

Good afternoon, NC Inclusive Disaster Recovery Network.

Here are the key messages we've gathered for Thursday, October 24.

- [URGENT — “Disaster SNAP Application Period Extended in Five Western North Carolina Counties”](#)
- [Recovery Updates — Public Policy Edition](#)
- [Reminder — FEMA Individual Assistance](#)
- [Grants for Impacted Organizations](#)
- [Jobs — FEMA is hiring locally](#) [updated]
- [How to Donate and Volunteer](#)

URGENT — Share this information now.

NCDHHS: [Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Application Period Extended in Five Western North Carolina Counties](#)

“PRESS RELEASE — The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is announcing a one-day extension for people in Alexander, Buncombe, Haywood, Macon and McDowell counties through Friday, October 25 to apply for benefits through the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to help them buy food for their families. The U.S. Department of Agriculture approved the extension following feedback from the counties that requested the one-day extension for in-person applications. As of Wednesday, more than 105,000 individuals had been approved to receive D-SNAP benefits.

Those who pre-registered for D-SNAP in any of the 25 counties through ePASS.nc.gov by 4 p.m. on Oct. 24, 2024, but were unable to reach the call center to complete their interview, will receive a call from DSS officials by Nov. 1 to complete their application. NCDHHS asks those who have pre-registered to anticipate a call between now and Nov. 1 at the phone number they provided in the pre-registration application. The number calling may be from outside their local area code.

More details available in the [press release](#).”

RECOVERY UPDATES — Public policy edition

1. Asheville Citizen-Times: "[NC Gov. Roy Cooper asks General Assembly for nearly \\$4 billion for Helene recovery](#)"
2. News and Observer: "[NC passes \\$604M more in Helene relief. What's in it and why it's less than Cooper asked](#)"
3. Carolina Public Press: "[Justice disrupted. Western NC courts adjust to deal with damage, backlog.](#)"

REMINDER — FEMA Individual Assistance.

1. **FEMA Individual Assistance** is available to [everyone in the disaster declared counties](#) (generally west of I-77 plus Nash and Lee), and EVERYONE SHOULD APPLY to see if they are eligible for assistance. The number of registrations may determine access to future federal, state, local, and voluntary disaster recovery and resilience support at the individual and community levels.
2. [Legal Aid of NC and Pisgah Legal](#) offer disaster legal services programs to assist with applications and appeals to FEMA, for homeowners and rentals dealing with damage and displacement, and for fraud support.
3. Here's a message on initial FEMA applications shared by the National Low Income Housing Coalition and Jacksonville State University's Associate Professor of Emergency Management, Dr. Laura Olson. [Post these tips to navigate the application on Facebook.](#)

GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS — For impacted and responding organizations.

1. **Golden LEAF** "is making resources available to organizations to support immediate relief for individuals and families including home repair, addressing unmet needs, and helping transition out of FEMA supported housing programs. Governmental entities and 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofits are eligible to apply." <https://goldenleaf.org/helene-relief/>
2. **The North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, administered by United Way of North Carolina.** "... will help provide for immediate unmet needs through reimbursements to nonprofits working with disaster survivors. For immediate, unmet needs, the United Way of North Carolina will provide grants to nonprofits or reimburse nonprofits working in

impacted communities... Certain nonprofit organizations assisting individuals and communities recovering from Hurricane Helene are eligible for funding. Eligible groups include any 501(c)(3) agency with a valid charitable solicitation license that is assisting Hurricane Helene-impacted communities with immediate needs." Learn more: <https://www.unitedwaync.org/nc-disaster-relief-fund-helene>.

3. **WNC Strong: Helene Business Recovery Fund, administered by Mountain BizWorks.** "...rapid recovery loans to small businesses suffering economic losses related to the impacts of Tropical Storm Helene. The fund is administered by Mountain BizWorks and made possible with support from The Golden LEAF Foundation, and an expanding list of other partners. The WNC Strong: Helene Business Recovery Fund helps small businesses close the gap between when the disaster strikes and when federal loans, insurance payouts, and other disaster relief funds are approved, or businesses have time to recover and get back to business." Learn more: <https://www.mountainbizworks.org/helene/fund/>.

4. **The NC Network of Grantmakers** has this list of community foundations accepting and making grants for immediate relief: [https://www.ncgrantmakers.org/Resources/Resources-for-Grantmakers-\(1\).html](https://www.ncgrantmakers.org/Resources/Resources-for-Grantmakers-(1).html).

5. **Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC Foundation** has partnered with Innovative Funding Partners to develop this Grants Resource Guide: https://www.bcbsncfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Disaster-Response-Opportunities_10_8_24.pdf.

JOBS — FEMA is hiring locals for Helene response. [updated]

“The FEMA Environmental Compliance Review Specialist and Historic Preservation Specialist North Carolina local hire positions are now live. The duty stations are Asheville, NC; Durham, NC; and Hickory, NC. The FEMA Community Liaison local hire positions are also now live. The duty stations are across western NC and includes over 36 locations (full list in the job announcement).”

1. The Historic Preservation Specialist will provide subject matter expertise in historic preservation review, reports, compliance and assist other program specialists in the historic preservation review process. [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)
2. The Environmental Compliance Review Specialist will implement and review environmental policies. [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)
3. The Community Liaison will act as the community's link to the various FEMA and other Federal agency programs, staff, and leadership. The ideal candidate will have close ties

to the community and leverage their local knowledge, relationships, and familiarity with the impacted area to support disaster recovery. [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)

HOW TO DONATE AND VOLUNTEER

1. Blue Ridge Public Radio has [this list](#).
2. VolunteerNC has [this list](#).
3. NC211 has [this list](#).
4. NCVOAD has [this list](#).
5. [new] The North Carolina Public Health Association recently launched the NCPHA Disaster Relief Fund to provide support to public health professionals in Western North Carolina that have been personally impacted by Tropical Storm Helene. 100% of your donation will go directly toward supporting local public health professionals, making an immediate impact on those who need it most. Donations can be made online or by mail at: <https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/ncphadisasterrelieffund>

Reminders:

- Please feel free to forward/copy, no credit needed.
- Please send additions to this roundup to NCIDR@mdcinc.org.
- If this message was forwarded to you and you want to receive it directly, fill out this short form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCIDR-Membership>.

Take good care,

Andy

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