

# HELENE RECOVERY

Homeless Service Providers have a special role in the recovery from Hurricane Helene

## Now

- Disaster shelters are open to people experiencing homelessness. If shelters in your community closed for damage, can't accept new participants, or don't have room, get people to disaster shelters in your area. View the list of disaster shelters and their current capacity here: <https://www.readync.gov/stay-informed/open-shelters>.
  - Please report if disaster shelters block people who were experiencing homelessness before Hurricane Helene to [bos@ncceh.org](mailto:bos@ncceh.org).
- Encourage everyone to register for FEMA Individual Assistance at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). This includes your family, friends, fellow staff, and people experiencing homelessness. Applications to FEMA Individual Assistance determine the federal resources for long-term disaster recovery.
  - Need help? Pisgah Legal Services and Legal AID NC have information online and in person (<https://www.pisgahlegal.org/fema> and [www.legalaidnc.org/helene](http://www.legalaidnc.org/helene)).
- Permanent Housing programs should conduct wellness checks on all households enrolled in their projects to ensure individuals and families are safe and to determine if units were damaged during the hurricane. If project staff cannot find households after multiple attempts, it's important to report them as missing (<https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/emergency-management/hurricane-helene>).
- MASTT (Multi-Agency Shelter Transition Teams) will be working to build a long-term housing plan with people remaining in disaster shelters. These teams first deployed on Saturday, October 25th. For people experiencing homelessness before the storm, MASTT staff will connect households to Back@Home Helene resources.
- Phase One of Back@Home Helene began the week of October 28th. Phase One will focus on assisting households in disaster shelters. See page 2 for service providers by County and disaster shelters.

## Soon

- Phase Two of Back@Home Helene will launch after households in disaster shelters have connected to permanent housing resources. CoCs are working with the State to determine how the program will integrate into Coordinated Entry systems. More information to come over the next few weeks.
- Disaster Case Management will launch at Disaster Recovery Centers in the next couple of weeks. More information to come soon on how to connect people to Disaster Case Management staff.

## Later

- Congress will be allocating long-term disaster recovery efforts through CDBG-DR, CDBG-MIT, and other possible funding sources. Communities will be using FEMA and other state/federal funds until these funds have been approved. These funds will likely not become available to the state for 6+ months.
- NCORR and other state departments are seeking other funding sources through the state to supplement RUSH funds to expand and enhance Back@Home-Helene rehousing services.

County	Disaster Shelter	Provider	Census 11.1.24
Haywood	Haywood County Armory	HERE	14
Transylvania	Transylvania Parks and Rec	Thrive	30
Buncombe	WNC Ag Center; Golds Gym	Vaya	109; 71
Mitchell	Mitchell County Recovery Center	Vaya	10
Yancey	Blue Ridge Elementary	Vaya	19