

Dear NC Pro Bono Partners:

Here are some updates from North Carolina as of October 1, 2024. We will continue working with our partners and provide updates as they become available.

What's going on and information:

- A [Federal Major Disaster Declaration](#) exists for Tropical Storm Helene providing immediate federal help for 25 North Carolina counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The declaration means that FEMA will be able to speed additional help to the state and provide Individual Assistance to people living in those counties, as well as Public Assistance to reimburse local governments, state agencies, and non-profits or other eligible organizations for funds spent repairing facilities and infrastructure. [FEMA has begun taking applications](#) for the Individual Assistance Program, which includes money for emergency housing at hotels, immediate recovery needs and more. Call 800-621-3362 or visit DisasterAssistance.gov for more information or to get started on an application.
- [Here](#) is a link to the NC Department of Public Safety.
- [Here](#) is a link to FEMA for NC Tropical Storm Helene.
- Legal Aid of NC hosts a disaster legal services hotline for people seeking assistance. The number is (866) 219-5262 and <https://legalaidnc.org/get-help/>
- Pisgah Legal Services is sharing updates for people seeking legal assistance [here](#).

Volunteer opportunities for legal professionals:

- Per the disaster recovery cycle, the legal services portion will be relevant weeks, months, and years from now. Right now, impacted communities need food, water, and shelter.
- The State Bar in conjunction with the NC Supreme Court is working on an order to allow for out-of-state attorneys to provide legal services in conjunction with a legal services provider.
- The NC Bar Foundation and Legal Aid of NC are hosting a disaster legal services volunteer sign-up page [here](#). Please note that you may not receive a referral immediately after signing up to serve as a volunteer — please be patient and stay engaged with us. We expect that NC residents affected by this disaster will have a need for legal assistance for a year or more post-event.

Donations:

- There are many options to donate—here is what the NC Inclusive Disaster Recovery Network and NC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NC VOAD) shared:
 1. Cash donations are best. Look for local mutual aid, voluntary organizations, or philanthropies who are setting up disaster relief funds both for immediate needs and for medium/long-term recovery.
 - a. Blue Ridge Public Radio has [this list](#).
 - b. The state has activated the **North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund**: Click the red banner at the top of the page at NC.gov or <https://pay.payitgov.com/ncdonations>.

- c. NC Community Foundation: "In the wake of the devastation left by Hurricane Helene, we are encouraging donations to groups working to address immediate health, humanitarian and safety in western NC. However, we know the recovery needs will remain great in the months and years to come. The North Carolina Community Foundation is also accepting donations for its [Disaster Relief Fund](#). The fund will provide grants to charitable organizations on the ground in affected communities to support long-term recovery. We will be creating a page on our website of local and regional relief funds, so please send information about your efforts to Amy Dominello Braun, our Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, at abraun@nccommunityfoundation.org.
2. If you do want to collect supplies: Make cleanup kits ("flood buckets"), with these items: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit/>.
- a. Contact Hispanic Federation to support Latino-led and Latino-serving organizations. Lariza Garzon, Director for North Carolina and Mid-South, lgarzon@hispanicfederation.org
 - b. Contact NC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster at sert@ncvoad.org.
 - c. Make an offer on <https://volunteernc.app.needslist.co/>.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

My best,

Sylvia