



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT



Employment First State for Individuals with Disabilities

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

KRISTIN WALKER
STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR

October 3, 2024

TO: Agency Heads, Chief Financial Officers, Department Budget Officers
All State Departments, Institutions and Agencies

FROM: Kristin Walker *Kristin Walker*

SUBJECT: Hurricane Helene Damage and Needs Assessment

Helene has left unparalleled devastation in the western part of our state that will require an unparalleled response and recovery. The Governor has asked the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to quickly compile an assessment of the damage and needs.

This assessment will inform North Carolina's request for assistance to Congress and will also determine the magnitude of unmet needs that the State may have to finance. OSBM completed a similar assessment in 2018 for [Hurricane Florence](#).

OSBM will work with you to gather the data needed to make informed recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. OSBM analysts will be in frequent contact with your agency over the next few weeks with specific data requests that can assist with estimating the damage from Helene and the recovery needs. We will ask for data related to both direct impacts as well as ensuing ones. We will be cataloging our assessment of the damage and needs into the following areas:

- Housing
- Business and Non-Profits
- Transportation
- Government Property and Revenue
- Agriculture
- Utilities
- Education
- Health and Human Services
- Recovery Operations

We also ask agencies to submit Worksheet-II EZ forms (WKII-EZs) in IBIS for each separate budget request related to Helene, as well as Tropical Storm Debby and Potential Tropical Cyclone 8 (PTC-8). Please preface requests with "Helene", "TS Debby", or "PTC-8" in the title, e.g. "Helene: <<Request Name>>".

To facilitate communication, we are requesting that you designate a single point of contact (POC) for your agency. Please fill in the contact information for your POC using this [link](#) by **12:00 p.m. Friday, October 4**. OSBM will set up a virtual meeting on Tuesday, October 8, with all agency POCs. Note that your POC might be getting questions from multiple OSBM analysts, but we will do our best to avoid duplicative requests. Please also continue to fully cooperate with all requests from the Division of Emergency Management; at times we may be requesting similar information.

We are aware the conditions in western North Carolina make damage assessment difficult and appreciate your communication on data availability. Please be aware that OSBM needs all available data and budget requests as soon as possible. Once we have a better sense of data availability, we will issue final deadlines.

Thank you for everything you do for the state.