



North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors

MEDIA STATEMENT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NCALHD Applauds Inclusion of Local Health Department Funding in Helene Relief Bill

Statement from NCALHD Executive Director Patrick Brown, PharmD

“The North Carolina General Assembly recently passed over \$604 million in Hurricane Helene Disaster Funding, including allocating \$12 million to local health departments in affected counties for restoring essential public health functions.

This funding marks a significant step forward for local public health in its response and recovery from an unprecedented disaster in Western North Carolina. The much-needed funds will expand the capacity of local health departments by investing in temporary staffing, communicable disease and infection prevention efforts, environmental health efforts, and private well water quality efforts.

In the past month, local health departments have worked tirelessly to provide medical, sanitary, and logistical support to emergency shelters; administer vaccines to protect community members and responders in flood clean-up; worked with local restaurants and other businesses to ensure safe re-opening; supported residents with private well disinfection and testing for safe drinking water; and coordinated health-related supplies and volunteer deployment in partnership with County Emergency Management offices. Many of these services were provided by public health staff residing in affected counties and coping with their own personal loss and tragedy.

We are thankful to the leadership at the North Carolina General Assembly, the Office of the Governor, and the Department of Health and Human Services for including this vital funding to local health departments as they continue to support communities with recovery in the long road ahead.”

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The North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors (NCALHD) is an advocacy organization that represents the eighty-six health departments that serve all one hundred counties in North Carolina. NCALHD promotes health, prevent disease, protects the environment in order to ensure the public's health in North Carolina through leadership, vision, advocacy, and commitment to the principles of public health practice in our local communities and throughout the state.