



NC DEPARTMENT
of COMMERCE
RURAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Western North Carolina Disaster Recovery

OCTOBER 1, 2024



NORTH CAROLINA DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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A MESSAGE FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA MAIN STREET & RURAL PLANNING CENTER AND APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

The North Carolina Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division, the Main Street & Rural Planning Center (MS&RP), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) extend our deepest sympathies to all those affected by Hurricane Helene. We are dedicated to providing support to Western North Carolina communities: basic needs come first, then months of clean up, and years of rebuilding. The devastation is like nothing we've seen in our lifetime, and our friends, neighbors, and fellow North Carolinians need our support now more than ever. Please join us in supporting Western North Carolina today. Visit www.nc.gov/donate to give to the [North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund](#).

NCDOT URGES PEOPLE TO AVOID COMING TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

State transportation officials are urging people to avoid unnecessary travel in western North Carolina as about 390 roads, including areas along Interstate 40 and dozens of highways in the foothills and mountains, remain closed due to flooding, downed trees, landslides or catastrophic damage from Helene. N.C. Department of Transportation crews are working day and night this weekend to assess the widespread damage to roads and will prioritize efforts to reopen interstates, U.S. and state highways first before getting to state-maintained secondary roads. But the emergency response and recovery effort will likely take months as damage to many roads and bridges is serious. Hundreds of thousands of power outages and limited cell phone coverage are impacting those efforts.

[More Information from NCDOT HERE.](#)

HOW TO APPLY FOR FEMA ASSISTANCE AFTER HURRICANE HELENE

FEMA may be able to help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs. Homeowners and renters in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians can apply.

[More FEMA Information in Governor Cooper's Press Release HERE.](#)

WNC Disaster Recovery Resource List

- ⇒ FEMA Helpline: CALL 1-800-621-3362
- ⇒ General Emergency Management Information from FEMA: <https://www.fema.gov/>
- ⇒ FEMA Español : <https://www.fema.gov/es>
- ⇒ FEMA NC Referrals (Local & State): <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual/disaster-survivors/state-local-referral-lists/north-carolina>
- ⇒ US Disaster Assistance: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>
- ⇒ NC Extension Disaster info: <https://ncdisaster.ces.ncsu.edu/>
- ⇒ North Carolina Emergency Management: CALL 1-919-825-2500
- ⇒ ReadyNC: <https://www.readync.gov/>
- ⇒ Emergency Shelters List from ReadyNC: <https://www.readync.gov/stay-informed/open-shelters>
- ⇒ NC DEQ—Situation Report Tracking System: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/news/deq-dashboard>
- ⇒ NC DEQ—Report Environmental Emergency: CALL 1-800-858-0368
- ⇒ NC Dept of Ag Emergency Services: <https://www.ncagr.gov/emergency-programs/disaster-information>
- ⇒ NC Forest Service: https://www.ncforestservice.gov/managing_your_forest/damage_recovery.htm
- ⇒ NC Dept of Insurance: <https://www.ncdoi.gov/press-release-terms/disaster>
- ⇒ NC Dept of Insurance: CALL 1-919-807-6800
- ⇒ NCDOT: <https://www.ncdot.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- ⇒ North Carolina Road Conditions/Closures on DriveNC: <https://drivenc.gov/>
- ⇒ SBA Disaster Assistance: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>
- ⇒ National Trust for Historic Preservation: <https://savingplaces.org/disaster-recovery>
- ⇒ NCDHHS Mental Health Developmental Disabilities: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-use-services/mental-health-disaster-preparedness>
- ⇒ Crisis Solutions NC Mental Health: <https://crisissolutionsnc.org/>, CALL or TEXT 988
- ⇒ United Methodist Disaster Ministries: <https://nccumc.org/disaster/>, CALL 1-919-779-6115
- ⇒ Baptists on Mission: <https://baptistsonmission.org/>, CALL 1-800-395-5102 ext.5596
- ⇒ American Veterinary Medical Association: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/emergency-care/pets-and-disasters>
- ⇒ U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>, CALL 1-800-827-5722
- ⇒ NC State Historic Preservation Office: <https://www.hpo.nc.gov/restoration-services/disaster-preparedness-and-response>, CALL 1-919-814-6570
- ⇒ American Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/disaster-relief/hurricane-relief/hurricane-helene.html>

We will continue to add to this list of vetted resources.

CONTACT US: WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

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[NC Main Street & Rural Planning \(ncmainstreetandplanning.com\)](http://ncmainstreetandplanning.com)