

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** January 6, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Helene Disaster Advanced Funds

**PRESENTER:** Lorie G. Horne, DSS Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Budget Amendment
2. Essential Services Funds DCDL
3. Rental Assistance DCDL
4. Energy Disaster Funds DCDL

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The Henderson County Department of Social Services will receive one-time advanced payments for Helene Disaster Advanced Funds - Rental Assistance, Adult Services Essential Services and Child Welfare Essential Services. The Henderson County Department of Social Services will also receive reimbursement for Energy Assistance payments dispersed. The purpose of these funds is to support the Henderson County Department of Social Services with providing assistance to those impacted by Hurricane Helene per approved uses as outlined in the Dear County Director Letter for each fund.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to approve the Essential Services Funds, Rental Assistance Funds and Energy Disaster Funds to allow for the Henderson County Department of Social Services to authorize the appropriate budgetary actions necessary to implement subject to the funding limitations outlined in the Dear County Director Letter for each fund.

#### **Suggested Motion:**

*I move the Board approve acceptance of the Helene Disaster Advanced Funds – Rental Assistance, Adult Services Essential Funds, Child Welfare Essential Funds and Energy Disaster Funds and authorize the necessary budgetary actions to implement subject to the funding limitations outlined in the Dear County Director Letter for each fund.*





An Essential Services Fund Reporting Form has been developed for counties to monitor both the receipt and utilization of funds. This tool is specifically designed for the 25 designated counties to track fund use, while the remaining 75 counties can use it to request reimbursement for eligible expenses.

The 25 designated counties are required to use the Reporting Form as funds are disbursed. This ensures that all data is accurate and up to date, allowing for proper tracking and decision-making regarding the reallocation of funds.

The other 75 counties may request funding for any child or adult open for an eligible service code residing in an impacted county or who was residing in an impacted county and experienced an impact from the disaster. These counties must have paid an eligible expense and submit a reimbursement request using the Reporting Form. Reimbursement requests from the other 75 counties may be submitted at any time and will be processed in the order received until funds are depleted. Counties will receive approved reimbursements by electronic funds transfer.

The Essential Services Reporting Form may be accessed using this link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ab48f8029d9841b8a6532b62a4553cf7>

Required information for submission includes:

- Name of county
- First and last name of person completing survey
- Email of the person completing survey
- SIS/CNDS ID you are reporting on
- Program - select either Adult Services or Child Welfare
- Eligible Service Code
- Services provided with these funds, selected from a list of essential services
- Amount spent by county for each individual (medical and non-medical services are reported on the form separately)

Due to separate allocation of funds to Adult Services and Child Welfare Services, there will be unique qualifications for each program as described below.

### Adult Services

The funding allows county departments of social services to provide essential services for adults with open Adult Services cases (107, 111, 202 and 204 Services) on a signed DSS-5027. Counties should report using the individual's SIS number.

The Adult Services Essential Services Fund totals \$1,400,000. Of that amount, \$1,260,000 is allocated to the 25 counties identified in the disaster declaration. This allocation is determined using a pro-rata formula based on each county's Adult Protective Services (APS) and Guardianship caseloads as of September 30, 2024. Within this allocation, \$250,000 is evenly distributed, providing each county with a base amount of \$10,000. An additional \$340,000 is distributed proportionally to all 25 counties according to each county's caseload, while \$670,000 is allocated specifically to the 15 counties classified as Critical, also based on APS and Guardianship caseloads. The remaining \$140,000 is reserved to support the other 75 counties with clients receiving guardianship services who may be placed in one of the 25 affected counties or who were residing there and impacted by the disaster.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410  
www.ncdhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 919-334-1123

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Child Welfare Services

The funding allows county departments of social services to provide essential services for children and their families with open Child Welfare cases (210, 215, 215-Z, 109, 109-Z and 135-6 Services). When reporting on the survey, counties should utilize the individual's CNDS number, but if a CNDS number is not available, they may utilize the SIS number.

Expenditures for children and families with service codes 215-Z and 109-Z may be federally reimbursable. Any state funds utilized, but later determined to be federally reimbursable, will be reallocated to the state portion of the disaster funding.

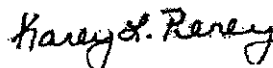
The state portion of the Child Welfare Essential Services Fund in the amount of \$3,000,000 is allocated using a tiered approach to address varying levels of hurricane impact across counties. The allocation method distributes \$500,000 equally among all 25 counties, providing each a base allocation of \$20,000. Another \$700,000 is distributed proportionally to all 25 counties according to each county's foster care population, and an additional \$1,500,000 is allocated specifically to the 15 counties classified as Critical, based on foster care population. The remaining \$300,000 is reserved to assist the remaining 75 counties with families and children in care placed in one of the 25 impacted counties or who were residing there and impacted by the disaster.

If you have additional questions or need additional information, please contact the Adult Services listserv at [dssasup@listserv.unc.edu](mailto:dssasup@listserv.unc.edu) for Adult Services or Shirley Williams at [Shirley.Williams@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Shirley.Williams@dhhs.nc.gov) for Child Welfare Services.

Sincerely,



**Adrian W. Daye**  
Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice



**Karey Perez**  
Deputy Director for Adult Services  
North Carolina Division of Social Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director Child, Family, and Adult Services Regional Support  
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director  
Donna Fayko, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations  
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety  
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory  
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services

CWS-89-2024

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**ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS**

			TOTAL
02	ALEXANDER	14,503.00	14,503.00
03	ALLEGHANY	14,825.00	14,825.00
05	ASHE	55,086.00	55,086.00
06	AVERY	16,545.00	16,545.00
11	BUNCOMBE	157,618.00	157,618.00
12	BURKE	131,441.00	131,441.00
14	CALDWELL	111,806.00	111,806.00
18	CATAWBA	39,272.00	39,272.00
22	CLAY	12,573.00	12,573.00
23	CLEVELAND	41,202.00	41,202.00
36	GASTON	51,656.00	51,656.00
44	HAYWOOD	63,812.00	63,812.00
45	HENDERSON	109,625.00	109,625.00
50	JACKSON	15,951.00	15,951.00
55	LINCOLN	19,650.00	19,650.00
56	MACON	12,734.00	12,734.00
57	MADISON	33,270.00	33,270.00
59	MCDOWELL	65,994.00	65,994.00
61	MITCHELL	34,724.00	34,724.00
75	POLK	41,269.00	41,269.00
81	RUTHERFORD	78,356.00	78,356.00
88	TRANSYLVANIA	40,542.00	40,542.00
95	WATAUGA	34,724.00	34,724.00
97	WILKES	27,370.00	27,370.00
00	YANCEY	35,452.00	35,452.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>1,260,000.00</b>	<b>1,260,000.00</b>

**CHILD WELFARE ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

			<b>TOTAL</b>
02	ALEXANDER	33,525.00	33,525.00
03	ALLEGHANY	33,051.00	33,051.00
05	ASHE	72,266.00	72,266.00
06	AVERY	43,757.00	43,757.00
11	BUNCOMBE	469,011.00	469,011.00
12	BURKE	262,323.00	262,323.00
14	CALDWELL	211,245.00	211,245.00
18	CATAWBA	65,085.00	65,085.00
22	CLAY	25,220.00	25,220.00
23	CLEVELAND	75,525.00	75,525.00
36	GASTON	107,085.00	107,085.00
44	HAYWOOD	193,427.00	193,427.00
45	HENDERSON	174,422.00	174,422.00
50	JACKSON	38,271.00	38,271.00
55	LINCOLN	38,746.00	38,746.00
56	MACON	34,475.00	34,475.00
57	MADISON	46,133.00	46,133.00
59	MCDOWELL	128,095.00	128,095.00
61	MITCHELL	62,763.00	62,763.00
75	POLK	77,017.00	77,017.00
81	RUTHERFORD	232,627.00	232,627.00
88	TRANSYLVANIA	65,139.00	65,139.00
95	WATAUGA	77,017.00	77,017.00
97	WILKES	74,576.00	74,576.00
00	YANCEY	59,199.00	59,199.00
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,700,000.00</b>	<b>2,700,000.00</b>





a large remaining balance, the Department may reallocate those funds. Reallocation will be made to counties that demonstrate a greater need for assistance.

## II. Implementation Instructions and Eligibility Criteria:

The goals of these funds are to address critical housing needs across various vulnerable populations. Specifically, the objectives are:

1. **Prevent Family Separation and Foster Care Involvement:** The funds will ensure that families have access to adequate housing, reducing the likelihood of children being removed from their homes and placed into foster care due to unstable living conditions.
2. **Support Aging Citizens:** The initiative will help older adults remain in their homes and communities by providing the necessary resources to help them live independently for as long as possible, reducing the need for institutional care or facility placement.
3. **Prevent Homelessness:** The funds will aim to address and prevent homelessness by providing housing stability for individuals and families at risk, helping them secure safe, permanent housing before they fall into homelessness.

These efforts will contribute to stronger, more stable communities by focusing on housing as a key factor in supporting families, seniors, and individuals facing housing insecurity.

### Eligibility Criteria:

1. **Residency:** Applicants must reside in one of the counties listed above, either temporarily or permanently.
2. **Housing Crisis Due to the Disaster:** The applicant must have experienced a housing-related crisis caused by the disaster. This includes:
  1. Displacement from their home due to damage or destruction.
  2. Inability to pay rent or facing eviction as a result of the disaster's impact on their income or housing situation.
3. **Income Eligibility:** To qualify for **Rental Assistance** under Session Law 2024-53, Section 4B.7, the household income must be at or below **200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)**. The 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines will be used to determine eligibility.

## 2024 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

Effective as of January 2024

Household Size	200% of Poverty Monthly Income
1	\$2,510.00
2	\$3,406.67
3	\$4,303.33
4	\$5,200.00
5	\$6,096.67
6	\$6,993.33
7	\$7,890.00
8	\$8,786.67
For each additional person, add \$896.67	

The approved households will be eligible for a one-time payment, which will be made directly to their landlord, covering the cost of housing up to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) local area Fair Market Rents (FMRs) for a two-bedroom unit. This payment will help ensure that eligible households can remain housed and avoid displacement due to financial hardship.

The **Fair Market Rent (FMR)** is a measure set by HUD that represents the rent limits for various counties, used to determine eligibility for housing assistance programs. The FMR varies by geographic location and is designed to reflect local market conditions for rental housing.

To determine the exact amount of support available, you will need to refer to the specific FMR rates listed by county for the two-bedroom unit as follows:

Alexander	\$1,014	Jackson	\$ 895
Alleghany	\$ 861	Lincoln	\$1,089
Ashe	\$ 856	Macon	\$ 962
Avery	\$1,026	Madison	\$1,680
Buncombe	\$1,680	McDowell	\$ 856
Burke	\$1,014	Mitchell	\$ 856
Caldwell	\$1,014	Polk	\$1,004
Catawba	\$1,014	Rutherford	\$ 856
Clay	\$ 930	Transylvania	\$1,128
Cleveland	\$ 856	Watauga	\$1,140
Gaston	\$1,200	Wilkes	\$ 856
Haywood	\$1,237	Yancey	\$ 856
Henderson	\$1,680		

If a household was **not impacted by Hurricane Helene** but is still experiencing a crisis, they may be eligible for a range of other assistance programs that can help with housing, financial hardship, and other needs. These programs vary based on location, the type of crisis, and household eligibility. By evaluating the household's specific needs and available resources, you can help direct them to the most appropriate programs to address their crisis.

### III. Guidance for Emergency Rental Assistance Process

To ensure proper eligibility determination, the following procedures should be followed by counties:

#### 1. Required Documentation:

- **Lease (if available):** Request a copy of the lease agreement. This will serve as proof of the rental obligation and ensure that the rental assistance is being directed to the appropriate landlord.
- **Proof of Income:** Request proof of income. When determining income eligibility, use the base period income—specifically, the income from the month prior. This ensures that the income reflects the household's current financial situation.
  - Acceptable forms of income verification may include pay stubs, tax returns, bank statements, or other documentation that accurately represents the household's income.
- **Verification of Identity:** Verification of identity is required to confirm eligibility. Acceptable methods of identity verification include:
  - A state or federally issued ID (e.g., driver's license, passport)
  - A utility bill showing their name and address
  - A lease or rental agreement in the household's name

#### 2. Contacting the Landlord:

- **Rental Status Verification:** Counties should contact the landlord to verify the rental status. This includes confirming that the applicant resides at the rental property.
- **Payment Details:** Confirm with the landlord the following:
  - How the check should be written (e.g., to the landlord or property management company).
  - Where the payment should be sent (e.g., landlord's address or a designated address for payment processing).

#### Reasons for Denial:

1. **Residency Requirement:** Households must have been residing in one of the designated disaster counties during the time of the disaster (e.g., Hurricane Helene) to qualify for Emergency Rental Assistance. If the household was residing in one of the 25 impacted counties at the time of the disaster but has since relocated to a non-impacted county, they are not eligible for Emergency Rental Assistance.
2. **Housing Crisis Due to the Disaster:** The household must have experienced a housing-related crisis caused by the disaster. This includes:
  - Displacement from their home due to damage or destruction.
  - Inability to pay rent or facing eviction as a result of the disaster's impact on their income or housing situation.

If either of these criteria is not met, the household is not eligible for assistance under this program, and it should be denied.

#### **IV. Department of Social Services Employees**

Any County DSS employee who wishes to receive Emergency Rental Assistance must be seen by a supervisor who is designated by the county Director of Social Services. The supervisor will review to ensure that all eligibility requirements are met and that there is no conflict of interest in the process. The supervisor will also verify eligibility, confirm that the employee meets all necessary criteria for assistance, and ensure that all documentation (e.g., proof of income, lease, etc.) is submitted correctly.

#### **V. Allocations**

**NOTE: This is notice of the anticipated allocation that will be advanced to the local County Department of Social Services. You will receive notification of when the funds will be available.**

The \$1,000,000 allocated for Emergency Rental Assistance will be distributed across the 25 counties identified in the disaster declaration according to a pro-rata formula.

The funds will be allocated as follows:

##### **Base Allocation:**

- \$125,000, will be evenly distributed across all 25 counties. This provides each county with a base amount of \$5,000.

##### **Pro-Rata Allocation:**

- The remaining \$875,000 will be distributed among the 25 counties based on a formula that considers the following factors:
  - Poverty level in each county as of September 30, 2024.
  - The number of households receiving Food and Nutrition Services as of September 30, 2024.
  - To ensure allocations align with the scope and severity of impact, a tiered approach was applied based on county impact categories from the Governor's Hurricane Helene Recovery Recommendations and the Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment dated October 23, 2024. Of the 25 counties identified in the federal disaster declaration on September 28, 2024:
    - 15 counties were classified as **Critical** – Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey
    - 10 counties were classified as **High** – Alexander, Alleghany, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, and Wilkes

##### **Administrative Costs:**

- 5% of the allocation can be used by the county for administrative costs. This is the portion that counties can utilize to cover operational costs related to managing the program.

This allocation ensures that the funds are distributed in a manner that prioritizes areas with higher need, while also providing a base amount to each county for initial assistance. The distribution formula also reflects the socio-economic conditions of each county, with more funds directed to counties with greater poverty rates and more households in need of food assistance.

County Name	Allocation
Alexander	\$ 10,913
Alleghany	\$ 7,059
Ashe	\$ 27,859
Avery	\$ 17,414
Buncombe	\$ 199,296
Burke	\$ 73,294
Caldwell	\$ 82,101
Catawba	\$ 31,477
Clay	\$ 6,945
Cleveland	\$ 29,261
Gaston	\$ 45,646
Haywood	\$ 51,357
Henderson	\$ 77,056
Jackson	\$ 12,405
Lincoln	\$ 16,656
Macon	\$ 10,643
Madison	\$ 23,950
McDowell	\$ 50,935
Mitchell	\$ 19,378
Polk	\$ 18,449
Rutherford	\$ 74,724
Transylvania	\$ 28,262
Watauga	\$ 42,823
Wilkes	\$ 20,353
Yancey	\$ 21,744
	\$ 1,000,000

## VI. Tracking Expenditures

To ensure efficient management and real-time tracking of Emergency Rental Assistance Program, the following procedures will be implemented:

### 1. Tracking through the Emergency Rental Assistance Reporting Tool:

- Counties must use this [\\*LINK\\*](#) to access the reporting tool.
- The Emergency Rental Assistance Reporting Tool is essential for all counties involved in the process and will be used to maintain an accurate record of spending.
- Required information for submission includes:
  - Name of county

- First and last name of person completing survey
- Email of the person completing survey
- First and last name of the head of household receiving the funds
- Name of the landlord to whom the payment is being sent
- Total amount spent by county for each household
- Spending will be tracked in real-time, allowing for transparent and up-to-date visibility on the allocation of funds.

**2. Real-Time Spending Tracking:**

- Spending will be tracked daily, meaning the current status of funds will be visible to counties on a daily basis. This provides transparency and allows counties to monitor and manage their budget effectively.
- Daily updates will help counties stay on top of the funds that have been allocated and ensure that resources are used efficiently.

**3. Reporting Spending:**

- It is crucial that counties report spending through the Emergency Rental Assistance Form as funds are disbursed. This ensures that all data is accurate and up to date, allowing for proper tracking and decision-making regarding the distribution of funds.
- As funds are allocated, the Emergency Rental Assistance Form will reflect these changes in real time.

Please submit any questions regarding this information to Danielle Upchurch at [Danielle.upchurch@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Danielle.upchurch@dhhs.nc.gov). A Frequently Asked Questions document will be generated with the questions and answers as received.

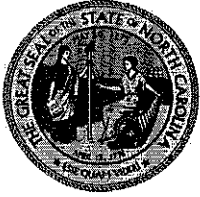
Sincerely,



Carla West  
Division Director, Human Services  
Child Support, Economic Services, Aging, and Operations

**RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

			<b>TOTAL</b>
02	ALEXANDER	10,913.00	10,913.00
03	ALLEGHANY	7,059.00	7,059.00
05	ASHE	27,859.00	27,859.00
06	AVERY	17,414.00	17,414.00
11	BUNCOMBE	199,296.00	199,296.00
12	BURKE	73,294.00	73,294.00
14	CALDWELL	82,101.00	82,101.00
18	CATAWBA	31,477.00	31,477.00
22	CLAY	6,945.00	6,945.00
23	CLEVELAND	29,261.00	29,261.00
36	GASTON	45,646.00	45,646.00
44	HAYWOOD	51,357.00	51,357.00
45	HENDERSON	77,056.00	77,056.00
50	JACKSON	12,405.00	12,405.00
55	LINCOLN	16,656.00	16,656.00
56	MACON	10,643.00	10,643.00
57	MADISON	23,950.00	23,950.00
59	MCDOWELL	50,935.00	50,935.00
61	MITCHELL	19,378.00	19,378.00
75	POLK	18,449.00	18,449.00
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88	TRANSYLVANIA	28,262.00	28,262.00
95	WATAUGA	42,823.00	42,823.00
97	WILKES	20,353.00	20,353.00
00	YANCEY	21,744.00	21,744.00
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,000,000.00</b>	<b>1,000,000.00</b>



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor  
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary  
CARLA WEST • Division Director, Human Services

December 03, 2024

**Dear County Directors of Social Services**

**Attention:** County Directors of Social Services, Energy Administrators, Managers & Supervisors

**Subject:** Energy Disaster Funds DCDL 2024

**Priority:** Time Sensitive, Action & Response Required

**I. General Information**

The North Carolina General Assembly has approved \$9 million in Disaster Energy Assistance for the following North Carolina counties: **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.

**NOTE: This is notice of the anticipated allocation that will be advanced to the local County Department of Social Services. You will receive notification of when the funds will be available.**

Individuals and households who live in one of the disaster counties listed above can apply for Disaster Energy benefits. The households must have been impacted by Hurricane Helene, suffered a loss because of Hurricane Helen, and meet all eligibility criteria to receive disaster benefits. This letter provides guidance and procedures counties must follow while implementing and executing Disaster Energy Assistance. All employees assisting with taking Disaster Energy applications should review this DCDL carefully before the application process begins on **January 15, 2025**.

The Department will review spending for all 25 counties by March 31, 2025. The review will assess whether each county has utilized its allocated funds and whether there is any unspent balance. If counties have not used their allocated funds or have a large remaining balance, the Department may reallocate those funds. Reallocation will be made to counties that demonstrate a greater need for assistance. The base period for these benefits will follow Crisis Intervention Program rules. Energy Disaster applications will be accepted starting **January 15, 2025**.

**II. Implementation Instructions and Eligibility Criteria:**

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Households will have the option to either apply for Disaster Energy via telephone or in person at one of the 25 local DSS agencies in the counties approved to operate Disaster Energy. The 2025 Disaster Gross Income Limit of 60% of State Median Income (SMI) will be used to determine eligibility for Disaster Energy and the income chart is below for your convenience. This modified Disaster Gross Income is part of LIHEAP Disaster flexibilities set forth by our federal partners with the Administration of Children and Families (ACF). Counties will follow CIP policy guidelines for citizenship verification, income, heating/fuel type, and Energy service provider. Energy Disaster funds are not limited to Energy vendors or vendors with an active vendor agreement in the NC FAST system due to the flexibility of the county Authorized Representative(A/R) process. Counties will be able to issue county checks for the Energy assistance requested and will be reimbursed via direct deposit using the county A/R process.

There will be no maximum benefit per household and there will be no limit to the number of times a household can apply for assistance as long as funding is available. The case worker must verify and document the amount needed to provide the service being requested by the applicant. If a household applies for assistance that will result in a payment of \$5,000 or more, for example, furnace repair or replacement, the supervisor will need to complete a review of the case prior to the application being authorized to ensure validity of the request and to verify the cost with the vendor.

Should the household need assistance with two different requests at the same time, it will require two separate applications. For example, the household comes in to apply for assistance to get their furnace repaired due to it being damaged during Hurricane Helene, but they need assistance with a space heater or blankets to keep their family warm until the company can repair the furnace due to the company being unable to make the repairs for several days, this will require two separate applications.

Applications must be processed within 10 calendar days of the application date and all verifications must be received within 5 calendar days. If the household was not impacted by and did not suffer a loss due to Hurricane Helene, evaluate the household for other available Energy Programs that may be able to assist them with their heating-related crisis.

Below are examples of when a household could be approved for the Energy Disaster Program if they meet all eligibility criteria and when they would not be approved.

**Example 1:** Household comes in to apply for assistance with having their furnace repaired. During the interview, the caseworker determines that the furnace was damaged during Hurricane Helene and the household does not have the resources to have the repairs completed. The caseworker determines that the household meets all eligibility requirements, and the application is approved for the amount quoted by the repair company.

**Example 2:** Household comes in to apply for assistance to replace their furnace. During the interview, the case worker determined that the furnace was not damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Helene and that the furnace had been broken for two years. The caseworker completes the interview and finds that the only disaster related loss the household experienced during Hurricane Helene

was power outage. The application for Disaster Energy would be denied and the caseworker would evaluate if there were a heating-related crisis that regular energy funds could assist with. The case worker would also make any referrals to community-based organizations that may be able to assist with furnace repair.

### **III. Completing the Disaster Energy Application**

Use the DSS-8178D to determine eligibility. See attachment for the Disaster Energy Application. All disaster Energy applications require an interview. Caseworkers may interview directly from the guided interview in NC FAST or complete the paper DSS-8178D and then key into NC FAST. Applications must be keyed into NC FAST within one (1) business day of the date of application.

Households cannot apply at any of the 25 county DSS locations and must apply in the county where they reside. Applicants that resided in one of the 25 IA counties at the time of the disaster but has since relocated to a non-IA county are not eligible for Disaster Energy Assistance. Those applicants would need to apply for appropriate Energy assistance (CIP/LIEAP/WAP) in the county in which they currently reside.

If the applicant did not live in a disaster county at the time of the disaster or if they did not experience loss due to the disaster, deny the application for no disaster energy related emergency.

Accept applicant's statement regarding disaster related loss and timeframe of loss and document in NC FAST.

### **IV. Service Completion Time Frame**

Once the household has been found eligible for the Disaster Energy Program, services must be rendered and completed within 45 days of approval. Caseworkers must verify with the service provider that the work can be completed within that time frame to ensure the eligible household receives the approved benefit to heat their home in a timely manner. Once verbal verification is received by the service provider, the case worker should approve the application, and the county should issue payment.

### **V. Partial Payments**

If a county has expended the majority of their funds and a household needs assistance with more than is available, the caseworker must pend the application for the household to come up with the remaining balance prior to approving the application. If the household cannot come up with the remaining balance within five (5) calendar days, the application must be denied.

### **VI. Employee Applications:**

Any County DSS employee who wishes to apply for Energy Disaster Benefits must apply in person rather than by telephone and the application must be taken and processed by a supervisor designated by the county social services director.

**VII. Return Payments**

If a full or partial payment is returned, counties will complete the return/overpayment process in NC FAST.

**VIII. Use of Disaster Energy Funds**

Disaster Energy payments can be used by recipient households to cover the costs listed below:

1. Utility bill assistance.
2. Utility reconnection costs/fees.
3. Utility deposits.
4. Utility meter repair
5. Propane/Fuel Oil tanks
6. Natural Gas/Propane line repair
7. Propane/Fuel Oil delivery
8. Insulation replacement
9. Necessary wiring/circuit board replacement to be able to heat home
10. Repair or replacement costs for furnaces.
11. Coats and blankets, as tangible benefits to keep individuals warm.
12. Space heaters/electric heaters.

Disaster Energy payments cannot be used by recipient households to cover costs such as:

1. Payment for water/sewer.
2. Well pump repair/replacement
3. Mortgage or rental assistance.
4. Ramps and wheelchairs.
5. School uniforms and school supplies.
6. Clothing (except for coats).
7. Mattresses, cots, air beds, and pillows.

**Disaster Energy Assistance Gross Income Limits**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
<b>Eligible In</b>	<b>Countable</b>
<b>Household</b>	<b>Income</b>

1	\$2,728
2	\$3,568
3	\$4,407
4	\$5,247
5	\$6,086
6	\$6,926
7	\$7,083
8	\$7,241
9	\$7,398
10	\$7,555
11	\$7,713
12	\$7,870

Training for all 25 counties listed above will take place on December 18, 2024, and December 19, 2024. Please ensure all staff who will be responsible for administering the Disaster Energy Program are in attendance at one of the available sessions. Please use the links below to register by December 13, 2024.

**Please register for Disaster Energy Assistance 2024 12.18.24 on Dec 18, 2024, 1:00 PM EST at:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5796158452617827168>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

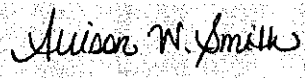
**Please register for Disaster Energy Assistance 2024 12.19.24 on Dec 19, 2024, 9:00 AM EST at:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8722502052873996637>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please submit any questions regarding this information to your Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Specialist at [DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



Allison W. Smith, Deputy Director  
Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services

AWS/ebb



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
 HUMAN SERVICES**  
 Division of Social Services

**FUNDING AUTHORIZATION**

FUNDING SOURCE: Utility Assistance - Disaster Recovery State Funds  
 EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2024  
 AUTHORIZATION NUMBER: 1

**ALLOCATION PERIOD**

Service Period: 12/1/2024 to 5/31/2025  
 Payment Period: 12/1/2024 to 6/30/2025

This is for Direct Payments and is provided for informational purpose.

Co. No.	COUNTY	UEI	Initial (or Previous) Allocation		Additional Allocation		Grand Total Allocation	
			Funding Authorization					
			State	Total	State	Total	State	Total
01	ALAMANCE	F5VHYU13NC5	0	0	0	0	0	0
02	ALEXANDER	XVEEJSNY7UX9	177,379	177,379	0	0	177,379	177,379
03	ALLEGHANY	GTC2BCN7SKK3	61,756	61,756	0	0	61,756	61,756
04	ANSON	PK8UYTSNJCC3	0	0	0	0	0	0
05	ASHE	PB29TLZMHUS9	148,186	148,186	0	0	148,186	148,186
06	AVERY	UZ19JT8JLXF3	80,695	80,695	0	0	80,695	80,695
07	BEAUFORT	Q14JUM5NZQ43	0	0	0	0	0	0
08	BERTIE	FSW9MGNZAK39	0	0	0	0	0	0
09	BLADEN	TLCTJWDJH1H9	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	BRUNSWICK	MJ8MXLN9NJT5	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	BUNCOMBE	W5TCOKMLHE69	1,259,509	1,259,509	0	0	1,259,509	1,259,509
12	BURKE	KVJHUFURQDM5	441,848	441,848	0	0	441,848	441,848
13	CABARRUS	PF3KTEELMHV6	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	CALDWELL	HL4FGNJNGE97	499,626	499,626	0	0	499,626	499,626
15	CAMDEN	FVT7YDQ5CAA5	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	CARTERET	UC6WJ2MQMJS8	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	CASWELL	CL7NKCTNQG75	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	CATAWBA	GYUNA9W1NFM1	794,318	794,318	0	0	794,318	794,318
19	CHATHAM	XE57QE2GV5F1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	CHEROKEE	DCEGK6HA11M5	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	CHOWAN	YJ7KT3E58F5	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	CLAY	HYKLVQNNWLK7	58,358	58,358	0	0	58,358	58,358
23	CLEVELAND	MXEZRW9DKR86	727,829	727,829	0	0	727,829	727,829
24	COLUMBUS	V1UA14L87WQ7	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	CRAVEN	LT2ZU8LZQ214	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	CUMBERLAND	TH2WJPJRMGV3	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	CURRITUCK	VDL5DNFQX374	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	DARE	ELV6JGB11QK6	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	DAVIDSON	C9P5MDJC7KY7	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	DAVIE	GSJ6K8J2PD57	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	DUPLIN	KZN4GK5262K3	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	DURHAM	LI5BA6U2HLM7	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	EDGECOMBE	DYB5XFVEN8H3	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	FORSYTH	ZTVELM361423	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	FRANKLIN	FFKTRQCNN143	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	GASTON	QKY9R8A8D5J6	1,219,375	1,219,375	0	0	1,219,375	1,219,375
37	GATES	F4LFXEB3BK3	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	GRAHAM	W3JTG1KP5D7	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	GRANVILLE	DAZ3PRU8U4J5	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	GREENE	VCU5LD71N9U3	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	GUILFORD	YBEQWGFJPMJ3	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	HALIFAX	MRL8MYNJ3Y5	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	HARNETT	JBDCD9V418X7	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	HAYWOOD	DQHZEVAV95G5	299,752	299,752	0	0	299,752	299,752
45	HENDERSON	EXFKXBHH7EG7	469,701	469,701	0	0	469,701	469,701
46	HERTFORD	YJEUENJ7BQK7	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	HOKE	C1GWSADARX51	0	0	0	0	0	0

**FUNDING AUTHORIZATION**

FUNDING SOURCE:

EFFECTIVE DATE:

AUTHORIZATION NUMBER:

Utility Assistance - Disaster Recovery State Funds

December 1, 2024

1

**ALLOCATION PERIOD**

Service Period:

Payment Period:

12/1/2024

12/1/2024

to 5/31/2025

to 6/30/2025

This is for Direct Payments and is provided for informational purpose.

	COUNTY		State	Total	State	Total	State	Total
48	HYDE	ENMJWY3H3C19	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	IREDELL	XTNRLKJLA4S9	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	JACKSON	X7YWWY6ZP574	222,165	222,165	0	0	222,165	222,165
51	JOHNSTON	SYGAGEPDHYR7	0	0	0	0	0	0
52	JONES	HE3NNUE27M7	0	0	0	0	0	0
53	LEE	F6ABUC99JWJ5	0	0	0	0	0	0
54	LENOIR	QKUFLL37VPGH6	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	LINCOLN	UGGQGS5KBGJ5	349,670	349,670	0	0	349,670	349,670
56	MACON	LLPJBC6N2LL3	169,288	169,288	0	0	169,288	169,288
57	MADISON	YQ96F8BJYTJ9	122,755	122,755	0	0	122,755	122,755
58	MARTIN	HA4QLH34LNS3	0	0	0	0	0	0
59	MCDOWELL	TT3NTH2NDJ73	296,930	296,930	0	0	296,930	296,930
60	MECKLENBURG	EZ15XL6BMM68	0	0	0	0	0	0
61	MITCHELL	YL69DGLK4CH3	93,124	93,124	0	0	93,124	93,124
62	MONTGOMERY	E78ZAJM3BFL3	0	0	0	0	0	0
63	MOORE	HFNSK95F5Z28	0	0	0	0	0	0
64	NASH	NF58K566HQM7	0	0	0	0	0	0
65	NEW HANOVER	F7TLT2GMEJE1	0	0	0	0	0	0
66	NORTHAMPTON	CRA2KCAL8BA4	0	0	0	0	0	0
67	ONSLow	LTXVW6QF6297	0	0	0	0	0	0
68	ORANGE	GFFMCW9XDA53	0	0	0	0	0	0
69	PAMLICO	FT59QFEAU344	0	0	0	0	0	0
70	PASQUOTANK	NRDUHMGJ7ZW4	0	0	0	0	0	0
71	PENDER	T11BE678U9P5	0	0	0	0	0	0
72	PERQUIMANS	MBXQSJ2NMCK9	0	0	0	0	0	0
73	PERSON	FQ8LFJGMABJ4	0	0	0	0	0	0
74	PITT	VZNPMLCFT5R6	0	0	0	0	0	0
75	POLK	QZ6BZPGLX4Y9	87,498	87,498	0	0	87,498	87,498
76	RANDOLPH	T3BUM1CVS9N5	0	0	0	0	0	0
77	RICHMOND	Q63FZNTJM3M4	0	0	0	0	0	0
78	ROBESON	LKBEJQFLAAK5	0	0	0	0	0	0
79	ROCKINGHAM	KGCCCHJZZ43	0	0	0	0	0	0
80	ROWAN	GCB7UCV96NWX6	0	0	0	0	0	0
81	RUTHERFORD	GTATPCDJVYN8	450,529	450,529	0	0	450,529	450,529
82	SAMPSON	R53KYMFKJL3	0	0	0	0	0	0
83	SCOTLAND	FNVTCUQGCHM5	0	0	0	0	0	0
84	STANLY	U86MZUYPL7C5	0	0	0	0	0	0
85	STOKES	W41TRA3NUN51	0	0	0	0	0	0
86	SURRY	FMWCTM24C9J8	0	0	0	0	0	0
87	SWAIN	E29GLEDXH849	0	0	0	0	0	0
88	TRANSYLVANIA	W51VGHGM8945	151,299	151,299	0	0	151,299	151,299
89	TYRRELL	JLNEVJ2625L8	0	0	0	0	0	0
90	UNION	LHMKBD4AGRJ5	0	0	0	0	0	0
91	VANCE	EBWNNMFTNV41	0	0	0	0	0	0
92	WAKE	FTJ2WJPLWMJ3	0	0	0	0	0	0
93	WARREN	WLTATC4JLJ54	0	0	0	0	0	0
94	WASHINGTON	QWRZCQJFTEE4	0	0	0	0	0	0
95	WATAUGA	X7B4LX1QQMX6	249,358	249,358	0	0	249,358	249,358
96	WAYNE	DACFHCCLKMS1	0	0	0	0	0	0
97	WILKES	M14KKHY2NNR3	460,576	460,576	0	0	460,576	460,576
98	WILSON	ME2DJHMYWG55	0	0	0	0	0	0
99	YADKIN	PLCDT7JFA8B1	0	0	0	0	0	0
100	YANCEY	L98MCUHKC2J8	108,476	108,476	0	0	108,476	108,476
	<b>Total</b>		<b>9,000,000</b>	<b>9,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,000,000</b>	<b>9,000,000</b>

**FUNDING AUTHORIZATION**

FUNDING SOURCE: **Utility Assistance - Disaster Recovery State Funds**  
EFFECTIVE DATE: **December 1, 2024**  
AUTHORIZATION NUMBER: **1**

**ALLOCATION PERIOD**

Service Period: **12/1/2024** to **5/31/2025**  
Payment Period: **12/1/2024** to **6/30/2025**

This is for Direct Payments and is provided for informational purpose.

**Funding Source**

State Funds

**Project Description:**

DSS-DRA SL2024-53 Utility Assistance

**Research & Development:**

Yes  No

**Grant Title:**

N/A

**Award Name:**

N/A

**Award Number:**

N/A

**Award Date:**

N/A

**Federal Agency:**

N/A

**GRANT INFORMATION:**

This funding authorization represents 100% State Funds

This allocation represents the amount as designated in Session Law 2024-Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 - Part II

**X5411 Heading:**

N/A

**Tracked on X5411:**

N/A

OBLIGATIONS INCURRED AND EXPENDITURES MADE UNDER THIS ADVICE WILL BE SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS PUBLISHED BY STATE AGENCIES AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE**



Date: November 27, 2024