



# **Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery**

February 10, 2025

# Today's agenda

Call to order and welcome | *Sen. Corbin & Mayor Manheimer, Co-Chairs*

Introductions and GROW NC mission | *Matt Calabria, GROW NC*

Transportation update | *Mark Gibbs, NCDOT*

Emergency Management update | *Don Campbell, NCDPS/EM*

Questions & Discussion | *Panelists*

Remarks | *Governor Stein*

HUD Action Plan | *Stephanie McGarrah, Deputy Secretary, Community Revitalization & Jonathan Krebs, WNC Recovery Advisor*

Next Steps



# Helene's impacts were severe and long-lasting to western North Carolina – a comprehensive recovery will be vital to addressing the need

**\$59.6B**

Total estimated damages and needs

=

**\$44.4B**

Estimated direct cost

+

**\$9.4B**

Estimated indirect cost

+

**\$5.8B**

Strengthening and mitigation

**106**

North Carolinians lost their lives

**74K**

Homes damaged (estimated)

**5K**

Miles of state-maintained roads severely impacted


**7K**

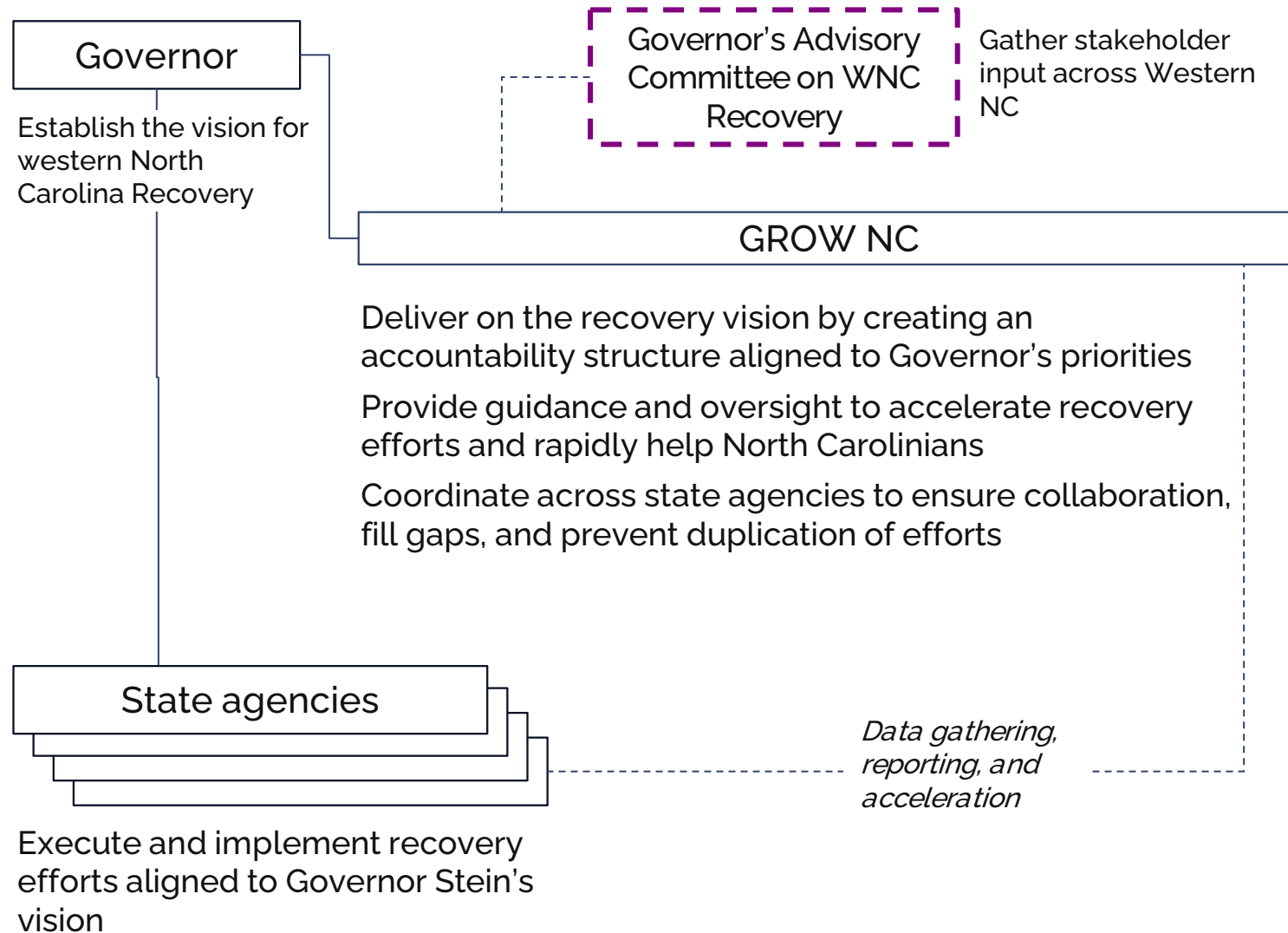
Private roads, bridges, and culverts reported damaged

**50M**

Cubic yards of debris

# The Governor's Recovery Office of Western North Carolina (GROW NC) will deliver on the Governor's vision by accelerating and overseeing the effort

 Details to follow



## GROW NC's mission is...

**...to...** *accelerate recovery in western North Carolina through home rebuilding, business revitalization, and infrastructure restoration*

**...by...** *securing and deploying federal, state, and philanthropic resources quickly, effectively, and transparently*

**...SO...** *communities in western North Carolina can come back safer and stronger than ever before*

# The Advisory Committee will play several key roles for WNC



The Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery will, with formal and informal public input from a diverse array of affected people, advise the Governor and GROW NC on strategies to address the needs of communities affected by Hurricane Helene

*— Mission Statement, Governor's Advisory Committee on WNC Recovery*

The committee will collaborate with the governor's office and GROW NC to fulfill its mission by ...



Offering thought partnership and direct feedback



Serving as a voice for the WNC community to GROW NC and beyond



Creating community connections and facilitating communications



Support GROW NC's advocacy mission both within NC and federally

# Logistical information for Governor's Advisory Committee members



## Committee meetings

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- ✓ Occur approximately every month
- ✓ Will generally alternate between in-person and virtual
- ✓ Will be held in locations that are convenient, accessible, and representative of the geographic diversity of western North Carolina
- ✓ Will be noticed through the Secretary of State's office



## Email digest

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- ✓ Will be shared regularly between committee meetings
- ✓ Will update committee members on proposed agendas for upcoming meetings
- ✓ May include other relevant information (e.g., press releases, follow-ups from previous meetings)

Typical Advisory Committee meetings and digest emails may include:

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- Updates from key agency leaders on recovery progress
- Requests for feedback on upcoming proposals or programs
- Information about recovery resources to share with your communities
- Opportunities for additional engagement in support of recovery efforts

# HUD requires grantees to develop an action plan before it will release funding

✓ An action plan outlines the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds

✓ HUD must approve the action plan before the grantee can draw down any federal funds

✓ HUD identifies Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas for the grantees & requires that at least 80% of the CDBG-DR funds are spent in these areas

 Details follow

NC will receive

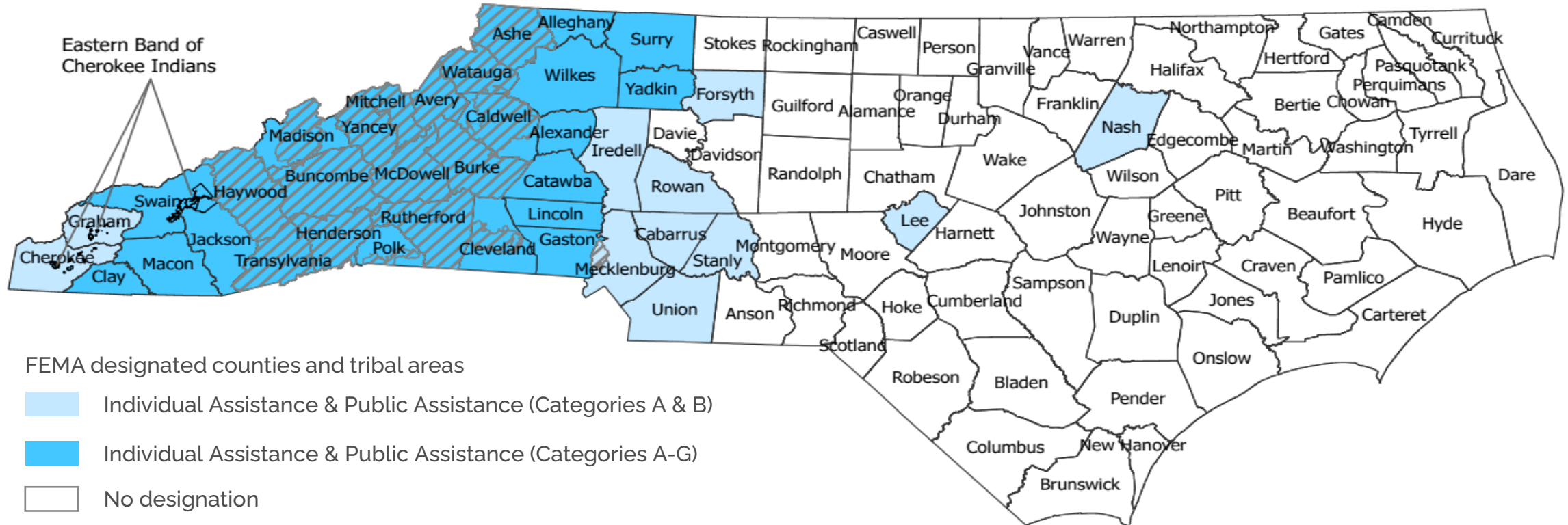
**\$1.2B** for unmet needs

and

**\$186M** for mitigation activities

# HUD-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas

FEMA / HUD Helene MID areas



FEMA designated counties and tribal areas

- Individual Assistance & Public Assistance (Categories A & B)
- Individual Assistance & Public Assistance (Categories A-G)
- No designation

HUD Designated Most Impacted & Distressed Areas

- HUD Designated Most Impacted & Distressed Area



**North Carolina's draft HUD Action Plan proposes distributing incoming funds to a range of programs across three main recovery areas**

HUD Grantees must address three areas of recovery with their Action Plan:



Housing



Infrastructure

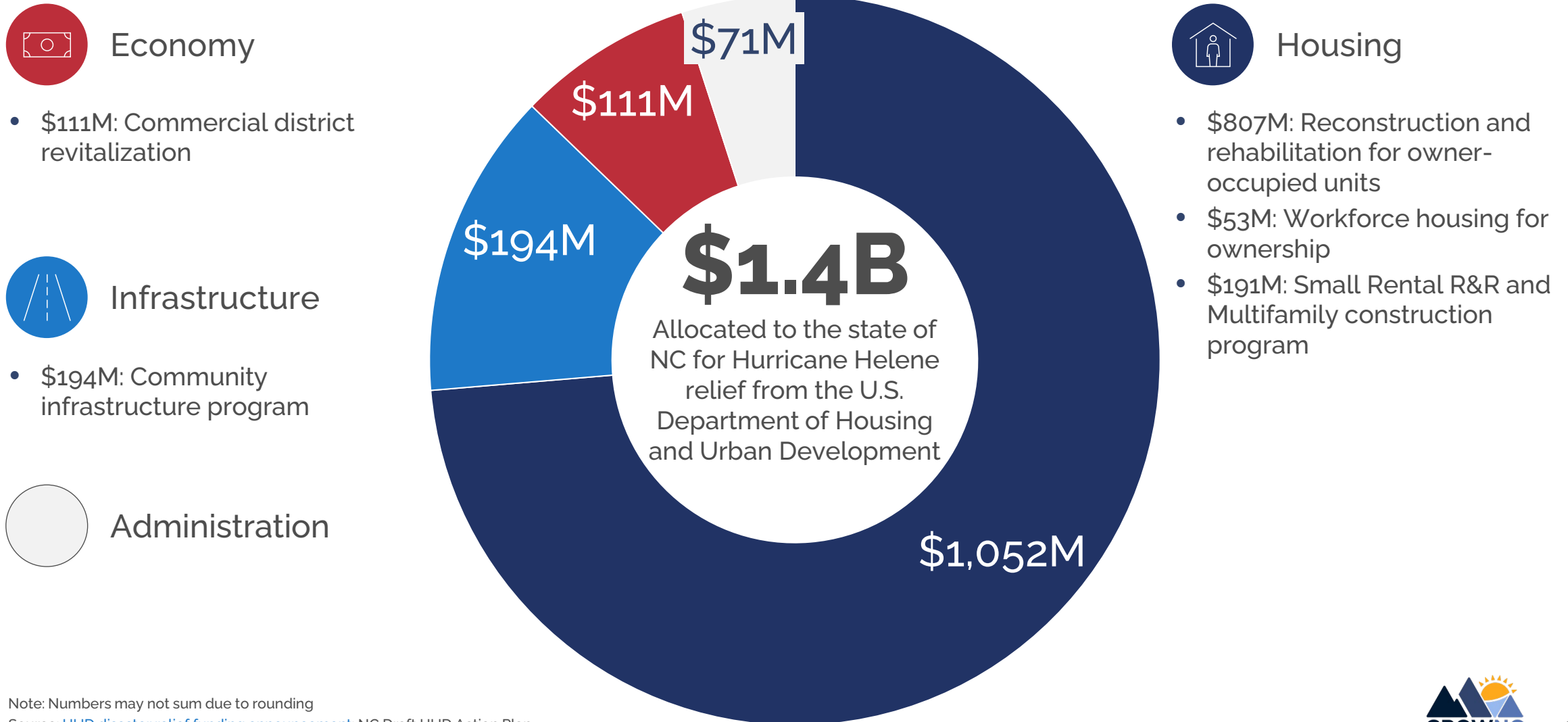


Economy

North Carolina proposes to spend the majority of its funding in housing and the rest to support community infrastructure (e.g., rebuilding of downtowns) and economic support (e.g., small business grants)

# The proposed funding breakdown allocates the majority to housing, with \$807M for owner-occupied unit reconstruction and rehabilitation

PRELIMINARY



Note: Numbers may not sum due to rounding

Source: [HUD disaster relief funding announcement](#); NC Draft HUD Action Plan

# North Carolina is proposing 5 programs in its HUD Action Plan, including three for housing

PRELIMINARY








Housing



Infrastructure



Economy

Program	Description	Eligible geographic area
 Reconstruction and rehabilitation for owner-occupied units	Program will provide grants for reconstruction or rehabilitation of owner - occupied units seriously damaged or destroyed by the effects of Hurricane Helene.	Priority will be for seriously damaged or destroyed units in the HUD-defined Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas with the State-Identified MID areas having a secondary priority.
 Workforce housing for ownership	Fund construction of units for purchase by low - and moderate-income (LMI) households. <sup>1</sup>	Program will provide homeownership opportunities with 100% of funds to expended for construction of units to be purchased by LMI households.
 Small Rental R&R and Multifamily construction program	<p><u>Small rental R&amp;R</u>: Grant for reconstruction/rehabilitation of small rental properties with seven or fewer units. Additional amounts available for mitigation and access activities</p> <p><u>Multifamily construction</u>: Program will restore housing and promote new construction of multifamily housing in HUD-identified MID areas and will focus benefit on. Funding will be via competitive process. LMI groups by imposing affordability requirements on new construction</p>	<p><u>Small rental R&amp;R</u>: units in either MID area</p> <p><u>Multifamily construction</u>: Projects must be units in either MID area</p>
 Community infrastructure program	Provides funding for infrastructure projects that will help impacted communities become more resilient to current and future natural hazards.	Eligible applicants (local governments) must be located in HUD or State-identified MID areas and projects will be required to document link to disaster recovery needs.
 Commercial district revitalization	Program will provide grants to local governments or non-profit organizations to carry out revitalization activities in areas covered by the Helene major disaster declaration (DR-4827-NC).	Eligible applicants (local governments or non-profit organizations) must be located in HUD or State-identified MID areas and projects will be required to document link to disaster recovery needs

<sup>1</sup> Low- and moderate-income households as defined by HUD  
Source: NC Draft HUD Action Plan

## For discussion: Questions for Advisory Committee input

- 1 Which of these programs do you think will be most relevant for your communities?
- 2 How can NC DOC make these programs as simple to access for your constituents as possible, e.g.:
  - How can NC DOC ensure that the application process is streamlined and easy to understand?
  - How can NC DOC ensure that these programs are publicized effectively to those who need them?
- 3 Are there additional unmet needs not captured in these programs that DOC should keep in mind as it refines program goals?

# Next steps: Actions committee members can take in the next four weeks



Share information about the Western North Carolina Small Business Initiative with your communities and relevant civic organizations via social media, email, in-person, etc.



Submit specific comments on the HUD Action Plan and encourage your local community members to submit comments – the Committee will be notified when the public comment period opens



Report non-monetary needs in your communities to support assistance-targeting as GROW NC receives in-reach from companies and foundations (e.g., offer to donate tablets)



Engage interested community members in GROW NC and the Advisory Committee's work, including by sharing contact information for individuals who'd like to be notified about future Advisory Committee meetings



The Advisory Committee's next meeting will be in March, and is expected to be an in-person meeting at location TBD



Please expect an email update in 2 weeks

We welcome your input on which topics are most impactful for you and your communities

# Appendix

# The Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery

February 2025

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The Hon. Kevin Corbin (Co -Chair) | Senator, District 50, NC General Assembly

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The Hon. Esther Manheimer (Co -Chair) | Mayor of Asheville

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Dr. Jim Beeler | Executive Director of College Access Partnerships, Appalachian State University

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The Hon. Preston Blakely | Mayor of Fletcher; Manager, Quality Janitorial Group

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Katie Button | Founder, Cúrate

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Jack Cecil | President, Biltmore Farms; board chair, Dogwood Health Trust

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Ashley Cook | Community activist and organizer

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Casey Cooper | Chief Executive Officer, Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority

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John Cooper | Owner, Mast General Store

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The Hon. Walter Dalton | Former Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina

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Sharon Decker | President, Tryon Equestrian Partners

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Brittany Duncan | Watauga Community Health Coordinator, Western Youth Network

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The Hon. Ralph Hise | Senator, District 47, NC General Assembly

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Will Hoffman | Superintendent, Madison County Schools

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The Hon. Jake Johnson | Representative, District 113, NC General Assembly

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Donny Laws | Attorney

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Larry Leake | Attorney

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Dr. Laura Leatherwood | President, Blue Ridge Community College

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Kevin Leonard | Executive Director, NC Association of County Commissioners

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The Hon. Chuck McGrady | Former Representative, District 117, NC General Assembly

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The Hon. Tim Moffitt | Senator, District 48, NC General Assembly

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Dee Dee Perkins | Business owner and community leader

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Van Phillips | Business leader

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The Hon. Lindsey Prather | Representative, District 115, NC General Assembly

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The Hon. Zeb Smathers | Mayor of Canton

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Nathan Ramsey | Executive Director, Land of Sky Regional Council; Director, Mountain Area Workforce Dev. Board

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The Hon. Debbie Roundtree | Former City Council Member

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The Hon. Charlie Wallin | Commissioner, Watauga County; Director of Retail Dining and External Partners, ASU

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The Hon. Al Whitesides | Commissioner, Buncombe County

# Resources to share with your communities



## Western North Carolina Small Business Initiative II

The Small Business Initiative provides grants to eligible businesses to help them recover from the impacts of Hurricane Helene



## FEMA Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) Program

Recently extended through May 26, the TSA program provides interim housing solutions for residents displaced by Helene



## NC Shelter Trailer Program

The shelter trailer program offers temporary travel trailers for up to six months for eligible survivors whose homes cannot be occupied

Description

Eligibility

For more information

Businesses with uninsured physical or economic damage from Helene and 2023 AGR <=\$2.5M can apply by February 21, 2025

Review additional information and apply for grants at <https://appalachiancommunitycapitalcdfi.org/wnscb-grant/>

Homeowners and renters can apply with FEMA until March 8, 2025  
FEMA reviews eligibility on a rolling basis to determine disaster survivors' continued participation in the program

Apply online for federal disaster assistance at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>

Homeowners and renters whose primary residences cannot be occupied due to damage from Helene and who are not receiving FEMA rental assistance funds

Visit <https://www.ncdps.gov/helene/dcm> or call 844.746.2326