

Western North Carolina is dealing with an unprecedented tragedy following Hurricane Helene and we are grateful for all that state employees are doing to help.

Food, water and other supplies are arriving in hard-hit communities thanks to emergency responders across the state coordinated by NC Emergency Management, the NC National Guard and others. NCDOT crews are clearing and repairing roads, NCDEQ experts are inspecting dams and water systems, NCDHHS employees are ensuring hospitals and shelters are open, State Troopers are keeping our roads safe, and much more.

Many of our state employees are victims of this disaster and need help themselves right now. For state employees who are unable to get to work due to storm damage or whose usual place of work is closed, we want you to know about leave options.

The [Emergency Closing Policy](#) applies If your work location is closed and you cannot work from a designated alternate location or from home.

If your work location is open but you cannot get there safely, the [Adverse Weather Policy](#) applies. Due to Hurricane Helene, **we are extending Adverse Weather Leave so that employees have 180 days (until March 2025) to make up work time missed because of the storm.**

Other options are available for employees who have special or unusual circumstances. Please work with your supervisor and agency HR department to understand your options.

For state employees as well as others who need help, here are some useful **resources for storm recovery information and help:**

- NCDPS has created a page with storm-specific information at [ncdps.gov/Helene](https://ncdps.gov/Helene)
- [ReadyNC.gov](https://ReadyNC.gov) has information on shelters, power outages and disaster assistance.
- For help locating food, water, shelter and other local resources, call 211 or visit [nc211.org/](https://nc211.org/). They can also help with reporting people as missing or needing welfare checks.
- NCDOT continues to urge people not to drive to western NC so that the limited roads that are open can be used for emergency purposes. For those who must drive, check [Drivenc.gov](https://Drivenc.gov) for up-to-date road conditions.
- People in 25 western counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who had uninsured damage or losses caused by Hurricane Helene may be eligible for FEMA disaster assistance. Go to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov), use the [FEMA App](#) or call 800-621-3362 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET daily. More counties will be added after damage assessments so keep checking back.
- The NC Disaster Relief Fund ([nc.gov/donate](https://nc.gov/donate)) is now activated for those able and willing to donate.

We know these are trying times that impact many of you, your families, neighbors and friends. Please remember that our [North Carolina Employee Assistance Program](#) is available at 1-888-298-3907. Additional information is also available on the [McLaughlin Young website](#).

Thanks again for all you're doing to serve the people of North Carolina, and all you will do to help our state recover from this horrific storm.