

# FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



## FAQ for USDA Block Grant Disaster Relief Payments

### What are the USDA Block Grant Disaster Relief Payments

The payments are part of a total of \$221 million in block grant funding authorized by The Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025 (Division B of the American Relief Act, 2025, P.L. 118-158) for qualifying losses due to Hurricane Helene.

### Who is eligible?

Producers in a NC county declared as a disaster by the President or designated a disaster by the Secretary under the Stafford Act in the 2024 calendar year due to Hurricane Helene or any contiguous county to such declared or designated disaster county.

### What is covered?

Necessary expenses related to Timber Loss, Infrastructure Loss, Loss for Commodities and Value-Added Products, and Future Economic Loss. Only losses in these categories not covered by any other USDA program are eligible.

### Is this different than the Ag Disaster Crop Loss Program/Payment?

Yes. This program utilizes federal funding and requires a separate application process. Through a block grant agreement with USDA, NCDA&CS is authorized to administer the funding to eligible producers for certain Hurricane Helene losses not covered by other USDA programs.

### How do I apply for assistance?

Specific applications are linked on this website for the following categories:

- Infrastructure Loss
- Market Loss for Commodities and Value-Added Products, and
- Future Economic Loss

### **How do I apply for the Timber Loss Category?**

The Timber Loss Relief Program will be administered by the North Carolina Forest Service. Details on the program requirements and applications will be on the NC Forest Service Website and through local County Ranger offices.

The Timber Loss Relief Program has a different application window than the other 3 categories.

### **When is the application period?**

The application period for the Infrastructure Loss, Market Loss for Commodities and Value-Add Products, and Future Economic Loss Categories will be **March 30, 2026 – May 15, 2026**.

The Timber Loss Category will have a slightly different timeline. Please check the NC Forest Service website for more information.

### **Do I have to submit a separate application for each category and county?**

Yes, you must submit a separate application for each category and county a producer or landowner qualifies for.

### **When are checks going out?**

Payments will not go out until after the application period closes and calculations are completed. NCDA&CS anticipates that the payments will go out in batches.

### **What is linkage?**

Per USDA guidelines, as a condition of receiving payments, an Eligible Producer must agree to certain related to obtaining crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for certain future crop years. This applies to future economic loss and market loss for commodities and value-added products categories only.

For more information on crop insurance visit USDA Risk Management Agency at <https://www.rma.usda.gov/about-crop-insurance> . To find a local RMA agent, visit <https://www.rma.usda.gov/tools-reports/agent-locator> . For Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/noninsured-crop-disaster-assistance-related-information>

### **Whom do I contact if I have questions about my application?**

Please send any questions via email to [agdisaster@ncagr.gov](mailto:agdisaster@ncagr.gov) at any time or call the Disaster Assistance Hotline 1-866-747-9823 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday. North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service Staff in your county will be available to assist producers with the

application process.

**I applied for the State Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Program, how can I obtain my application reference number?**

This number is available on the e-mail you received at the time of application for the state program. You may also find the reference number on the check stub from any prior payments of which you received payment. You may also send an email to [agdisaster@ncagr.gov](mailto:agdisaster@ncagr.gov) at any time or call the Disaster Assistance Hotline 1-866-747-9823 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.

**How do I report this payment for tax purposes?**

Everyone who received a payment will also receive a 1099 for the tax year in which the payment was issued.