

North Carolina Helene Recovery

Jan. 15, 2025

Key Messages

FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance is providing hotel rooms to thousands of Western North Carolina survivors displaced by Helene. Current eligible Transitional Sheltering Assistance occupants can remain in their lodging under the program through the end of March 2025.

Hotel checkout is today for survivors who are no longer eligible for Transitional Sheltering Assistance due to any of the following reasons:

- An inspection indicated their home is now habitable.
- An inspection indicated the individual did not have eligible damages to a home or rental unit caused by Tropical Storm Helene. This includes approximately 199 pre-disaster homeless individuals.
- They withdrew from the program.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency offers two disaster assistance programs for eligible agricultural producers. The **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program** ([ELF](#)), and the **Tree Assistance Program** (TAP) are currently accepting applications. [The deadline to apply is Jan 30.](#)

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program provides financial assistance to producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish for losses caused by eligible disaster events



FEMA Video: [North Carolinian Christmas Tree Grower is Planting the Seeds of Recovery](#)

The Tree Assistance Program helps qualifying nursery growers and orchardists replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and shrubs damaged or lost in qualifying disaster events.

By the Numbers

- **\$312 million approved to 144,000+ households and individuals** beginning their recovery. That includes money to help rent a home or apartment as survivors begin their recovery.
- **\$315 million in Public Assistance funding approved** to support community recovery.



FEMA

- **As of Jan 9, The U.S. Small Business Administration is still accepting low-interest loan applications.** To date more than 10,960 loan applications have been received, with 2,840 approved for more than \$210 million. Of that, \$67.7 million in low-interest disaster loans have been paid directly to North Carolina survivors.
- FEMA is providing **multiple temporary housing options to meet North Carolinians' individual needs.** The first step to receiving housing assistance is applying with FEMA.
 - More than **2,715 households** are using **Transitional Sheltering Assistance hotels and motels.**
 - **113 households** have been placed in temporary housing units provided by FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Assistance.
 - FEMA has contracted with **18 commercial parks** to be able to place units and the agency is working with **20 other parks** for potential contracting purposes.
- FEMA has awarded more than **\$10.6 million** for repair or replacement of roads and bridges to 4,000+ families.
- More than **2.9 million cubic yards** of debris has been removed from public rights of way by FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and contractors.
- More than \$48.6 million in federal unemployment benefits have been provided to 8,000+ survivors. For more information, call the unemployment assistance hotline at 919-629-3857 (for Spanish call 919-276-5698).

Applied for FEMA Assistance? Read Your FEMA Letter Carefully

- If you applied for disaster assistance with FEMA, you will receive a letter explaining your application status. If you are not currently approved for assistance, you may need to send additional documentation to FEMA. You can easily upload documents to [Disasterassistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/assistance) or submit them at a Disaster Recovery Center.

Crisis Counseling, Mental Health Resources Available for Helene Survivors

- The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Hope4NC Crisis Counseling Program provides immediate support and crisis counseling services for North Carolinians following Helene. Survivors experiencing stress, emotional fatigue, a mental health crisis or just need someone to talk to, can call the Hope4NC Helpline 24/7 at 855-587-3463. Services are free and available to anyone in the declared 39 North Carolina counties and tribal members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
- Additionally, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline is available anytime to provide support. Survivors and responders feeling overwhelmed can call or text 800-985-5990 to receive free, confidential support in any language.