

FEMA Recovery Update: Biden-Harris Administration Approves More Than \$2.4 Billion For Communities Affected by Helene and Milton

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WASHINGTON – The Biden-Harris Administration has approved more than **\$1.3 billion** in direct assistance to Hurricanes Helene and Milton survivors. These funds help survivors with housing repairs, personal property replacement and other essential recovery efforts. Additionally, over **\$1.1 billion** has been approved for debris removal and emergency protective measures, which are necessary to save lives, protect public health and prevent further damage to public and private property.

FEMA personnel remain on the ground in communities across the Southeast conducting damage assessments, coordinating with local officials, and helping individuals apply for disaster assistance programs. More than **1,400** FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance team members are in affected neighborhoods helping survivors apply for assistance and connecting them with additional state, local, federal and voluntary agency resources.

Applying for assistance is a critical first step towards recovery. Disaster survivors in certain areas of [Georgia](#), [Florida \(Helene\)](#), [Florida \(Milton\)](#), [North Carolina](#), [South Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#) and [Virginia](#) can begin their recovery process by applying for federal assistance through FEMA. Federal assistance for individuals may include upfront funds to help with essential items like food, water, baby formula, breastfeeding supplies and other emergency supplies.

Funds may also be available to repair storm-related damage to homes and personal property, as well as assistance to find a temporary place to stay. Applicants may be eligible for Transitional Sheltering Assistance, which provides survivors with a safe, temporary place to stay, like a hotel or motel, until they can find a short or longer-term housing solution. To date, more than **25,200**



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households have checked into FEMA provided hotels.

Individuals affected by the hurricanes are encouraged to apply as soon as they are able to by visiting [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster-assistance), which is the fastest way to get an application started. Individuals can also apply using the FEMA App, calling 1-800-621-3362 or going in person to a local Disaster Recovery Center.

Disaster Recovery Centers can provide survivors in-person help with their applications. FEMA now has **80 Disaster Recovery Centers** open throughout the hurricane affected communities. Center locations can be found at [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC). FEMA also has Disaster Survivor Assistance team members in the field supporting survivors and helping them with the application process.

Support for North Carolina

FEMA has approved over **\$200 million** for over **121,000 households** and other types of assistance. Additionally, FEMA has approved more than **\$192 million** for debris removal and reimbursement of emergency protective measures for the state.

More than **6,700 households** have checked into FEMA-funded hotels and lodging through FEMA's [Transitional Sheltering Assistance](https://www.fema.gov/transition-sheltering) program.

There are **405** Disaster Survivor Assistance members in communities providing support. There are also **22** Disaster Recovery Centers now open in Asheville (Mobile), Bakersville, Boone, Brevard, Bryson City, Burnsville, Charlotte, Conover, Fairview, Hendersonville, Jefferson, Lake Lure, Lenoir, Marion, Marshall, Morganton, Newland, Old Fort, Sparta, Swannanoa, Sylva and Waynesville where survivors can speak directly with FEMA and state personnel for assistance with their recovery. To find the nearest center, visit [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC).

Support for Florida

In response to Helene, FEMA has approved over **\$445 million** in housing and other types of assistance for more than **133,000 households**. Additionally, FEMA has approved more than **\$337 million** in Public Assistance for debris removal and emergency work. In response to Milton, FEMA has approved over **\$306 million** in



housing and other types of assistance for over **191,000 households**. Additionally, FEMA has approved more than **\$631 million** in Public Assistance for debris removal and emergency work.

More than **14,700 households** have checked into FEMA-funded hotels and lodging through FEMA's [Transitional Sheltering Assistance](#) program.

There are **487 Disaster Survivor Assistance members** in communities to provide support. There are also **22 Disaster Recovery Centers** now open in Bartow, Branford, Brooksville, Carrabelle (Mobile), Dale City (Mobile), Englewood (Mobile), Fort Pierce, Homosassa, Lake City, Largo, Live Oak, Madison, Old Town, Orlando, Palmetto (Mobile), Perry (2), Punta Gorda (Mobile), Sarasota, Stuart, Vero Beach and West Palm Beach supporting survivors from Debby, Helene and Milton where survivors can speak to state and federal personnel to help with their recovery. Survivors may find their closest center by visiting [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC).

Residents in need of information or resources should call the State Assistance Information Line (SAIL) at **1-800-342-3557**. English, Spanish and Creole speakers are available to answer questions.

Support for South Carolina

FEMA has approved over **\$203 million** in housing and other types of assistance for more than **204,000 households**.

More than **3,700 households** have checked into FEMA-funded hotels and lodging through FEMA's [Transitional Sheltering Assistance](#) program.

There are **160 Disaster Survivor Assistance members** in communities providing support. There are also **10 Disaster Recovery Centers** now open in Abbeville, Anderson, Chester, Columbia, Graniteville, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Spartanburg and Winnsboro where survivors can speak to state and federal personnel to help with their recovery. Survivors may find their closest center by visiting [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC).



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Residents with questions on Helene can call the state's toll-free hotline, open 24 hours a day, at **1-866-246-0133**. Residents who are dependent on medical equipment at home and who are without power due to Helene may be eligible for a medical needs shelter. Call the state's **Department of Public Health Care Line** at **1-855-472-3432** for more information.

Support for Georgia

FEMA has approved over **\$198 million** in housing and other types of assistance for more than **166,000 households**.

There are **271 Disaster Survivor Assistance members** in communities providing support. There are also **13 Disaster Recovery Centers** now open in Augusta, Baxley, Douglas, Dublin, Lyons, McRae—Helena (Mobile), Midway, Ocilla (Mobile), Sandersville, Savannah, Thompson, Valdosta and Waycross (Mobile) where survivors can speak to state and federal personnel to help with their recovery. Survivors may find their closest center by visiting [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC).

Residents can find resources like shelters and feeding sites at gema.georgia.gov/hurricane-helene.

Support for Virginia

To date, FEMA has approved over **\$8.5 million** in housing and other types of assistance for more than **2,900 households**.

There are about **79 Disaster Survivor Assistance members** in communities providing support. There are also **eight Disaster Recovery Centers** open in Christiansburg, Damascus, Dublin, Independence, Marion, Pembroke, Tazewell and Wytheville where survivors can speak to state and federal personnel to help with their recovery. Survivors may find their closest center by visiting [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC).

Residents can find resources like shelters and feeding sites at: [Recover – Hurricane Helene | VDEM \(vaemergency.gov\)](#).



Support for Tennessee

FEMA has approved more than **\$16.6 million** in housing and other types of assistance for more than **5,000 households**.

There are more than **58 Disaster Survivor Assistance members** in communities providing support. There are now **five Disaster Recovery Center** open in Elizabeth, Erwin, Greenville, Morristown and Newport where survivors can speak to state and federal personnel to help with their recovery. Survivors may find their closest center by visiting [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC).

Counties continue to establish donation centers. For the evolving list, visit [FEMA's website](#).

