

NC Department of Health and Human Services

Helene Recovery Funding to Impacted LHDs to Restore Essential Functions

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November 18, 2024

Hurricane Helene Disaster Recovery Fund

• Part II of the Disaster Recovery Act of 2024

- Session Law 2024-53 (Senate Bill 743)
- Allocates \$12,000,000 in funds to DHHS, Division of Public Health, to assist local health departments (LHDs) in counties with a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene with restoring essential functions

- Funds allocated must be used for the purposes of restoring essential functions, including temporary staffing, communicable disease and infection prevention efforts, environmental health efforts, and private well water quality efforts.
- Capital expenditures are allowable.
- Funding must follow the requirements outlined in Session Law 2024-51 (House Bill 149) and Session Law 2024-53 (Senate Bill 743)

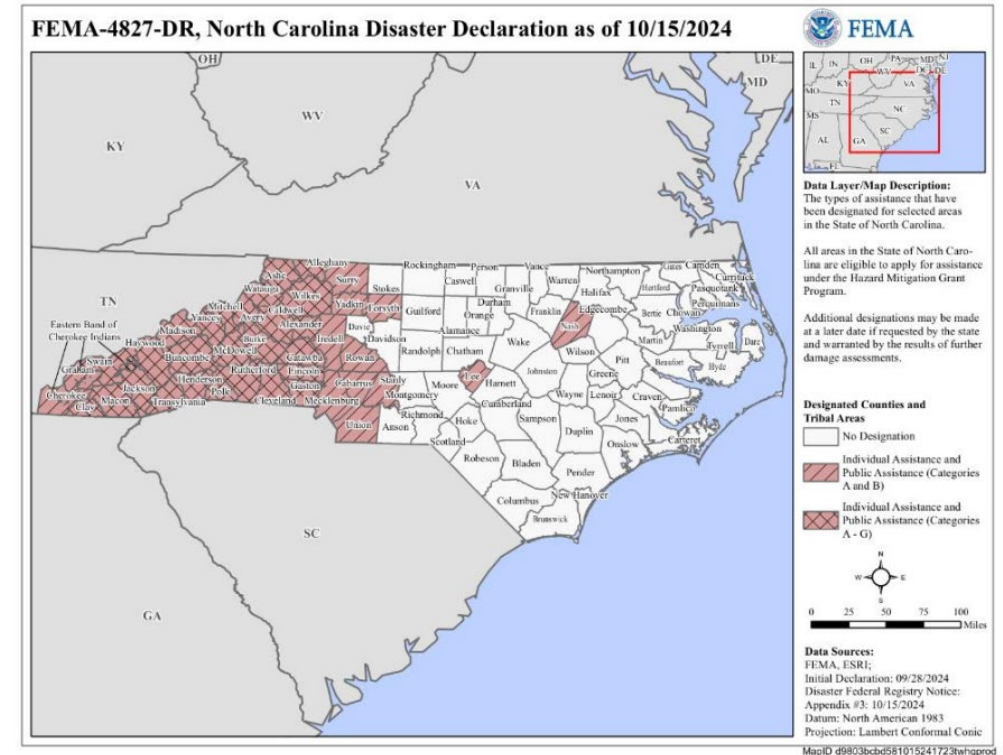
– 39 eligible counties (see map)

- Local Health Departments and Districts in North Carolina counties under the major disaster declaration number FEMA DR-4827-NC
- Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Nash, Polk, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey.

– Funds end June 30, 2030

- Funds that are not expended by the LHD by May 31, 2030 and drawn by June 30, 2030 shall be returned to the State.

Exhibit 1: North Carolina counties included in FEMA's Helene disaster declaration



Steps to Distribute the Funding

- **Met with NCALHD Executive Team on November 4**
 - **Joint support for 60/40 split of funds with 40% going toward base per county and 60% going toward some disaster related indicator**
 - **Shared information on the Business Disruption Model included in the Governor's report (<https://www.osbm.nc.gov/hurricane-helene-dna/open>)**
 - **NCALHD shared that not all eligible LHDs are interested in accepting funds because essential functions were/are not disrupted and disaster-related disruption was small or non-existent**
 - **Proposed RFA-lite process to determine LHDs that would be accepting funds**
 - **Provides official documentation of a LHD's intent to accept or decline funds**
 - **Identifying accepting/declining LHDs up front reduces need to revise allocation and agreement addenda**
 - **RFA will be simple with quicker turnaround than traditional RFA**
 - **All LHDs that confirm acceptance of funds will be funded**
 - **AAs will be sent to LHDs that indicate acceptance of funds**

RFA “Lite” Includes:

- Eligibility

- Funding is available only to the Local Health Departments and Districts in North Carolina counties under the major disaster declaration number FEMA DR-4827-NC. Includes: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Nash, Polk, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey. FEMA DR-4827-NC map <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4827/designated-areas>

- Funding Formula

- 40% of funding distributed as BASE to each COUNTY
- 60% of funding distributed by Business Disruption Model with population multiplier
- Unable to provide funding estimate for each county because dependent on # of LHDs that apply/accept

- Application Requirements

- All eligible LHDs are required to submit the Hurricane Helene Recovery Acceptance or Refusal of Funds Form in Section VII of this RFA.
- Per Session Law 2024-53 Section 7.1.(h), the LHD must comply with the following reporting requirements:
 - LHDs receiving these funds shall submit Quarterly Reports by County (i.e., Districts covering multiple eligible counties must submit separate reports for each county) until the end of the quarter in which all awarded funds are expended.
 - LHD Quarterly Reports shall include the following items by County:
 - Total funds spent for the quarter reported.
 - Total funds spent for the State Fiscal Year (funds drawn July 1 – June 30).
 - Cumulative amount of funds spent to date (across all fiscal years).
 - List of activities funded by this RFA to restore essential functions.
 - Remittance information (in accordance with the Funding Guidelines or Restrictions of this RFA and subsequent AA):
 - List of activities originally funded by this RFA that have subsequently been paid for by other federal (including FEMA) or local funds.
 - Total amount of State funds to be remitted by the LHD to DPH.
 - Total aggregate amount of State funds remitted by the LHD to DPH44

RFA “Lite” Includes:

- **Timeline of Process – (If no serious objections from NCALHD regarding RFA)**

11/22/2024: Request for Applications released to eligible LHDs.

11/25/2024: Virtual Conference 11:30am – 1pm

12/06/2024: Written Acceptance or Refusal of funds due by 11:59pm.

12/10/2024: LHDs receiving funding will be notified.

01/03/2025: AAs issued retroactive to September 28, 2024.

- **Funding Guidelines and Restrictions**

- Per Session Law 2024-53 Section 3.1.(d), the LHD must comply:

- Receipt of Allocations. A recipient of State funds under this act [the LHD] shall use best efforts and take all reasonable steps to obtain alternative funds that cover the losses or needs for which the State funds are provided, including funds from insurance policies in effect and available federal aid. State funds paid under this act are declared to be excess over funds received by a recipient from the settlement of a claim for loss or damage covered under the recipient's applicable insurance policy in effect or federal aid...

- Essentially, no supplanting and no “double dipping”.

- Not able to use these funds and also submit FEMA reimbursement for expenses paid for by these funds

- Remittance of Funds. If a recipient [the LHD] obtains alternative funds pursuant to [...] [the Receipt of Allocations section above], the recipient shall remit the funds to the State agency from which the State funds were received. A recipient is not required to remit any amount in excess of the State funds provided to the recipient under this act.

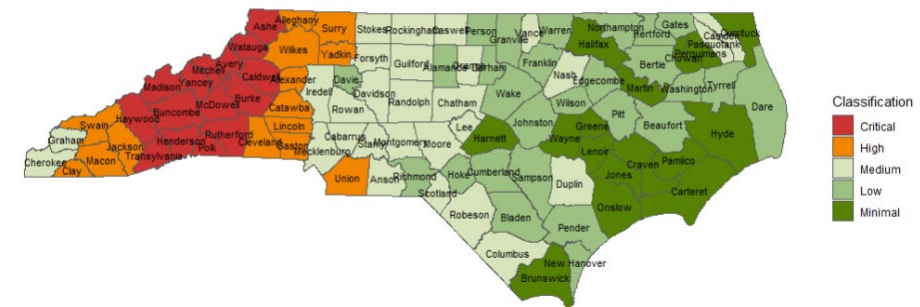
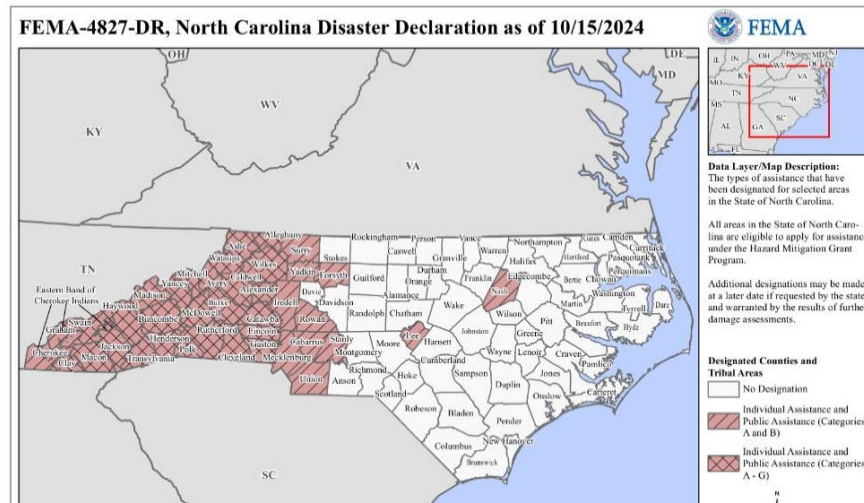
- Meaning if you do receive an alternative source of funding for these expenses, you must give back the funds to the state

- For example, you use these funds to pay for surge staffing but then your county submits FEMA reimbursement for that same surge staffing and receives FEMA reimbursement for that surge staffing; the LHD then must give back the Helene funds that were used to initially pay for that surge staffing.

Funding Formula:

- Funding Formula

- 40% of funding distributed as BASE to each COUNTY
- 60% of funding distributed by Business Disruption Model with population multiplier
 - Highest weight given to counties in the Critical (RED) then High (ORANGE) and finally Light Green (Medium)
 - NOTE: There are NO eligible counties in the Low and Minimal shaded areas
 - Population multiplier then applied to adjust for larger population
- Unable to provide funding estimate for each county because dependent on # of LHDs that apply/accept



<https://www.osbm.nc.gov/hurricane-helene-dna/open>