



CENTRALINA
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Helene/FEMA Information Session

November 20, 2024

Welcome

Introductions

Please add your name and contact information in the meeting chat

During the presentation, please raise your hand to ask questions or post them in the chat

Takeaways for Today's Info Session

DR-4827 Helene disaster declaration, September 28, 2024

- Key FEMA Disaster Declaration **Public Assistance (PA)** and **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** policies
- **What local government units should know**, now and in the future
 - FEMA PA funds/Mitigation Grants
 - US EDA Disaster Economic recovery Grants
 - State Recovery and Resilience Grants
 - NCARCOG/Centralina Grants
 - Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) Updates
- Centralina Hazard Recovery and Resilience **resources and technical assistance services**

Policies and Regulations

DR-4827 disaster declaration was September 28, 2024

- For FEMA PA – the [FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide, V.4.0](#)
- 2 CFR 200 changes that went into effect on October 1, 2024, **are applicable** to DR-4827*
- For FEMA HMPG – [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide, v. 2.0](#)

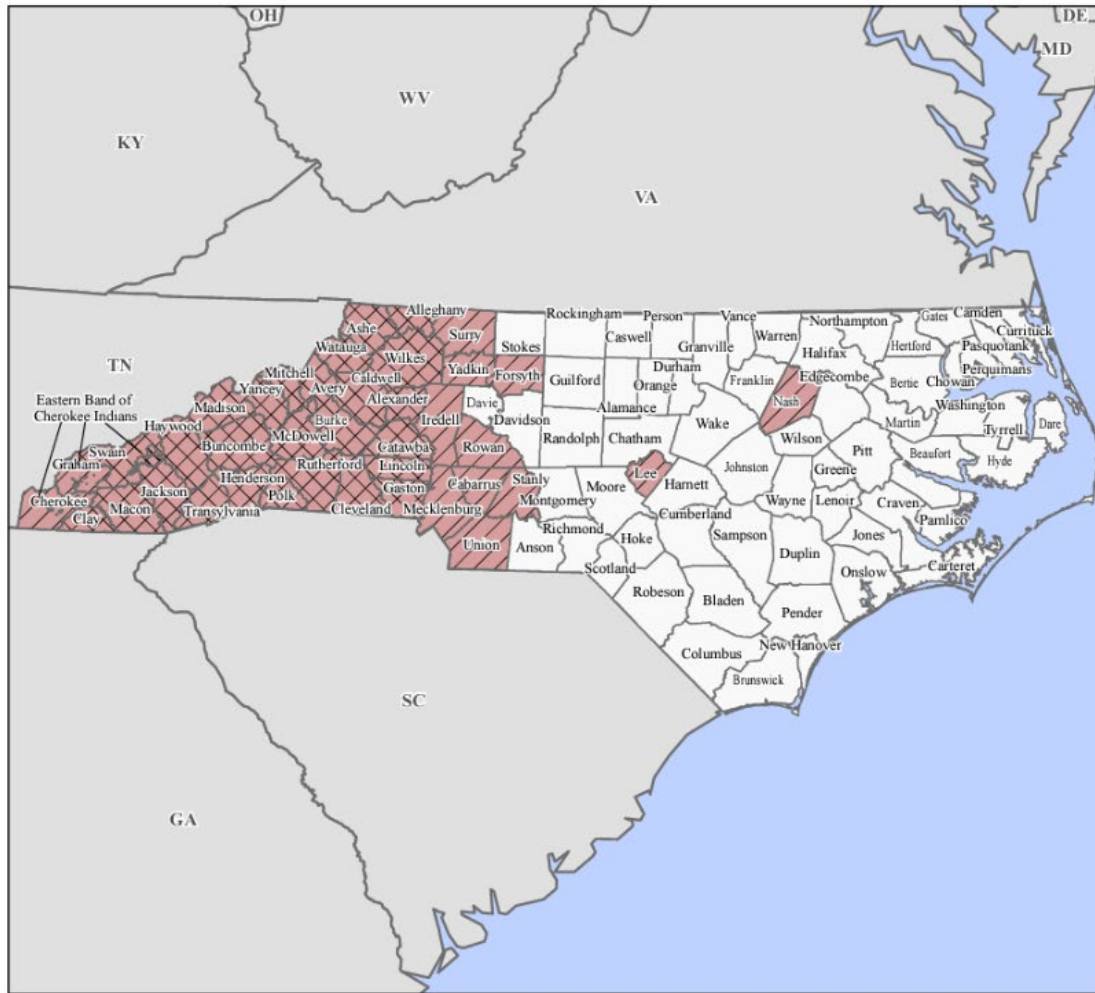
* Although there is conflicting information about this, including discrepancies within FEMA, the agency has not updated its declaration notice to include the Oct. 1, 2024 2 CFR 200 changes. However, FEMA issued a letter indicating this applicability and DR-4827 UNC SOG staff leads confirm for NC that the changes are applicable.

Tropical Storm Helene DR- 4827

*Total NC Preliminary
Damage Assessment costs
are still under review by
FEMA*

- Request for Public Assistance (RPA) is now due **January 7, 2025**
- The timeframe from the **Recovery Scoping Meeting** (RSM) date to finalizing the damage inventory is 60 days
- Decisions of eligibility determinations are not made at the **Exploratory Call** (EC) and the RSM

FEMA-4827-DR, North Carolina Disaster Declaration as of 10/15/2024



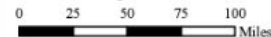
Data Layer/Map Description:
The types of assistance that have been designated for selected areas in the State of North Carolina.

All areas in the State of North Carolina are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Designated Counties and Tribal Areas

- No Designation
- Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A and B)
- Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A - G)



Data Sources:
FEMA, ESRI,
Initial Declaration: 09/28/2024
Disaster Federal Registry Notice:
Appendix #3: 10/15/2024
Datum: North American 1983
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

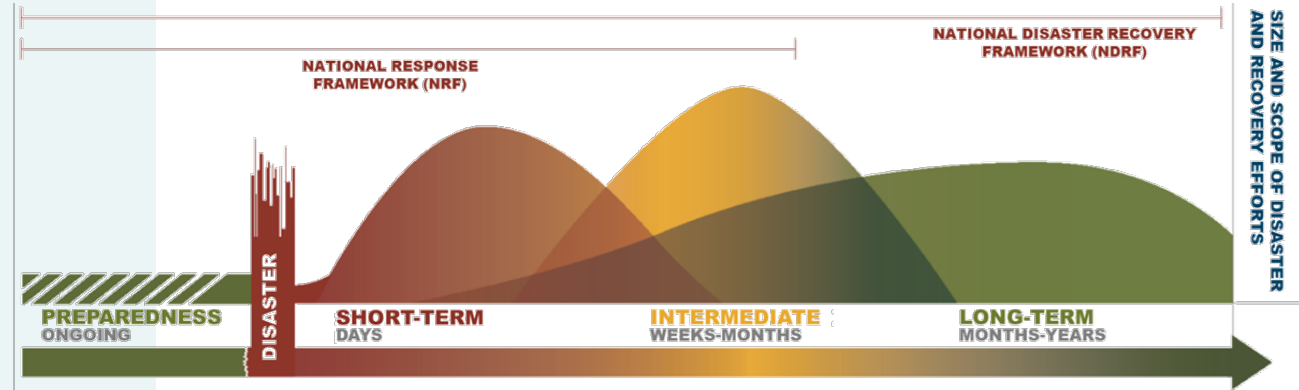
What You Need to Know Now

Key Recovery Concepts



Disaster Recovery Overview

Key Recovery Concepts



There are many federal grant programs designed to assist communities in every phase of disaster

PA Program Delivery Process

Grantor: FEMA

Recipient: State pass-through

Applicant/Subrecipient: local governments and eligible non-profits

How FEMA Public Assistance Works

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) reimburses eligible public and nonprofit entities for at least 75% of eligible response and recovery costs when authorized in a presidential emergency or major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288, as amended).*

WHAT IS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA)?



- State governments
- Local governments
- Territorial governments
- Tribal governments
- Eligible nonprofits



Debris Removal



Emergency Protective Measures (emergency personnel, materials, operations)



Reconstruction of disaster-damaged public and eligible nonprofit facilities

HOW IS PA FUNDED?



Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) Appropriations

The source of funding for Stafford Act Assistance.



PA accounts for more than **1/2** of DRF obligations year over year,** 2001-2020.

HOW IS PA AUTHORIZED?



Federal, state, local officials assess damage



Governor or tribal chief executive requests joint Preliminary Damage Assessment



Governor or tribal chief executive submits declaration request that includes PA

FEMA assesses request and makes recommendation to President to approve or deny request

State, tribe, or territory becomes PA Primary Recipient if PA is authorized



President issues declaration authorizing PA or denies request



Applicants develop PA projects involving response and recovery work

HOW IS PA STRUCTURED?

FEDERAL

FEMA reviews PA projects and obligates funds for approved projects to Primary Recipient.

Primary Recipient

• States • Territories • Tribes
With Stafford Act declarations authorizing PA
Primary Recipients administer PA in jurisdiction and disburse funds to Applicants.

PA Applicant

• State governments • Tribal governments
• Local governments • Eligible nonprofits
• Territorial governments
In jurisdictions with PA authorizations
Applicants execute PA projects.

PA Project

• Debris removal • Reconstruction and replacement of disaster-damaged facilities
• Emergency Protective Measures
Required as a result of declared incident and grouped into logical work.

HOW DO APPLICANTS RECEIVE PA FUNDS?

Applicants are reimbursed for **at least 75%** of the costs of approved work.

✓ Applicant submits Project Worksheets (PW) to FEMA and Primary Recipient.

✓ FEMA approves PW. FEMA obligates funds from Disaster Relief Fund to Primary Recipient.

✓ Applicant requests reimbursement and submits supporting documentation to Primary Recipient.

✓ Primary Recipient reviews request for compliance and accuracy and approves request.

✓ Primary Recipient disburses funds to Applicant to reimburse approved costs.

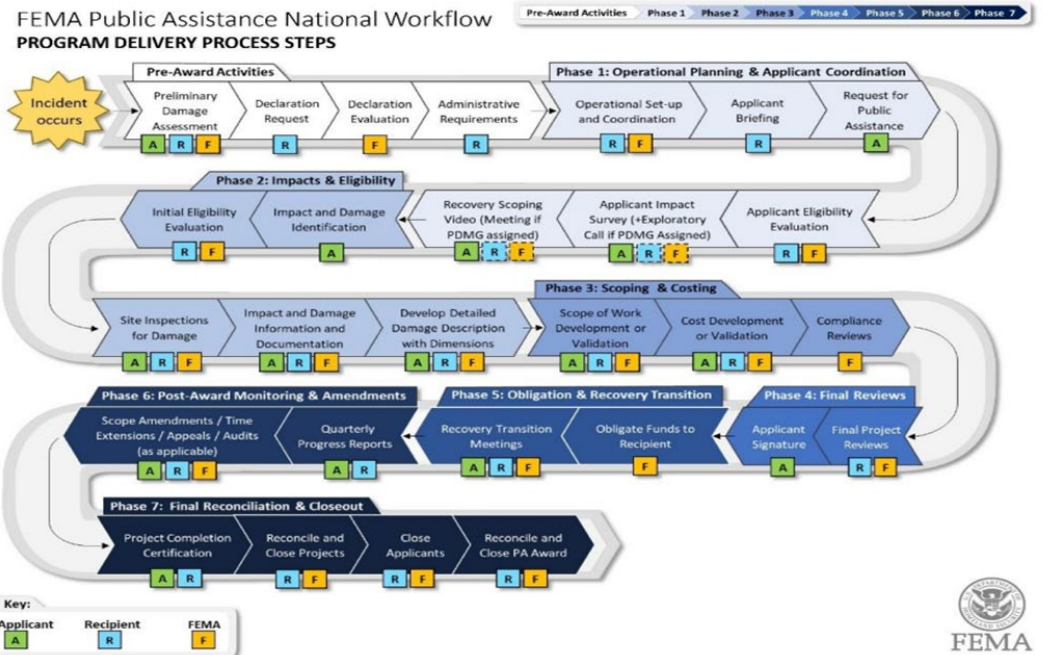


Applicant executes and pays for approved work (may be concurrent).

FEMA PA Workflow

PA is a Federal Cooperative Agreement Program

There is substantial federal involvement in the program



Source: Public Assistance's Consolidated Resource Centers' New Hire Training, PA 101 (March 2022)

Categories of Emergency Work

*Immediate actions following
an emergency or disaster*

Category A
Debris removal

Category B
Emergency
protective
measures

Statutory Timelines

Start Date - Date of Declaration
Emergency work - 6 Months
Permanent work - 18 Months

Debris Removal

Either U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or communities at 100% federal share

Debris Removal Guidelines

In efforts to expedite the debris removal process, please follow these rules.

Debris Separation

Please separate debris into the categories shown below.

Check with your local Office of Emergency Management for more information on debris removal.

Never touch, cut, remove or place debris on downed lines. *Can result in injury or death.

Placing debris near utility boxes or on lines can cause injury or damage.

Placing debris near or on trees, poles or other structures makes removal difficult. This includes fire hydrants and meters.

NO PICKUP **NO PICKUP**

Vegetative Debris
Tree branches, leaves, logs, plants.

Hazardous Waste
Oil, battery, pesticide, paint, cleaning supplies, compressed gas.

Electronics
Television, computer, stereo, phone, DVD player.

Construction Debris
Building materials, drywall, lumber, carpet, furniture, plumbing.

Large Appliances
Refrigerator, washer/dryer, air conditioner, stove, water heater, dishwasher. Do not leave doors unsealed or unsecured.

Debris should be placed curbside

Debris should not block roadway

Best practice: Debris monitoring should be independent from debris removal, this ensures reimbursement under **Category A**

Mutual Aid Agreements

State compacts (EMACs) are between states or territories

Mutual Aid Agreements (MAAs) are between local jurisdictions

- Mutual Aid Agreements (MAAs) already exist among all levels of government
- They authorize mutual aid between communities or jurisdictions
- They can also be with private sector entities, NGOs, and other community partners
- **The recipient of the assistance should submit costs**, typically under Category B in PA (utilities can be Category F – permanent work)
- Agreements should be updated as soon as possible

Documentation Required for Reimbursement

*Project type and cost will
determine documentation
required*

- Damage inventory (impact information)
- Site inspection reports (conducted by FEMA)
- Force account labor logs
- Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) questionnaire
- Equipment usage records/activity
- Insurance policies
- Pre-event maintenance records
- Photographs and blueprints
- Invoices
- Proof of payment
- Purchase orders
- Contracts
- Change orders
- Procurement policies
- Payroll policies

Categories of Permanent Work

Small Projects: \$1,037,000

Large Projects: >\$1,037,000



Category C
Roads and Bridges



Category D
Water Control Facilities



Category E
Public Buildings, Equipment



Category F
Public Utilities



Category G
Parks, Recreational Facilities



Category Z
Management Costs

Cat Z: FEMA provides contributions for management costs that an Applicant incurs in administering and managing PA awards, up to 5% of the total project costs for an Applicant

Risks in FEMA PA Funding

Inspector General findings on cost: necessary, reasonable, supportable, and allocable

- Insufficient or ineffective staffing
- Insufficient documentation or rationale
- Not following recipient or subrecipient procurement requirements consistent with 2 CFR 200
- Not maintaining financial records
- Not ensuring whole-process compliance

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)

Local governments must have a FEMA approved mitigation plan to receive funding but may receive a waiver

- **Hazard Mitigation** – actions taken to reduce or eliminate risk of natural hazards and their effects
- Mitigation measures that may be ineligible as part of the PA Program MAY qualify under the HMGP
- 406 Mitigation Program (PA)
- 404 Mitigation Program (HMGP)
- FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

DRRA Section 1206: Enhancing PA Funding

*Eligible costs and guidelines
for building code and
floodplain enforcement*

- **Substantial Damage (SD) Procedures**
 - Temporary workers, contractors, and overtime staff for SD assessments
 - Travel/accommodations for surge hires
 - Supplies (laptops, PPE, etc.)
- **Permitting Procedures**
 - Staff for administering permits
 - Training and certification for permit reviewers
 - Public outreach on permit requirements
- **Enforcement Procedures**
 - Temporary workers and legal costs for appeals
- **Deadline:** Costs must be incurred within 180 days of Declaration, March 27, 2025

Other Disaster Funding Programs

Numerous sources of grant funding are available to communities after a disaster

- Individual Assistance (IA)
- FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant Program
- FEMA Community Disaster Loan
- USACE Emergency Rehabilitation of Flood Control Works
- GSA Disaster Recovery Purchasing
- HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR/MIT)
- USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
- USDA Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)
- EDA Economic Recovery Grants
- HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)
- USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant
- EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- DOL National Dislocated Workers
- USDOT FHWA Emergency Relief Program
- USDA Disaster Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (D-SNAP)
- Programs to Support Disaster Survivors | FEMA.gov
- State Disaster Funding

DON'T LEAVE MONEY ON THE TABLE!

Blue Sky Activities

Prepare for future events by using experiences from Helene to improve ongoing resilience in your community

- **Improved policies and procedures** – enhance or update procurement, payroll, or other policies
- **Centralina FEMA PA Financial Administrative Training** – [for LGU staff](#)
- **Response and recovery plans** – assess the Helene response to update or create new response plans (resource: [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#))
- **Hazard mitigation planning** – build resilience against future disasters by creating or updating a multi-jurisdictional plan
- **Public safety alerts** – review and update communications systems, protocols, and digital operations plans

Key Takeaways

Points to remember

- The use of FEMA PA will **increase the State's overall award** of HMGP funding
- Find out what **mitigation projects** can be funded – what was included in the last plan and whether it should be updated
- **Supporting documents** are critical for success in FEMA PA and HMGP
- Use Section 1206 of the Stafford Act in PA to pay for increased **code enforcement** issues or damages assessment for NFIP

What You Can Use Now

Centralina Recovery and Resilience Resources

Centralina Resources

Ongoing insights and collaboration opportunities

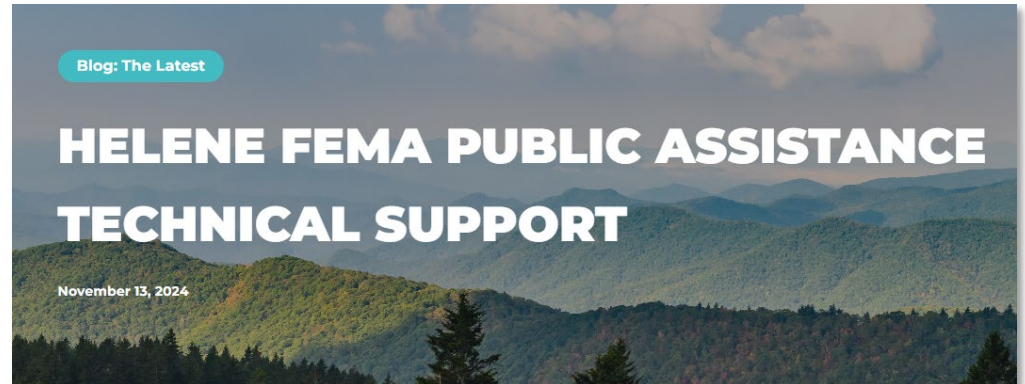
Centralina Regional Resilience Collaboration Site

[Regional resilience and recovery resources](#)

Helene-Specific Resources

[Technical support documents, guidance, and checklists](#)

Regional Digital Opportunity



Support and Contacts

Technical assistance services

- **Centralina**
 - [Christina Danis](#), Director of Community Economic Development, (704) 688-6502
- **FEMA**
 - Local FEMA Program Delivery Manager (PDMG)
- **NCEM**
 - [Shonda Corbett](#), Western Branch Supervisor, (984) 218-3385
 - [Adam Lawrence](#), Western Regional Support/SME, (512) 358-9415
- **High Street Consulting**
 - [Christian Montz](#), Director, Disaster Recovery and Resilience, (678) 849-8545
 - [Zach Becker](#), CEO, (571) 277-2898

THANK YOU

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