

South Carolina Hurricane Helene Recovery

Oct. 16, 2024

Key Messages

FEMA on the Ground



South Carolinians affected by Hurricane Helene meet with FEMA personnel at a "Team South Carolina" event at the University of South Carolina-Upstate. (FEMA Photo by Jevan Alves).

Apply for FEMA Assistance

Homeowners and renters in Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Jasper, Kershaw, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union and York counties and the Catawba Indian Nation can apply for federal assistance.



FEMA

FEMA may provide grant funds for displacement, serious needs, temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured or underinsured disaster-related expenses.

As of Oct. 15, FEMA has disbursed more than **\$137 million** in housing and other types of assistance to **191,439** South Carolina households. More applications are being processed daily.

How To Apply

- Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Use the [FEMA App](#).
- Call 800-621-3362. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.
- Visit any Disaster Recovery Center. To find locations and hours of operation, go to fema.gov/drc or text “DRC” and a Zip Code to 43362.

For a video with American Sign Language, voiceover and open captions about how to apply for FEMA assistance, select [this link](#).

FEMA programs are accessible to survivors with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

Disaster Recovery Center Open in Laurens County

A Disaster Recovery Center is open in Laurens County to provide in-person assistance to South Carolinians affected by Hurricane Helene.

Laurens County

Laurens County Public Library

1017 W. Main St.

Laurens, S.C. 29306

Open Oct. 16- 19 from 8 a.m.–7 p.m.

This location joins the centers previously opened in Aiken, Anderson, Greenville, Lexington and Pickens counties.

Aiken County

Nancy Carson Library

135 Edgefield Road

North Augusta, SC 29841

Open through Oct. 17 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Anderson County

Anderson County Library

300 N. McDuffie St.

Anderson, SC 29621

Open through Oct. 17 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Greenville County

Freetown Community Center

200 Alice Ave.

Greenville, SC 29611

Open daily from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Laurens County

Laurens County Public Library

1017 W. Main St.

Laurens, SC 29360

Open through Oct. 19 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Pickens County

Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library

304 Biltmore Road

Easley, SC 29640

Open through Oct. 19 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Additional Disaster Recovery Centers will open soon in other affected areas. You can visit any open center to meet with representatives of FEMA, the state of South Carolina and the U.S. Small Business Administration. No appointment is needed. To find other center locations, go to fema.gov/drc or text “DRC” and a Zip Code to 43362.

Mold Cleanup in South Carolina after Hurricane Helene

South Carolinians whose homes were affected by Hurricane Helene may be facing mold issues and should be on the lookout. Excess moisture and water can contribute to mold growth, which should be addressed safely to reduce the risk of adverse health impacts and further property damage. For more information on mold, associated risks, tips for cleaning and additional resources, visit: [Mold Cleanup in South Carolina after Hurricane Helene | FEMA.gov](#)

Renters Can Apply for FEMA Assistance

FEMA may be able to help renters as well as homeowners with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs.

FEMA Assistance Does Not Affect Other Benefits

If you were affected by Hurricane Helene, FEMA urges you to apply for disaster assistance without hesitation, as it will not affect other federal benefits you may receive.

Accepting FEMA funds will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, or other federal benefit programs.

Document Home Ownership and Occupancy

As part of the disaster assistance process, FEMA must determine ownership and occupancy of damaged primary residences. South Carolinians affected by Hurricane Helene have several ways to provide this information, which can be found here: [Verifying Home Ownership or Occupancy | FEMA.gov](#)

FEMA Determination Letters

If you received a letter stating you're ineligible for assistance or "no decision" can be made at this time, don't be discouraged or frustrated. Instead, read the entire letter to find out what's needed for FEMA to continue processing your application. Many times, it's a simple fix that can be addressed in an appeal. You may just need to provide more information. Please check some tips about how to appeal: [How to Appeal a FEMA Decision | FEMA.gov](#).

FEMA Crews in Your Neighborhood

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance crews are in affected South Carolina locations helping people apply for federal assistance after Hurricane Helene. Disaster Survivor Assistance teams wear FEMA attire and have federal photo identification badges. DSA crews never ask for, or accept, money.

You Only Need To Apply with FEMA Once

Everyone's journey to recovery is different. FEMA is here to help with your unique situation. FEMA offers Serious Needs Assistance, which is an upfront, flexible payment of \$750 to help pay for essential items like food, water, baby formula, breastfeeding supplies, medication and other emergency supplies. There are other forms of assistance that you may qualify to receive once you apply. You only need to apply with FEMA once.

What To Expect After You Apply

After you apply for disaster assistance, FEMA may call you to schedule an inspection of the damaged home, or to obtain more information to process the application. These calls may come from unfamiliar area codes or phone numbers.

Inspectors will make an appointment with the applicant. They will already have your FEMA application number. They will show photo identification to you. For security reasons, federal identification may not be photographed. Inspectors will never ask for, or accept, money. Their service is free.

Beware of Fraud

You should be aware that con artists and criminals may try to obtain money or steal personal information through fraud or identity theft after Hurricane Helene. Note that all FEMA employees wear official photo identification badges, and that they will never charge applicants for disaster assistance. If you believe you are the victim of a scam, report it immediately to your local police or sheriff's department or contact the [Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division](#) or FEMA's Hotline.

Help Stop Rumors

FEMA has created a [Rumor Response page](#) specific to Hurricane Helene to help keep survivors safe and aware of rumors and scams. Help stop the spread of rumors by doing three easy things:

- Find trusted sources of information.
- Share information from trusted sources.
- Discourage others from sharing information from unverified sources.

SBA Low-Interest Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online at [SBA.gov/disaster](#). Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955**.

USDA Assistance for Poultry and Livestock Producers

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to help recover from hurricanes and other natural disasters. This includes emergency animal mortality disposal for poultry.

Contact your [local USDA Service Center](#) for more information. To learn about other USDA disaster assistance programs, visit [farmers.gov/hurricane](#).

Donations and Volunteering

To make the most of your contributions, it's important to follow guidelines for donating and volunteering responsibly. You can send an email to the [FEMA Donations Unit](#) for answers to your specific questions or to make an in-kind donation.

The most effective offer is a monetary donation. Charitable organizations assisting South Carolina survivors will use your donation to purchase - locally if possible - the exact items required to meet the needs of the survivors. All monetary donations can be sent directly to South Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster charitable organizations who are assisting the state during this emergency:

- [Feeding the Carolinas](#)

- [2-1-1 | United Way of Sumter \(uwaysumter.org\)](#)
- [Donate to a VOAD](#)
- [United Way Association of South Carolina | \(uwasc.org\)](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunities in South Carolina | Red Cross](#): 800-Red Cross
- [Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina](#): serves the Upstate/Spartanburg area.
- [Harvest Hope Food Bank](#): serves the Midlands.
- [Golden Harvest Food Bank](#): serves the Aiken area.
- [Lowcountry Food Bank](#): serves the Lowcountry.

More Information

- Crisis Cleanup: 844-965-1386
- [South Carolina Emergency Management Division](#)
- [South Carolina Office of the Governor](#)

Follow Us

For the latest information about South Carolina's recovery, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4829](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4829). Follow FEMA on X at x.com/femaregion4 or on Facebook at [facebook.com/fema](https://www.facebook.com/fema).