



MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Brent Jackson, Chair of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources
Representative Jimmy Dixon, Chair of the Joint Legislative Oversight
Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources
Representative Karl E. Gillespie, Chair of the Joint Legislative Oversight
Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources
Senator Lisa S. Barnes, Vice Chair of the Joint Legislative Oversight
Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources
Brian Matteson, Director of Fiscal Research Division

FROM: Stephanie McGarrah, Deputy Secretary of the Division of Community
Revitalization

SUBJECT: Temporary Relocation Assistance (TRA) Report

Per Session Law 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257), Section 5A.7.(e), the North Carolina Department of Commerce (NCDOC) Division of Community Revitalization (DCR) is required to submit a report on the Temporary Relocation Assistance (TRA) program implementation to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division by September 1, 2026, and every six months thereafter until the Program has terminated.

TRA Overview: DCR administers a \$1.4 billion [Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery](#) (CDBG-DR) grant from the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD) to help restore housing, infrastructure, and business districts that were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina (WNC). The Renew NC program is a housing program that was created by DCR to repair and rebuild single-family homes owned by low-income residents in WNC. As homes are repaired or rebuilt, homeowners and their families need to relocate. The Temporary Relocation Assistance program is designed to support applicants earning under 80% of area median income (AMI) who must temporarily relocate while DCR completes rehabilitation, replacement, or reconstruction of their homes. These applicants must have exhausted all other housing options and demonstrate hardship.

Renew NC applicants remain in their homes until they receive a notice-to-proceed (NTP) for construction. Upon issuance of the notice, the state's contracted home builders take the lead in securing appropriate temporary housing and storage for the household and paying for TRA. DCR reimburses builders for hotel lodging at a set nightly rate, including taxes and overhead, up to a maximum number of nights determined by project type; any costs beyond that limit are borne by the builders. DCR also partners with nonprofit organizations, long-term recovery groups, faith-

based groups, and disaster case management organizations to connect applicants with additional supportive services and ancillary needs related to temporary relocation.

As of August 26, 2026, 666 applicants have requested TRA. 630 requests have been approved, and 35 requests are in progress. One TRA request has been denied. Thus far, there is \$21,566.80 obligated for TRA, but obligations will grow as TRA families complete their stays and move back into their completed homes.

DCR will continue to accept requests for TRA from applicants earning less than 80% area median income (AMI) through the continuation of the Renew NC Single-Family Housing Program. Please forward any questions to Stephanie McGarrah, Deputy Secretary for Community Revitalization at stephanie.mcgarrah@commerce.nc.gov.