Renew NC
Community Infrastructure Program

Hurricane Helene Long Term Recovery



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commercerecovery.nc.gov

dcr.grants@commerce.nc.gov



RenewNC
INFRASTRUCTURE

Program Overview

The **Renew NC Community Infrastructure Program** is a competitive grant program that provides funding for infrastructure projects, linked to Hurricane Helene's impacts or mitigation set-asides, that will help impacted communities in western North Carolina become more resilient to current and future natural hazards. Tie-backs connect activities to disaster impacts, such as damage or vulnerability. Mitigation improves resilience and reduces long-term risks to life, property, and hardship.

GOAL: Provide funding for infrastructure projects that will help impacted communities become more resilient to current and future natural hazards.

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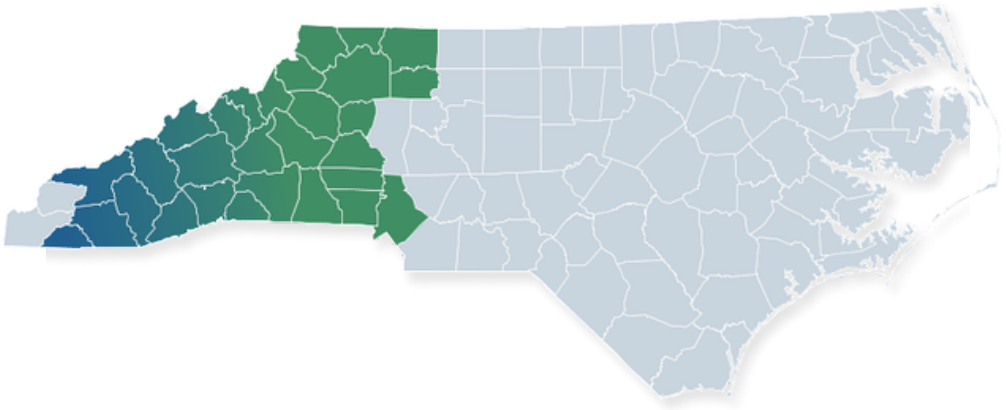
Requirements

Local Governments / Subrecipients:

- Comply with all program requirements and cross-cutting federal laws;
- Develop and implement policies, procedures, and processes to deliver and maintain projects;
- Undertake construction in accordance with approved plans, codes, and timelines;
- Maintain documentation of compliance and submit required reports to DCR;
- Must be located in or serving a HUD- or State-identified MID area;
- Active SAM.gov registration

Eligible Areas

Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg (zip code 28214), Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey counties.



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Do You Qualify?

You may qualify if your project:

- Demonstrates a direct or indirect tie-back to the impacts of Hurricane Helene or be a mitigation activity funded through the mitigation set-aside.
- Meets a national objective as required by CDBG-DR regulations and the 2025 Revised Universal Notice.
  - Primary national objective: Low-to-Moderate Clientele (LMC) and Low- and Moderate-Income Area Benefit
  - Alternative national objective: Urgent Need (UN) and Slum/Blight

Community Infrastructure and Infrastructure Projects

All projects are required to adhere to HUD regulations and meet a national objective. Eligible activities include:

- Acquisition, demolition, site preparation, or renovation of properties;
- Flood control and stormwater management systems;
- Restoration of public spaces, including parks and community centers;
- Physical upgrades and rehabilitation assistance for public utility services.

View the CI policies and procedures at **commercerecovery.nc.gov** for a detailed list of eligible activities and additional information on HUD regulations.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Water and sewer improvements
- Stormwater and drainage systems
- Community shelters
- Public facilities
- Flood barriers
- Power infrastructure resilience

Prescreening

The prescreening process – optional but highly recommended — aims to help DCR evaluate unmet needs and assist potential applicants in determining whether a proposed project is likely to:



- Meet the HUD threshold requirements.
- Have the organizational capacity and experience to manage funds.
- Coordinate the funding of assistance to prevent duplication of benefits.
- Access project readiness, including (design, affordability, feasibility, and community impact).

To sign up for prescreening, please visit the **commercerecovery.nc.gov** website. After signing up, you will receive a confirmation email, and a grant manager will be assigned to you. During prescreening, a potential applicant will work directly with a grant manager and complete four sections and a final assessment of their readiness to apply.

Prescreening will remain open and can be used before, during, and after the application window opens.

Mitigation Requirements

Mitigation activities are actions that enhance resilience to disasters and aim to decrease or eliminate the long-term risks of death, injury, property damage, and suffering by lessening the impact of future disasters.



Resiliency is defined as the ability of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems to survive, adapt, and thrive despite ongoing stresses and shocks. For planning purposes, mitigation and resilience measures include, but are not limited to, plans designed to reduce:

- Risks to people and property.
- Disruption of public services for those most vulnerable to natural and climate-related risks.
- Disproportionate effects of economic, social, and climate shocks on protected classes and vulnerable populations, including those with disabilities and the elderly.
- Impacts and interruptions to FEMA Community Lifelines.

All projects should incorporate mitigation and resiliency components.

Steps to Recovery

STEP 1

Presecreening and application submission

Applicant submits optional prescreening.

STEP 2

Application Review, Scoring & Ranking

Threshold review followed by scoring and ranking and environmental review.

STEP 3

Award & Grant Agreement

Applicant receives award determination and signs grant.

STEP 4

Preconstruction & Construction

Once fully awarded, subrecipient will begin approved project preconstruction and construction activities.

Funding & Allocation

Total Funding: $193 million has been allocated to the Renew NC Community Infrastructure Program.

Award Size: Grants generally range from $500,000 up to $15 million per project, depending on scope and need.

Competitive Process: Awards will be made through a competitive application process administered by DCR.

See the Program Policies & Procedures manual at **commercerecovery.nc.gov** for more information.

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Submission Requirements

- Completed application form. All required fields must be completed.
- All supporting materials as identified by the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Project narrative, including tie-back to Helene and alignment with program goals.
- Budget and Sources/Uses
- Preliminary engineering reports, site plan, and design or comparable schematics.
- Project schedule, including acquisition through completion.
- Zoning and Site Control documentation
- Environmental and Risk information

Scoring Criteria

- Scoring will be used to rank applications and determine awards.
- Based on project impact, readiness, cost reasonableness and leveraging of other financial sources, feasibility, and alignment with program goals and recovery priorities.

Federal & State Requirements

All projects must comply with all applicable federal and State laws, rules, regulations, and policies regarding nondiscrimination, accessibility, labor standards, environmental protections, relocation, and privacy.

This includes adherence to the following:

- Civil Rights Compliance
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Section 504 Accessibility and Compliance
- Davis-Bacon and Related Acts
- Section 3
- Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA)
- Environmental Review

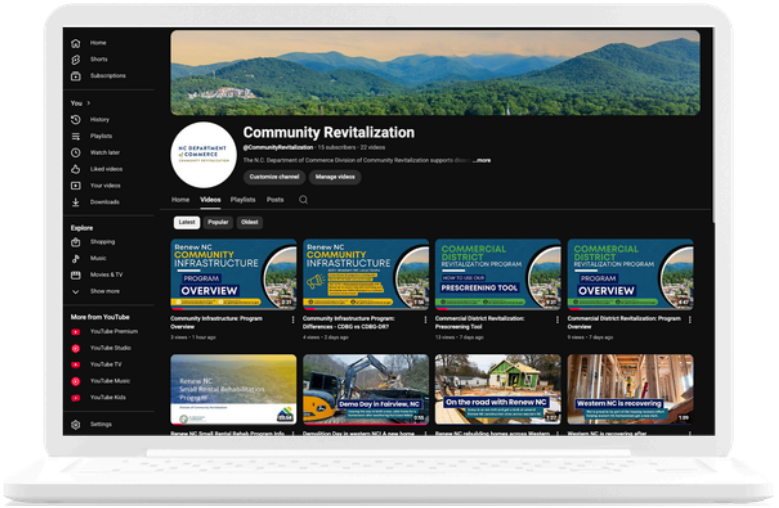


Resources

Video

Visit the **Division of Community Revitalization channel on YouTube** to view program-related videos with key insights into various topics related to Renew NC and CDBG-DR projects.

- **youtube.com/@CommunityRevitalization**



Glossary of terms

Visit the **commercerecovery.nc.gov** website for a link to a list of commonly used terms in the Renew NC Community Infrastructure Program – and their meanings.

Additional help

Visit the **commercerecovery.nc.gov** website for a link to a list of online resources with program-related information, including:

- Program Policies and Procedures
- Criteria for National Objectives
- CDBG-DR Grant Readiness Training video series
- CDBG Low- and Moderate-Income Data

QUESTIONS?
Contact the Renew NC Community Infrastructure Program at dcr.grants@commerce.nc.gov.



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