in disaster-affected areas.

Education

Additional Mental Health Funds for Public Schools

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$170,761.73	\$5,000,000.00	\$2,607,552.95	\$2,392,447.05	\$0.00

Activities: All eligible Participating School Units (PSUs) impacted by Helene received a funding allocation. The staff hired with 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 June 30, 2026, 40 school systems 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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$5,037,737.32	\$81,300,000.00	\$3,386,127.38	\$70,638,179.62	\$7,275,693.00

Activities: This program served 21 schools in eight districts with an initial appropriation of \$50 million. SL 2025-26 appropriated \$31,300,000 in additional funds, of which DPI distributed \$17,648,930 to 11 school systems. DPI is reviewing applications for the remaining funds.

Competitive Grant Program for Public School Infrastructure

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

Purpose: Creates a competitive grant program for public schools to repair or replace school buildings or infrastructure damaged by the hurricane. The funds are intended to support schools for damage or repairs that were denied insurance coverage and federal aid. The maximum award amount is \$500,000.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	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 cause delayed timelines for distribution.

School Nutrition Food, Supplies, and Equipment Loss

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

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 Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,469,280.29	\$3,530,719.71

Activities: DPI distributed funds to public school units and as of June 30, 2026, \$1,469,280.29 has been expended for this program.

Technology Funds for Public Schools

Responsible state agency: Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$(37,377.62)	\$5,000,000.00	\$274,915.99	\$555,084.01	\$4,170,000.00

Activities: As of June 30, 2026, 10 school systems and charter schools have been served. The negative expenditure total for the fourth quarter of FY26 reflects the correction of an error made when a public school unit requested funds from the wrong Helene recovery program.

Emergency Grants for Affected Community College Students

Responsible State Agency: NC Community College System (NCCCS)

Purpose: Grants to assist students impacted by Hurricane Helene to cover any expenses that support a student's continued enrollment, including costs related to transportation, textbooks, tuition, fees, and living expenses.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$8,880.00	\$10,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,478,372.00	\$21,628.00

Activities: As of June 30, 2026, 10,838 students received support from this program.

Tuition Grants for Students Attending Impacted Community Colleges

Responsible State Agency: NC Community College System (NCCCS)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$225,254.00	\$2,526,029.00	\$30,263.00	\$2,176,523.00	\$319,243.00

Activities: As of June 30, 2026, 4,505 students benefited from this funding.

In SL 2025-26 the General Assembly reallocated \$2,473,971 of the original \$5 million appropriated for these grants to create the Enrollment Stabilization program described below.

Additionally, in SL 2025-26 the General Assembly directed that \$1,163,029 in unexpended funds be used for funding to help students pay for tuition, fees, and emergency expenses that impact a student's ability to remain enrolled.

Community College Enrollment Stabilization

Responsible state agency: NC Community College System (NCCCS)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$2,017,141.00	\$2,473,971.00	\$0.00	\$2,218,777.00	\$255,194.00

Activities: As June 30, 2026, \$2,218,777 has been expended for this program.

Expanded Mental Health Support for Affected Community College Students

Responsible State Agency: NC Community College System (NCCCS)

Purpose: The General Assembly appropriated funds in October 2024 for mental health support for students and staff at higher education institutions impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$63,118.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$18,289.00	\$531,582.00	\$700,129.00

Activities: As of June 30, 2026, 8,085 students and 2,323 staff received support through 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 Helene.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Activities: NCSD posted an infrastructure project damaged by Helene for design and bid and recently received the bid information. Once reviewed and finalized, NCSD anticipates repairs will begin.

Private Colleges Capital Recovery

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$500,000.00	\$4,250,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000,000.00	\$250,000.00

Activities: As of June 30, 2026, 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 hurricane damage. Brevard College informed OSBM that it no longer needs the funding and will not accept the grant.

Tuition Grants for Students Attending UNC Asheville

Responsible State Agency: University of North Carolina at Asheville (UNCA)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$873,692.25	\$5,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,179,291.90	\$320,708.10

Activities: Awards issued to 1,468 students in Spring 2025, 1,121 in Summer 2025, 417 in Fall 2025, 334 for Spring 2026, and 872 for Summer 2026 for a total of 4,212 awards as of June 30, 2026. Remaining funds are obligated for continued student assistance.

UNC System Capital Recovery

Responsible State Agency: University of North Carolina System

Purpose: To disburse grants to Appalachian State University, University of North Carolina at Asheville, Western Carolina University, 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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$296,821.00	\$6,000,000.00	\$2,288,036.00	\$326,707.00	\$3,385,257.00

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. Setup of the capital projects is in progress as of June 30, 2026.

Yancey County Schools Capital Recovery

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

Purpose: Transfer \$25 million 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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$25,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000,000.00	\$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 loss of Micaville and Clearmont elementary schools to the devastating floods from Hurricane Helene. As of June 30, 2026, DPI transferred the full \$25 million to Yancey County Schools, and the school district 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 (OSBM)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: As of June 30, 2026, OSBM disbursed \$1.5 million to the college, and the college is receiving quotes, hiring contractors, and utilizing funds to meet needs. One significant project completed thus far is the replacement of the college's external farm fence. The college is also continuing mold mitigation in dorms and completing repairs to roads. Funds will be used on multiple projects across campus to repair damage caused by Helene. The college has expended \$530,000 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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	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 (DHHS)

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 Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$9,709,292.00	\$4,336,181.30	\$3,981.05	\$964,472.14	\$4,336,181.30	\$5,369,129.65

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 June 30, 2026, the grant provided more than 147,555 in-person contacts and answered more than 18,770 hotline calls. Services include:

- Individual crisis outreach and support;
- Group crisis outreach;
- Public education;
- Community networking and support;
- Assessment, referral, and resource connections; and
- Media campaigns and outreach programs.

North Carolina received three no-cost extensions of the program to allow the services to continue through July 23, 2026. A fourth no-cost extension has been requested but has not been granted.

Local Health Department Support

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

Purpose: Funds to assist local health departments 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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$1,081,034.43	\$12,000,000.00	\$7,675,360.52	\$4,324,639.48	\$0.00

Activities: Funds were allocated to all local health departments in the impacted area and 18 accepted funds. As of June 30, 2026, 16 expended funds to serve 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. Local health departments 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
Appalachian Health District	\$ 1,266,033.00
Buncombe	\$ 2,166,210.00
Burke	\$ 849,691.00
Caldwell	\$ 800,010.00
Clay	\$ 245,610.00
Cleveland	\$ 434,610.00
Foothills Health District	\$ 1,210,862.00
Graham	\$ 226,459.00
Haywood	\$ 667,530.00
Henderson	\$ 1,064,970.00
Jackson	\$ 316,170.00
Macon	\$ 301,050.00
Madison	\$ 369,451.00
Polk	\$ 361,171.00
Swain	\$ 250,650.00
Toe River Health District	\$ 664,382.00
Transylvania	\$ 452,251.00
Yancey	\$ 352,890.00
Total	\$ 12,000,000.00

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

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

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$3,463,433.19	\$25,000,000.00	\$7,635,757.37	\$13,264,242.63	\$4,100,000.00

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;
- up to six 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;
- 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.

Housing

Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH)

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

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

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 Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$4,910,417.00	\$1,212,262.50	\$3,698,154.50	\$669,861.46	\$1,212,262.50	\$0.00

Activities: The state received two allocations of funding from HUD. The first allocation of immediate funding for \$3 million and the second allocation of \$1.9 million are fully obligated to partners by DHHS.

Awards were made, and 13 subrecipients have programs in operation. For crisis response activities, three are providing street outreach, and five are providing emergency shelter. For housing stability activities, eight are providing rapid rehousing, and two are providing homelessness prevention. Street outreach and shelter contracts will end October 31, 2026. HUD recently provided an extension on the housing stability programs through May 7, 2027. Contracts for those activities will be extended through April 31, 2027.

Weatherization Assistance

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Purpose: Funds to supplement existing federal funds – North Carolina’s Weatherization Assistance Program – 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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$385,453.67	\$10,000,000.00	\$8,191,636.30	\$1,808,363.70	\$0.00

Activities: Many homes damaged by Hurricane Helene need 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 weatherization readiness. DEQ also allocated \$4 million to 10 weatherization providers in western North Carolina. So far, the program has repaired or weatherized 271 homes, and 269 more are in progress.

Ongoing Repair and Reconstruction (Volunteer Organizations)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety (DPS)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$2,389,534.33	\$28,000,000.00	\$19,705,059.98	\$6,120,091.02	\$2,174,849.00

Activities: The Department of Public Safety 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. DPS is in the process of closing out the winterization grants. SL 2025-26

appropriated an additional \$18 million to this program. Funds were awarded to 16 organizations for a total of \$15,900,000. Work has begun for all organizations, and funds are drawn down on a reimbursement basis after work is completed.

Private Road and Bridge Repair

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety (DPS)

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 for 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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$13,792,298.27	\$175,000,000.00	\$53,302,041.19	\$82,238,018.68	\$39,459,940.13

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, and some applicants had repairs made by nonprofit organizations or made repairs themselves; therefore, approximately 3,000 unique sites are currently 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. As of June 2026, the estimated cost for repair or replacement of all sites is approximately \$380 million. The overall cost estimate has adjusted and will continue to 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.

As of June 2026, 123 sites are complete and 143 sites are in progress, which refers to projects under construction, assigned for construction (awaiting contractor availability), in pre-construction (e.g., scheduling tasks, finalizing permitting, or other strategic planning), or in design with an engineering firm. Importantly, 753 households are served by 123 completed sites.

SL 2025-26 appropriated \$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 closed on February 28, 2026. The reimbursement program received 691 applications totaling requested approximate reimbursement of \$21.1 million. This dollar figure represents 50% of the total amount requested, as SL 2025-26 requires that persons and homeowner associations applying for reimbursement shall be eligible for 50% of costs. The amount will change pending duplication of benefits determinations.

Human Services

Child Welfare Essential Services

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

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$27,000.00	\$3,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000,000.00	\$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.

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.

Counties continue to spend down funds allocated to them, with \$2,051,178 reported spent to support children and families as of May 5, 2026.

Funding Allocations, by County

County	Allocated Funds
Alexander	\$28,525
Alleghany	\$0
Ashe	\$247,638
Avery	\$63,757
Buncombe	\$1,244,011
Burke	\$57,323
Caldwell	\$5,349
Catawba	\$90,085
Clay	\$0
Cleveland	\$15,600
Gaston	\$6,449
Haywood	\$193,427
Henderson	\$244,422
Jackson	\$24,072
Lincoln	\$0
Macon	\$0
Madison	\$0
McDowell	\$25,000
Mitchell	\$87,763
Polk	\$84,614
Rutherford	\$427,627
Transylvania	\$95,139
Watauga	\$0
Wilkes	\$0
Yancey	\$59,199
Other*	\$0
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 (DHHS)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,399,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: DHHS 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. Counties continue to spend down funds allocated to them, with \$1,134,494 reported spent to support vulnerable adults as of May 5, 2026.

Funding Allocations, by County

County	Allocated Funds
Alexander	\$11,503
Alleghany	\$3,592
Ashe	\$140,086
Avery	\$16,545
Buncombe	\$269,659
Burke	\$236,720
Caldwell	\$0
Catawba	\$104,272
Clay	\$1,917
Cleveland	\$31,376
Gaston	\$1,395
Haywood	\$88,812
Henderson	\$174,625
Jackson	\$5,951
Lincoln	\$228
Macon	\$0
Madison	\$0
McDowell	\$46,872
Mitchell	\$44,724
Polk	\$45,524
Rutherford	\$43,356
Transylvania	\$55,542
Watauga	\$0
Wilkes	\$850
Yancey	\$75,452
Other*	\$1,000
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 Hurricane Helene federal disaster declaration.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	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

Helene Supplemental Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

Federal Agency: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

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:

Project	Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
Clean Water SRF (Helene)	\$ 253,681,000.00	\$ -	\$ 253,681,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Clean Water SRF, Decentralized (Helene)	\$ 22,510,000.00	\$ -	\$ 22,480,573.02	\$ 25,896.00	\$ 29,426.98	\$ -
Drinking Water SRF (Helene)	\$ 409,422,000.00	\$ -	\$ 409,422,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 685,613,000.00	\$ -	\$ 685,583,573.02	\$ 25,896.00	\$ 29,426.98	\$ -

Activities: DEQ awarded a total of \$861 million of these Helene-specific funds to water infrastructure projects in western North Carolina. Some funding sources were specifically for Helene recovery, and other funding sources were not specifically for Helene but prioritized western North Carolina.

The bulk of this funding comes from the EPA's State Revolving Fund. In September 2025, the State Water Infrastructure Authority (SWIA) approved the first loans for eligible drinking water and wastewater systems in Helene-impacted communities. Applications were accepted on a rolling basis until March 2, 2026. SWIA awarded the last of the remaining funds available in this allocation on April 15, 2026. More than \$758 million in unmet needs remain to repair water systems and make them more resilient to future storms.

Dam Safety Grants

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Purpose: The Dam Safety Grant Fund issues 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 Dam eligible projects.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$10,000,000.00	\$6,586,255.00	\$0.00	\$3,413,745.00

Activities: DEQ staff inspected more than 400 dams in western North Carolina communities. DEQ opened applications for the Dam Safety Grant Fund on October 13, 2025. DEQ assessed that approximately 40 dams in western North Carolina were eligible based on the guidelines of the grant fund. The first application submission deadline was December 12, 2025. DEQ awarded \$6.6 million to seven dam projects in western North Carolina and opened a second round of applications for the remaining \$3.4 million in grant funding. The second application period closed on June 19, 2026.

Emergency Loans for Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Repair

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$332,091.11	\$75,000,000.00	\$60,141,276.11	\$14,858,723.89	\$0.00

Activities: SL 2025-26 reallocated \$25 million from this program for other uses. All \$75 million remaining has been awarded to 26 communities in western North Carolina. Local governments have individual control of when to begin drawing down loans. SL 2025-26 adjusted the loan

terms to make them more favorable for local governments; however, the loan terms were adjusted to 10 years instead of the normal loan term of 20 years. The maximum loan amount is \$3 million.

Underground Storage Tank Repair

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$380,000.00	\$862,296.35	\$757,703.65

Activities: SL 2025-26 reallocated \$20 million from this program for other uses. DEQ 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.

Aerial Asset Accessibility Grant Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety (DPS)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$25,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000,000.00

Activities: The Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) received 20 applications for this program, and those 20 applicants requested more than \$70 million in funding. NCEM is reviewing applications. Eligible applicants are limited to people or units of local government that own an airport that (i) is currently in operation or (ii) was in operation prior to Helene and is not currently in operation because of Helene damage.

Floodplain Mapping

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety (DPS)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$1,144,457.91	\$5,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,570,763.25	\$3,429,236.75

Activities: DPS 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 priority counties in 2025 as completed. Another round of post-Helene 2D “rain on grid” data will be provided to some counties by June 30, 2026, and to the remainder of counties by September 30, 2026. A final stage of data processing, which requires FEMA input and approval, will take longer to complete.

Debris and Sediment Removal

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$20,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,500,000.00	\$3,500,000.00

Activities: OSBM signed grant agreements and/or delivered funds to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), and the 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 in western North Carolina. MountainTrue’s waterway clean-up program has removed nearly 2 million pounds of debris across 364 river miles, hiring 104 western North Carolinians to complete this work.
- Haywood Waterways Association, a nonprofit organization, to support clean-up and restoration efforts in the Pigeon River Watershed. With the help of state funds, Haywood Waterways has removed more than 147,000 pounds of trash debris in the Pigeon River Watershed.
- 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 (DNCR)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	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.

Town of Canton Wastewater Treatment

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
	\$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.

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

Responsible State Agency: Department of Information Technology (DIT)

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.⁴

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00

Activities: DIT will prioritize grant applicants that operate in one of the 39 counties designated as disaster areas due to Hurricane Helene and may also prioritize applicants that offer emergency services, disaster relief, educational services, or economic development. DIT is creating "resilience in a box" packages from vendors that would provide resources to quickly deploy broadband service with necessary cybersecurity for counties, local governments, fire

⁴ DIT previously reported to GROW NC that this was a \$20 million appropriation but has since corrected its reporting to reflect the actual appropriation of \$1 million.

departments, and community anchor institutions. An application will be made available for entities to report eligibility and interest to DIT.

Broadband Recovery Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Information Technology (DIT)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$50,000,000.00	\$50,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000,000.00	\$0.00

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 DIT received applications for more than \$143 million from 16 provider applications. Providers may submit receipts for reimbursement through June 30, 2026, and payments to providers will be made on a rolling basis as they are submitted and verified by DIT.

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks

Federal Agency: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Purpose: This federal award from EPA provides funding for DEQ's Leaking Underground Storage Tank program, primarily for corrective action.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$14,250,000.00	\$421,556.70	\$9,907,290.89	\$340,031.15	\$421,556.70	\$3,921,152.41

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, DEQ will clean up the underground storage tank releases and/or provide oversight of corrective action, site-specific corrective action, and enforcement.

Transportation Infrastructure Repair

Responsible State Agency: Department of Transportation (DOT)

Purpose: The General Assembly authorized DOT 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 authorization included:

- \$125 million from the Transportation Emergency Reserve (SL 2024-57)
- Up to \$270 million in Credit Balance Funds (SL 2025-26)
- \$28,161,418 in unexpended Hurricane Dorian funds (SL 2025-26)
- \$600,000 from the NC Railroad Dividend (SL 2025-26)

Expenditures:

Expenditure of S.L. 2024-57 Funds

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$125,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125,000,000.00

Expenditure of S.L. 2025-26 Funds

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$8,736,589.47	\$165,010,917.09	\$89,197,752.19	\$12,122,725.99	\$63,690,438.91

Activities: As of June 2026, DOT spent approximately \$1.7 billion of existing operational funds on Hurricane Helene recovery. The department began to utilize funding made available for Helene recovery by the General Assembly. While SL 2025-26 states that DOT shall use up to \$270 million in Credit Balance Funds for Helene recovery, the Highway Fund credit balance for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was \$136,059,188. GROW NC adjusted the net appropriation to reflect Credit Balance Funds available to DOT.

As of June 2026, 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 (FHWA)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Transportation (DOT)

Purpose: These federal funds reimburse the state for costs associated with damage to roads and bridges in the National Highway System. With a June 2026 announcement of more than \$900 million in federal authorization, North Carolina has received authorization for nearly \$2.9 billion in reimbursements from the Emergency Relief program.

Expenditures:

Program	Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Drawn Down
Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program	\$2,808,000,000	\$449,013,415

Activities: The Emergency Relief program provides spending authority from which DOT may seek reimbursement. As of June 2026, the Federal Highway Administration had reimbursed approximately \$449 million for Helene-related purposes.

As of June 2026, DOT had spent \$1.7 billion of existing operational funds on Hurricane Helene recovery. The department estimates \$5.8 billion in total transportation costs for hurricane recovery.

Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOl)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR)

Purpose: After a disaster, Congress may appropriate funding from the Historic Preservation Fund to assist impacted communities via grants. This funding is available to State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices to work on various recovery projects, including compliance activities, survey and inventory of historic resources in declared disaster areas, recovery and repair of historic properties damaged during the disaster, and other approved disaster-recovery-related activities. All funded repair work must substantially mitigate the threat from disasters and include steps to mitigate future damage.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$6,710,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,140.00	\$1,140.00	\$1,140.00	\$6,707,720.00

Activities: The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is using this emergency supplemental grant to meet capacity needs in response to Hurricane Helene. Funding will be used for personnel, technology, and training to support environmental and historic preservation in western North Carolina. SHPO has advertised four time-limited positions associated with this grant funding, with the expectation of onboarding new personnel by August 2026. Additionally, SHPO is moving forward with the state Department of Information Technology to scan and digitize paper-based historic architectural survey records and is collaborating with the Office of State Archeology to undertake an archeological survey of the Pisgah View State Park. The term of this grant is January 1, 2026, through August 31, 2029.

Local Capacity for Recovery

Technical Assistance for Assessments and Design

Responsible State Agency: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$423,272.00	\$7,000,000.00	\$4,848,690.85	\$2,151,309.15	\$0.00

Activities: DEQ provided 19 technical assistance grants to local governments for preliminary engineering as part of their emergency bridge loans. 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 (DPS)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$50,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$45,582,004.64	\$4,417,995.36

Activities: DPS uses a portion of these funds to pay costs associated with Hurricane Helene recovery that are not covered by the federal government.

The remaining funds – \$26 million – were transferred to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) for use administering 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 June 30, 2026, Baptists on Mission repaired 472 homes with these 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 has completed 117 projects and served 142 families as of June 30, 2026.

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 (GROW NC) and help fund initiatives beyond staffing and operations, like technical assistance efforts and long-term economic recovery planning.

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$944,644.19	\$10,000,000.00	\$177,406.21	\$2,738,613.72	\$7,083,980.07

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 June 30, 2026, the Recovery Office employed 18 staff.

Hurricane Helene Local Government Capital Grant Program

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$3,878,974.60	\$70,000,000.00	\$27,293,925.41	\$42,706,074.59	\$0.00

Activities: 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, and grant agreements are signed with all but seven remaining grantees, who are in the process of receiving FEMA Public Assistance or insurance determinations before moving forward. OSBM received 172 applications representing \$118 million in need.

Technical Assistance for Local Governments

Responsible State Agency: Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$13,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$13,500,000.00	\$0.00

Activities: 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.

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$0.00	\$151,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$148,578,911.77	\$2,921,088.23

Activities: The Office of the State Treasurer expended 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 kept available to cover administrative expenses, and of that \$49,500 was used. No additional funds will be expended, barring additional funding or other legislative authorization.

As of June 30, 2026, \$723,790 has been repaid by local governments.

Loans made to municipal and county governments

County	Number of Loans	Round I	Round II	Round III	County Total
Ashe County	4	\$ 676,350.75	\$ 309,258.65	\$ 485,631.36	\$ 1,471,240.76
Avery County	12	\$ 3,782,698.04	\$ 1,584,901.77	\$ 2,136,913.90	\$ 7,504,513.71
Buncombe County	18	\$ 13,760,704.90	\$ 9,080,053.51	\$ 19,993,509.21	\$ 42,834,267.62
Burke County	1	\$ 5,460,967.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,460,967.40
Caldwell County	1	\$ 1,146,530.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,146,530.45
Cleveland County	4	\$ 1,311,714.97	\$ 766,809.67	\$ 507,228.22	\$ 2,585,752.86
Haywood County	9	\$ 2,611,906.54	\$ 548,934.87	\$ 1,528,608.05	\$ 4,689,449.46
Henderson County	9	\$ 7,016,146.99	\$ 3,856,279.12	\$ 5,952,971.18	\$ 16,825,397.29
Jackson County	1	\$ 203,928.93	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 203,928.93
Madison County	7	\$ 2,642,277.27	\$ 1,838,022.21	\$ 1,426,800.28	\$ 5,907,099.76
McDowell County	3	\$ 790,379.07	\$ 378,312.67	\$ -	\$ 1,168,691.74
Mitchell County	7	\$ 5,796,067.02	\$ 3,773,902.32	\$ 6,070,197.95	\$ 15,640,167.29
Polk County	8	\$ 1,969,951.41	\$ 1,299,879.94	\$ 1,018,744.34	\$ 4,288,575.69
Rutherford County	9	\$ 5,420,774.13	\$ 3,576,918.45	\$ 3,938,273.07	\$ 12,935,965.65
Surry County	1	\$ 48,053.05	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,053.05
Watauga County	8	\$ 4,833,800.53	\$ 3,115,047.40	\$ 4,809,848.17	\$ 12,758,696.10
Wilkes County	1	\$ 227,251.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 227,251.95
Yancey County	6	\$ 5,852,494.46	\$ 3,861,790.75	\$ 3,118,576.85	\$ 12,832,862.06
Total	109	\$ 63,551,997.86	\$ 33,990,111.33	\$ 50,987,302.58	\$ 148,529,411.77

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	

Election Administration

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:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$4,018.87	\$2,750,000.00	\$0.00	\$592,203.14	\$2,157,796.86

Activities: From the \$5 million originally 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 use the remaining funds for conducting future elections in the impacted area.

State Parks and Local Government

Responsible State Agency: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR)

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

Expenditures:

FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	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 was January 30, 2026. The grants were distributed as follows:

- The City of Asheville in Buncombe County received \$345,000 for Azalea Park. Funds will enhance a trail along the Swannanoa River with bench seating and fitness stations.
- Ashe County received \$300,000 for Family Central Park in Jefferson. New amenities include a splash pad, accessible playground, and picnic shelter.

- Avery County received \$987,500 for Hodge Turbyfill Fields in Newland. Funds will rebuild park amenities including restrooms, walking paths, and foot bridges, and repair ball fields and playgrounds.
- The Town of Banner Elk in Avery County received \$204,201 for Tate-Evans Park. Funds will reconstruct a pavilion outside of the floodplain, reconstruct a pedestrian bridge, and add new multipurpose courts.
- The Town of Beech Mountain in Watauga County received \$353,250 for Shane Park. Funds will rebuild and enhance a campground, replace a parking lot, add a pavilion, and renovate a bathhouse.
- Buncombe County received \$284,368 for boat launch replacements on the French Broad River.
- The Town of Canton in Haywood County received \$403,804 for Sorrells Street Park. Funds will go to structural repair and renovation of a community center and add a new flood-resilient playground and an outdoor plaza.
- The City of Hendersonville in Henderson County received \$361,762 for Sullivan Park. Funds will replace and relocate restrooms and replace a damaged playground.
- The Town of Montreat in Buncombe County received \$307,274 for Flat Creek. Funds will restore and stabilize streambanks, add a new geolift system with native plantings, and facilitate design and engineering of a future bridge.
- The Town of Seven Devils in Watauga County received \$117,716 for repairs on the Otter Falls Trail. Funds will construct engineered switchbacks to make the trail safer and reduce future landslide and erosion risks.
- Watauga County received \$494,000 for Cove Creek Park in Sugar Grove. Funds will replace trails, benches, a playground, and a picnic shelter and add new exercise equipment, creek access points, a fishing pier, and a performance stage.

Multi-Category

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

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

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce (DOC)

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

Expenditures:

CDBG-DR Q4 2026

Project	FY 26 Q4	
	Total Funds Drawn Down	Expended
Administration - Agency General Operations	\$1,566,076.45	\$1,232,000.23
Administration - Commercial District Revitalization Program (CDR)	\$77,761.58	\$55,411.96
Administration - Infrastructure CDBG-DR	\$98,749.83	\$75,740.59
Administration - Multi-Family Large - CDBG-DR	\$93,307.83	\$77,580.49
Administration - Workforce Housing for Ownership (WHO)	\$8,551.28	\$8,448.00
Multi-Family Housing: Small Rental Rehabilitation Program	\$24,973.35	\$25,065.84
Single-Family: Low and Moderate Income (LMI)	\$11,025,140.55	\$7,098,226.37
Single-Family: Mitigation - Low and Moderate Income (LMI)	\$371,916.08	\$3,568,932.49
Single-Family: Urgent Need (UN)	\$520,761.44	\$517,324.69
Totals	\$13,787,238.39	\$12,658,730.66

CDBG-DR Life-to-Date

Project	Cumulative		
	Obligated	Total Funds Drawn Down	Expended
Administration - Agency General Operations	\$7,282,378.82	\$4,456,625.73	\$4,376,093.69
Administration - Commercial District Revitalization Program (CDR)	\$0.00	\$259,323.66	\$259,323.66
Administration - Infrastructure CDBG-DR	\$0.00	\$238,402.96	\$238,402.96
Administration - Multi-Family Large - CDBG-DR	\$0.00	\$158,243.00	\$158,243.00
Administration - Workforce Housing for Ownership (WHO)	\$0.00	\$8,738.91	\$8,738.91
Multi-Family Housing: Small Rental Rehabilitation Program	\$0.00	\$67,917.47	\$75,351.50
Single-Family: Low and Moderate Income (LMI)	\$110,440,861.06	\$13,507,988.70	\$10,365,799.34
Single-Family: Mitigation - Low and Moderate Income (LMI)	\$0.00	\$371,916.08	\$3,568,932.49
Single-Family: Urgent Need (UN)	\$19,306,233.12	\$1,235,513.18	\$1,253,788.84
Totals	\$137,029,473.00	\$20,304,669.69	\$20,304,674.39

Renew NC - State Funds

Purpose	Appropriation	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
DCR Operations	\$5,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Home Reconstruction and Repair	\$120,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$80,000,000.00
Totals	\$125,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$45,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$80,000,000.00

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 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: Commercial District Revitalization Program
- \$71 million: Program Administration

The General Assembly appropriated \$120 million to DCR in SL 2025-02 to support a HUD-compliant Home Reconstruction and Repair program that would later be reimbursed by federal funds. This appropriation has improved the timeline for single-family housing repair and reconstruction while the state worked with federal partners to receive the \$1.4 billion allocation

of funds from 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 are made as the vendor meets 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.

Single-Family Housing Program

As of August 7, 2026, 7,924 applications had been submitted. Of these, 2,455 were determined eligible for the program, 5,469 as ineligible or inactive, and the remainder as requiring additional review. As of August 7, 2026, 113 homes had been completed. Most of the eligible applicants were confirmed to be at or below 60% area median income, to be in a HUD-identified Most Impacted and Distressed Area, and to have a child, person with a disability, or elderly adult in the home.

Multi-Family Housing Program

The portion of the Multi-Family Housing Program dedicated to small unit rentals (one to four units) began accepting applications on December 15, 2025, and closed for applications on July 10, 2026. It helps eligible rental property owners (landlords) repair, reconstruct, or replace small rental properties (one to four units) damaged by Hurricane Helene. Assistance is provided as a grant with a 10-year affordability period. There were 101 active cases in July.

Pre-screenings opened for the Multi-Family Construction and Repair Program on June 1, 2026, and full applications opened on June 25, 2026. This program is designed to increase the availability of safe and sanitary affordable rental housing in areas affected by Hurricane Helene and is intended to serve multi-family rental properties with five or more rental units. Applications close November 2, 2026.

The large unit Multi-Family Housing Program is administered in partnership with the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency and began accepting applications in January 2026. Applications closed on May 15, 2026. The division is working with the NC Housing Finance Agency to fund projects in the most impacted and distressed counties where an application was submitted. The NC Housing Finance Agency expects to announce awards in August 2026.

Workforce Housing for Ownership Program

Prescreening opened for the Workforce Housing for Ownership program on July 20, 2026. Full applications are anticipated to open in late August 2026. This program provides affordable housing for purchase by low- and moderate-income families. The award range is \$2 million to \$5 million.

Commercial District Revitalization Program

Applications are open through August 4, 2026, for Round 1 of the Commercial District Revitalization Program for local governments and nonprofit organizations that received FEMA Public Assistance (PA) decisions. DCR plans to open Round 2 in fall 2026 when more FEMA PA decisions are complete.

Community Infrastructure Program

Round 1 opened for full applications to the Community Infrastructure program on July 6, 2026, and applications are due on September 16, 2026. Round 1 makes available \$55 million of the total \$193 million federal funding allocation available.

Award amounts will generally range from \$500,000 to \$15 million per project. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition, demolition, site preparation, or renovation of properties;
- Flood control and stormwater management systems;
- Restoration of public spaces, including parks and community centers;
- Physical upgrades and rehabilitation assistance for public utility services.

This first round of funding will award priority points to water and sewer, parks and recreation facilities, and roads and bridges projects. Round 2 will likely open in early 2027. Offering two rounds addresses the needs of local governments at different stages in the recovery process. Some local governments have FEMA Public Assistance decisions for their projects, and others do not.

Natural Resources

Soil and Water Conservation Technical Assistance

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DA&CS)

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$191,989.57	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$483,368.43	\$1,516,631.57

Activities: The department 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 (DEQ) and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DA&CS)

Purpose: DEQ 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 Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$61,006,486.00	\$315,966.25	\$33,064,124.75	\$159,596.55	\$315,996.25	\$27,626,365.00

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.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act funds are used for a variety of projects including the Recycling Infrastructure Grant, Solid Waste Debris Recovery and Disposal, Brownfields Redevelopment, Waste Pesticide Management, and Hazardous Waste Preparedness.

On June 2, 2026, DEQ awarded all available funding for the Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant to 16 local governments to rebuild and improve recycling and organic debris management systems for long-term resilience. The following counties and municipalities were awarded Recycling Infrastructure Grants, with award amounts in parentheses.

- Alleghany County (\$2,800,000)
- Ashe County (\$3,000,000)
- Avery County (\$544,000)
- Town of Black Mountain (\$525,000)
- Buncombe County (\$3,500,000)
- Graham County (\$1,400,000)
- Haywood County (\$2,514,500)
- Jackson County (\$3,000,000)
- Macon County (\$2,750,000)
- Town of Marshall (\$356,000)
- McDowell County (\$580,000)
- Mitchell County (\$380,000)
- Rutherford County (\$1,500,000)
- Watauga County (\$280,000)
- Wilkes County (\$570,000)
- Yancey County (\$1,300,000)

Applications for the Helene Debris Recovery and Disposal program opened on June 15, 2026, and will remain open until September 14, 2026. This program will provide grants to local governments and non-governmental organizations in western North Carolina to help communities shorten timeframes and/or fund remaining Hurricane Helene solid waste disaster debris clean-up and removal projects that are not covered by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or other funding sources.

Local governments in Hurricane Helene-impacted communities can apply for a Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste Management Financial Assistance Grant to support recovery and redevelopment. These grant funds are targeted for individual project redevelopment. Eligible properties must have been in productive use at the time of the storm and now be idled or impaired as a result. Funding from this grant can be used for environmental assessments to determine potential levels of contamination on a project site and feasibility studies to evaluate the site's redevelopment potential. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government's Development Finance Initiative will conduct feasibility analysis for redevelopment of qualified properties.

Below is a summary of awards to DEQ and a description of programs.

Grant Programs	Total 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: US Forest Service (USFS)

Responsible State Agency: Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC)

Purpose: This agreement between the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and the US Forest Service 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 throughout the Pisgah and Nantahala national forests over the next 10 years.

Expenditures:

Federal Funds Approved or Awarded	Federal Funds Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$290,388,237.00	\$695,185.63	\$5,582,477.57	\$540,817.75	\$670,420.17	\$284,135,339.26

Activities: WRC 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. WRC expects to hire approximately 90 staff members to facilitate this work and has hired seven supervising team members so far, with 40 more hires expected in fall 2026.

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

Federal Agency: US Forest Service (USFS)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR)

Purpose: This agreement between the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the US Forest Service 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 Drawn Down	Obligations as of June 2026	FY 26 Q4 Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$10,146,638.90	\$221,553.68	\$577.77	\$139,839.28	\$222,131.45	\$9,923,929.68

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 State Appropriations

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$1,022,754.22	\$2,000,000.00	\$366,142.67	\$1,022,754.22	\$611,103.11

Activities: As of June 30, 2026, the Office of the State Auditor had obligated about \$366,000 and expended just over \$1 million.

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 Q4 Expenditures	State Funds Net Appropriation	Obligations as of June 30, 2026	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
\$17,340,178.95	\$395,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$105,706,747.81	\$289,293,252.19

Activities: These funds are expended when the federal government requires a state match for 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 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. Further, the state anticipates a bill from FEMA for the state's share of the cost of the significant debris removal operations conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the region.

Appendix I: Other Federal Funds

Other Federal Funding as of June 30, 2026

This table shows federal funds that can be disbursed to non-state entities, including individuals, small business owners, local governments, nonprofits, and others.

Assistance to State Agencies, Local Governments, and Nonprofits

Agency	Funding Program	Federal Funding Allocated or Disbursed
HUD	CDBG-DR Asheville*	\$1,200,847
FEMA**	Public Assistance (A) - Debris Removal	\$602,056,031
	Public Assistance (B) - Emergency Protective Measures	\$692,761,539
	Public Assistance (C) - Roads and Bridges	\$580,107,522
	Public Assistance (D) - Water Control Facilities	\$17,686,252
	Public Assistance (E) - Buildings and Equipment	\$74,798,189
	Public Assistance (F) - Utilities	\$129,843,362
	Public Assistance (G) - Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Other Items	\$70,849,536
	Public Assistance (Z) - Management Costs	\$182,319,571
	Total	\$2,351,622,848

*The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the City of Asheville a \$225,010,000 CDBG-DR grant. The amount in the table above reflects the total funds from this award that Asheville had drawn down as of June 30, 2026.

**Source of FEMA Public Assistance numbers is the FEMA Portal as of June 30, 2026, and reflects approved projects by FEMA. Once a project is approved obligated funds become available for recipient(s) to draw down commonly referred to as obligated costs.

Assistance to Individuals and Businesses

Agency	Funding Program	Federal Funding Allocated or Disbursed
Small Business Administration	Business Physical Damage Loans	\$211,938,400
	Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)	\$53,435,500
	Home and Personal Property Disaster Loan Program	\$165,716,100
Department of Labor	DOL Unemployment Insurance	\$57,932,653
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)	\$64,983,438
	USDA Disaster Assistance Fund	\$25,000,000
FEMA	FEMA Disaster Unemployment Assistance	\$38,875,151
	FEMA Individual Assistance: Housing Assistance	\$294,162,826
	FEMA Individual Assistance: Other Needs Assistance	\$273,069,993
	Individual Assistance: Private Roads and Bridges	\$34,179,775
	Total	\$1,219,293,836

Programs Completed

Agency	Funding Program	Federal Funding Allocated or Disbursed
U.S. Department of Education	Project School Emergency Response to Violence	\$7,350,907.00
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Emergency Prescription Assistance Program	\$2,434,611.00
Department of Homeland Security	Crisis Counseling Immediate Services Program	\$56,297.01

Appendix II: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Federal Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Safety

Purpose: The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in ways that reduce or mitigate future disaster losses in their communities.

After the state's presidential disaster declaration in response to Hurricane Helene, the state was authorized for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). In October 2025, the state was notified by FEMA of a \$1.543 billion allocation of federal funds through HMGP. The program operates with a 75% federal and 25% state cost share, meaning the state's HMGP match is approximately \$513 million if fully realized.

Expenditures: As of late June 2026, FEMA had obligated approximately \$194 million for HMGP projects.

Activities: HMGP offers funding for several mitigation efforts. Three mitigation efforts make up the majority of HMGP funding: voluntary acquisition of flood-damaged properties, voluntary elevation of flood-prone properties, and infrastructure upgrades to prepare for the next disaster.

Generally, counties and the state begin processing and submitting HMGP applications one year after an HMGP-designated disaster. After Hurricane Helene, counties and the state began processing and submitting HMGP applications months after the storm, with the first voluntary property acquisition submission to FEMA in February 2025. FEMA approved the first voluntary acquisition in January 2026. As of June 2026, the state has submitted 835 properties for voluntary acquisition, with 446 approved by FEMA. The state has submitted 466 properties for voluntary elevation, with zero properties approved by FEMA. The state has submitted 86 infrastructure applications to FEMA, with zero projects approved by FEMA. Applications are due to FEMA by August 25, 2026.

Appendix III: Programs No Longer Active

The programs listed below are no longer active (i.e., carrying out their core mission), though in some cases cumulative expenditures are less than the amount appropriated.

Crisis Counseling Immediate Services Program

Federal Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

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

Purpose: The 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.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Facility Repairs

Responsible State Agency: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DA&CS)

Purpose: Funding for DA&CS 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 DA&CS 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 (DHHS)

Purpose: Funds to assist the DHHS 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 damage 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.

Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina Business Loss Assessment

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce (DOC)

Purpose: Allocates funds to DOC for a 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: DOC 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.

Emergency Grants for Affected Private College and University Students

Responsible State Agency: University of North Carolina System

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.

Fiber Network Restoration

Responsible State Agency: Department of Information Technology (DIT)

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

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$12,000,000.00	\$0

Activities: On January 28, 2026, MCNC informed DIT that they would decline this grant funding due to the deadline requirement, US Treasury rules, and the scale of work necessary for completion.

Grants to Fire Departments and Rescue Squads

Responsible State Agency: Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)

Purpose: SL 2025-2 provided the initial appropriation of \$10 million for the purpose of disbursing grants of up to \$500,000 to small and volunteer fire departments across 39 federally disaster-declared counties 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 \$50,000 grants to each fire department and rescue squad in the 25 westernmost counties to repair or replace equipment and facilities damaged by Hurricane Helene and to enhance wildfire response and preparedness. SL 2026-41 transferred the \$4,496,640 remaining balance in the program to the Helene Fund.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$28,000,000.00	\$23,256,334.40

Activities: The Office of the State Fire Marshal awarded grants to local and volunteer fire departments. In its first round of applications, 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.

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 were awarded to students from Helene-impacted counties attending a University of North Carolina System institution or NC Community College System campus outside the impacted area. These funds provided 4,082 awards to those students. All funds have 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, the 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 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.

Railroad Repair Funds

Responsible State Agency: Department of Transportation (DOT)

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 DOT. (The \$600,000 is reflected in the Transportation Infrastructure Repair entry in this report.)

Expenditures:

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

Activities: DOT signed grant agreements with 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 were disbursed in February 2026. The dividend payment from NC Railroad was received by the Department of Transportation.

Rental Assistance

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

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	\$999,924.63

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.

School Extension Learning Recovery Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

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	\$4,725,388.72

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 (DPI)

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.

SelectSite Readiness Program

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce (DOC)

Purpose: The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina offers the SelectSite Readiness Program to prepare industrial sites for development by upgrading infrastructure to increase competitiveness for new business investment. The General Assembly expanded the program to include five additional sites in western North Carolina.

Expenditures:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$15,000,000.00	\$15,000,000.00

Activities: The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina designated five additional SelectSite locations in western North Carolina, in addition to a previous site designated in Henderson County. There is no additional funding provided for the infrastructure or due diligence of the sites.

Utility Assistance

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

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	\$8,999,983.90

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.

Visit NC Tourism Promotion

Responsible State Agency: Department of Commerce (DOC)

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:

State Funds Net Appropriation	Cumulative Expenditures
\$14,000,000.00	\$14,000,000.00

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

The breakdown of spending as of June 30, 2026, includes:

- Total domestic media spend of \$11,730,000;

- Total international media spend of \$500,000;
- Total creative production spend of \$811,900;
- Total marketing consulting spend of \$645,000;
- Total public relations spend of \$165,000; and
- Total research spend of \$148,100.



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