

Dear friends,

Please see this advisory from the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

FEMA Advisory

FEMA Specialists in North Carolina Communities After Tropical Storm Helene

ATLANTA - FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance crews are in impacted North Carolina neighborhoods helping people apply for FEMA assistance after Tropical Storm Helene.

Disaster Survivor Assistance teams wear FEMA attire and have federal photo identification badges. The teams go door to door in impacted neighborhoods to help people apply for federal assistance, check the status of an application, identify potential needs and make connections with organizations that can provide resources. Disaster Survivor Assistance crews never ask for, or accept, money.

As of Oct. 1, more than 20,000 North Carolinians have applied for assistance with over \$1 million being dispersed to survivors directly.

How to Apply

Homeowners and renters in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey counties and tribal members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians can apply in several ways: Go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/assistance), use the [FEMA App](#), or call **800-621-3362** any day of the week. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service. For an accessible video on how to apply for assistance go to [FEMA Accessible: Applying for Individual Assistance - YouTube](#).

For the latest information about North Carolina's recovery, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4827](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4827). Follow FEMA on X at [x.com/femaregion4](https://twitter.com/femaregion4) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/fema](https://www.facebook.com/fema).

For North Carolinians seeking general information, please visit [ncdps.gov/helene](https://www.ncdps.gov/helene).

Secondly, I wanted to let you all know that through October 15th, Planet Fitness is offering free access to shower facilities, locker rooms, and electrical outlets to anyone who's been displaced by the effects of Hurricane Helene at this Charlotte location:

Planet Fitness – Charlotte (Rozzelle Crossing), NC
2924 Mt Holly-Huntersville Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28214

I am thankful to Planet Fitness for helping out those in need.

Lastly, here is some [guidance the IRS recently released for taxpayers in impacted areas](#).

This guidance applies to all businesses and individuals in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. It also applies to areas in Florida, Tennessee, and Virginia that have been designated by FEMA ([full list linked here](#)).

- **Extension of certain tax filing deadlines:** IRS has extended various filing deadlines for taxpayers in impacted areas, including 2024 individual/business returns, certain quarterly estimated income tax payments, and certain payroll/excise taxes.
 - [Click here for the full list of extensions and respective dates](#)
 - [Click here for more information from the IRS on disaster assistance](#)

- **Tax relief for qualified payments, disaster-related losses:** IRS released provided guidance to taxpayers on how to address disaster-related losses in their 2024 tax return, as well as providing guidance on how qualified disaster relief payments – like government assistance payments – are generally excluded from gross income.
 - [Click here for a general walkthrough of these policies \(under header “Additional tax relief”\)](#)
 - [Click here for more information on tax treatment of disaster-related losses](#)
 - [Click here for more information on tax treatment of qualified disaster relief payments](#)

- **Waiver of fuel excise tax:** In response to fuel disruptions resulting from the hurricane, IRS has waived the federal excise tax on dyed diesel within the impacted areas. This relief is retroactive to Sept. 26, 2024 and will remain in effect through Oct. 15, 2024.
 - [Click here for more information](#)

If you have tax questions or if there's any other way the IRS can be a resource, please do not hesitate to reach out. The IRS Disaster Hotline is 866-562-5227.

More information:

[Sign up for CharMeck Alerts to stay up to date with local emergency information.](#)

Helpful links from [ReadyNC.gov](#):

[Evacuation Orders](#)

[Power Outages](#)

[Shelter Information](#)

[Weather Advisories](#)

Report Issues

To help keep our community safe and operational, please report any of the following issues:

- **Downed Trees, Power lines, etc.**
- **Flooded streets**
- **Overflowing storm drains**

Depending on the severity of the situation, please use the appropriate contact numbers:

- For **Serious Emergencies (Immediate threats to life or property)**: Call **911**.
- For **Non-Urgent Issues**: Call **311**.

Your reports help emergency services respond more effectively and ensure our community recovers quickly.

As always, my office is here to support you through this challenging time and ensure our community remains strong and resilient.