



North Carolina General Assembly Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

Matt Calabria, Director
Governor's Recovery Office for Western North Carolina (GROW NC)

July 30, 2025



Overview

Major recovery efforts underway

Rebuilding Safe Housing

- Residents approved for more than \$481.8M in FEMA Individual Assistance
- 6,800+ households have received help with temporary housing
- Over 800 applications received for HUD single-family housing program
- 364 homes repaired by volunteer organizations such as Baptists on Mission and Habitat for Humanity with support from \$6 million in state funds

Families & Children

- 45,000+ higher education scholarships and grants
- 72,000+ households received food assistance
- Nearly 10,000 households received utility assistance
- 318 public schools received assistance to replace food and food-related equipment/supplies
- All state parks are fully or partially open except for Mount Mitchell State Park



Major recovery efforts underway

Total Incidents

1,500

since beginning of Storm

Total Closures

1,459

since beginning of Storm

1,425

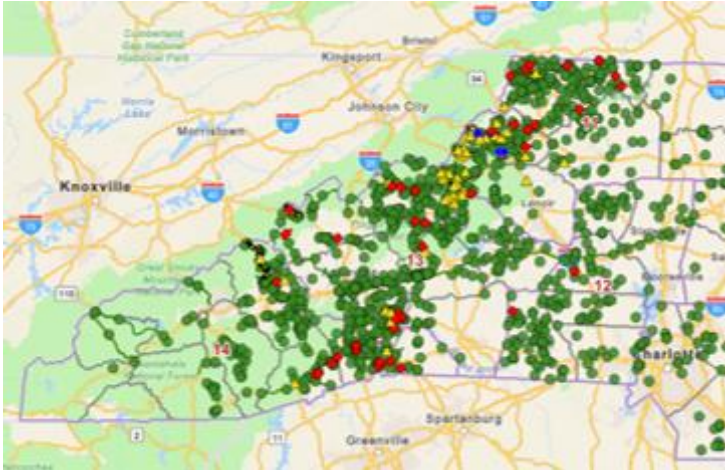
Fully Open

34

Current Closed

41

Partial Access



Restoring our Infrastructure

- 95% of state-maintained roads fully re-opened (2.7% partially re-opened)
- 7.7M+ cubic yards of right-of-way debris removed
- 6.5M+ cubic yards of waterway debris removed
- \$24.4M in FEMA funds disbursed directly to residents for repair expenses of nearly 9,700 private roads and bridges
- Over 4,400 site assessments completed in state's Private Roads & Bridges Program

Revitalizing our Economy and Communities

- \$55M in state and philanthropically funded small business grants fully disbursed, with more than 2,100 recipients
- Nearly \$391M in SBA loans offered
- \$37.8M+ in disaster unemployment assistance distributed
- \$89M+ in loans to 90 local government units

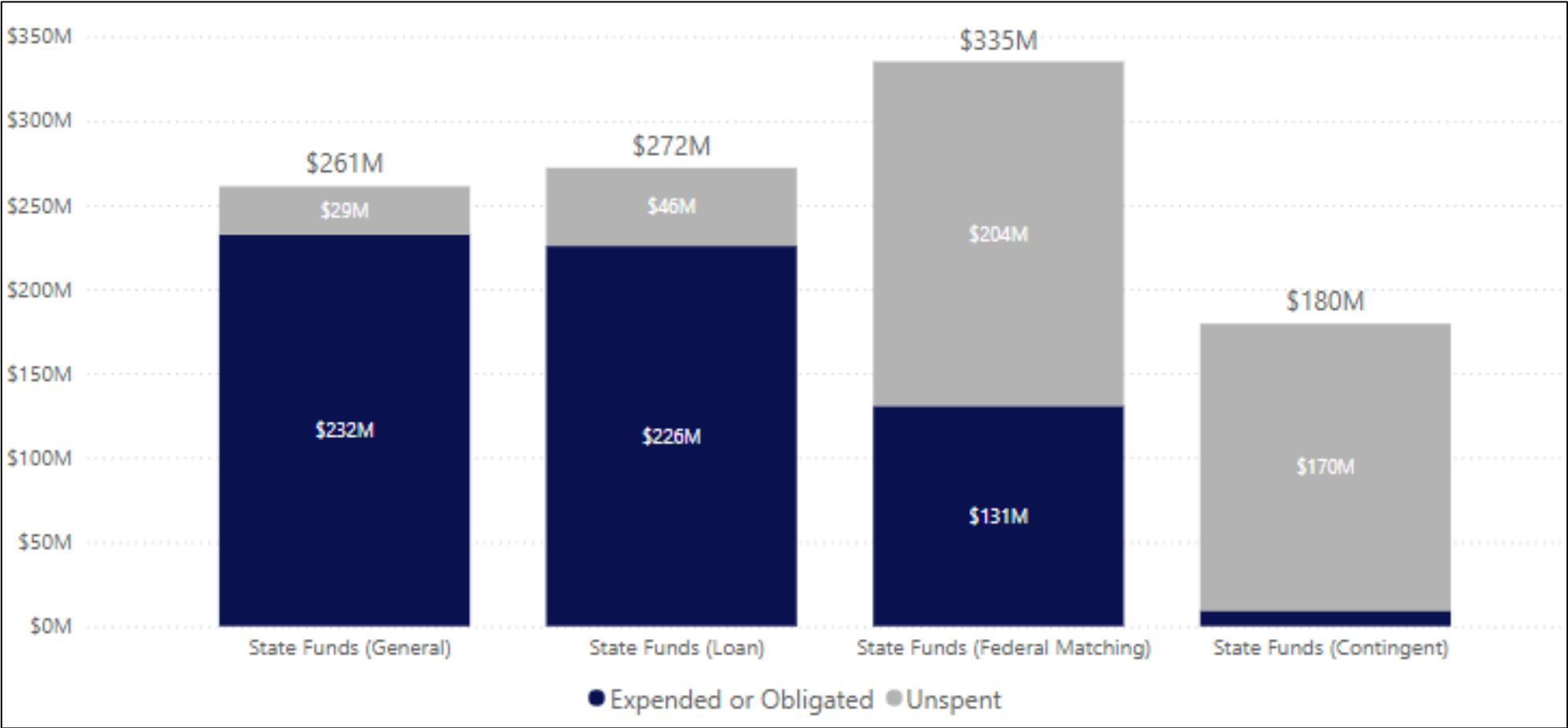


State Funding Update

GROW NC is working with state agencies to accelerate deployment of Helene funding

Disaster Relief Act of 2024 – Parts I & II

As of May 31, **more than 80%** of available funds from these appropriations had been obligated or expended.



GROW NC is working with state agencies to quickly deploy \$528 million in Helene funding appropriated in HB 47

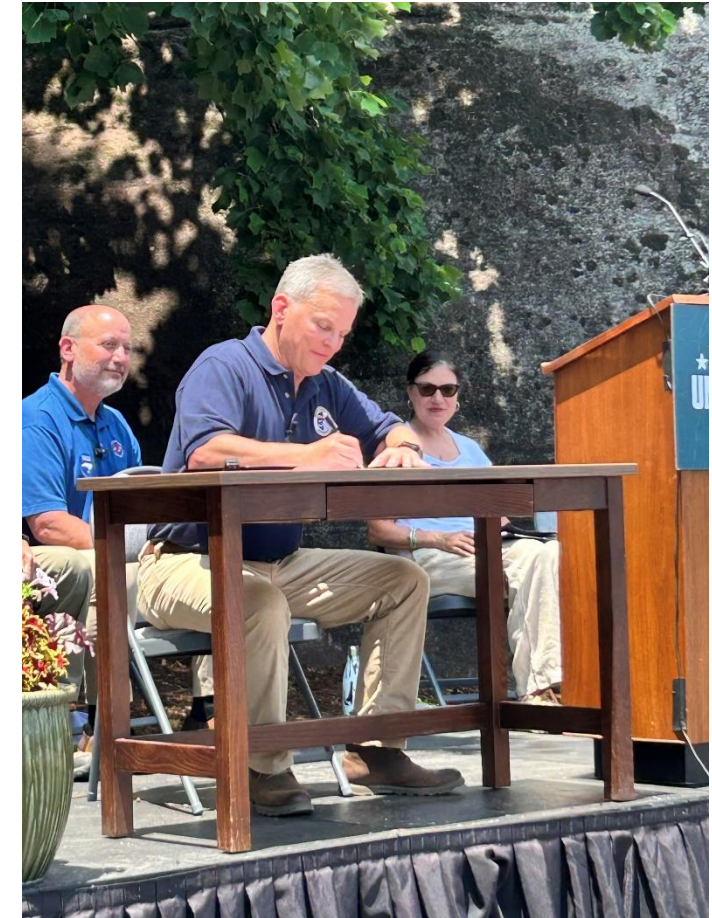
- **Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program** (*\$55 million*) – First tranche of grants awarded on June 30 totaling more than \$7 million. Next tranche to be released in fall 2025.
- **VisitNC Tourism Promotion** (*\$4 million*) – Fully expended or obligated to expand the offerings and reach of VisitNC's existing tourism marketing initiatives.
- **CDBG-DR Home R & R Program** (*\$120 million*) – Program is currently taking applications at renewnc.org. Department of Commerce is working to finalize the grant agreement with HUD.
- **Homeowner and Renter Unmet Needs – Volunteer Org Grants** (*\$10 million*) – RFP has closed. Evaluation committee making selection of finalists. Awardees to be announced shortly.

GROW NC is working with state agencies to quickly deploy \$528 million in Helene funding appropriated by HB 47

- **Debris Removal Unmet Needs** (\$20 million) – EM has obligated more than 60% of funding.
- **Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement** (\$100 million) – EM has completed over 4,400 site assessments. Construction has commenced on bridge projects. Residents may still submit interest forms.
- **Small and Volunteer Fire Department Grants** (\$10 million) – Office of the State Fire Marshal has obligated all \$10 million in HB 47 appropriations.
- **Agriculture Disaster Farmer Recovery Grants** (\$200 million) – Program applications have closed. DACS is working through application processes.
- **K-12 Summer Learning Programs** (\$9 million) – 14 Local Education Agencies, 16 charter schools, and the North Carolina School for the Deaf participated; program is now wrapped up.

OSBM is certifying \$575 million in new funding appropriated by HB 1012, which was signed into law on June 27

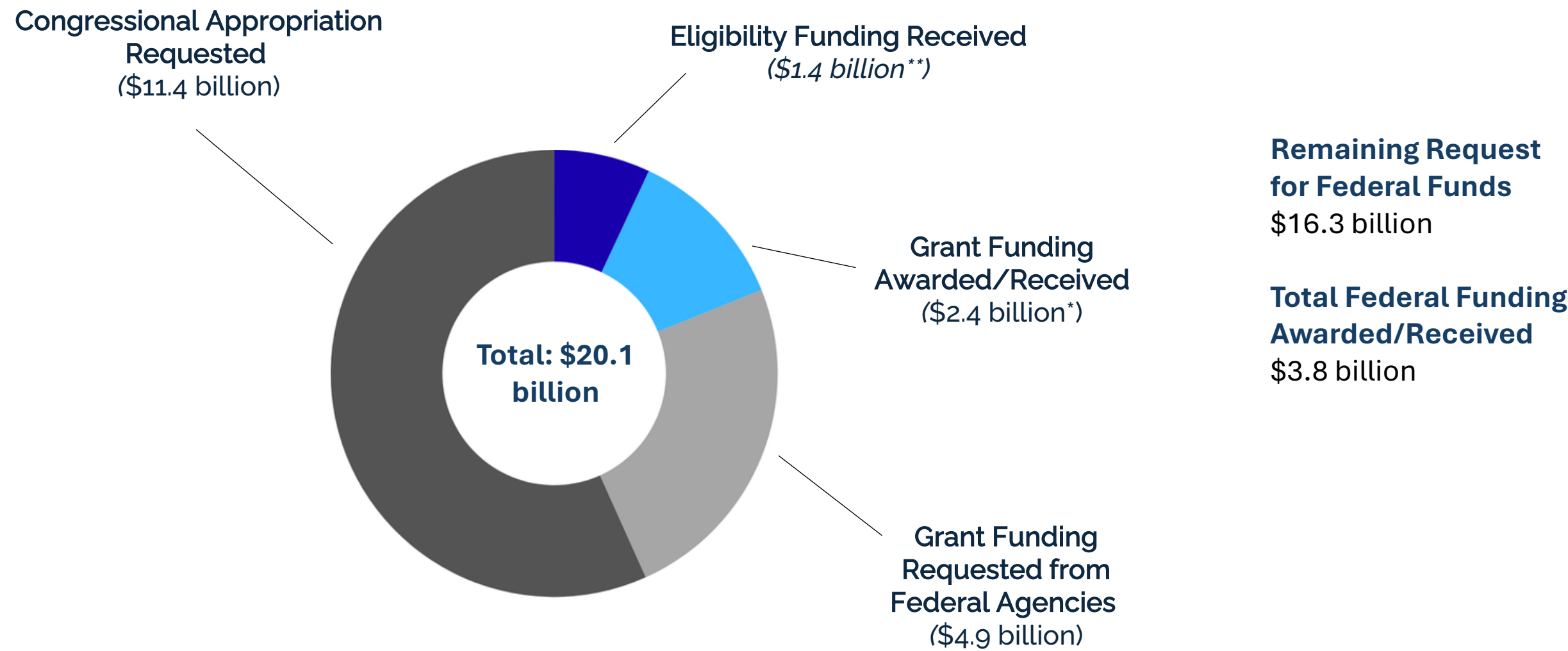
- **\$24M** to support economic recovery by boosting the WNC tourism industry, supporting local and regional economic development sites, and rebuilding local parks
- **\$292M** to strengthen critical infrastructure by supporting local govts, repairing state parks, providing additional funding to rebuild private roads and bridges, rebuilding transportation infrastructure, and safeguarding against future disasters
- **\$23M** to advance housing recovery by supporting nonprofits engaged in housing repair and reconstruction
- **\$81M** to rehabilitate waterways and land used by farmers, as well as bolster wildfire prevention and response
- **\$80M** for repairs to area public schools, universities, and community colleges
- **\$378M** for required state matching of federal disaster programs and existing requirements not funded by state or federal dollars





Federal Funding Update

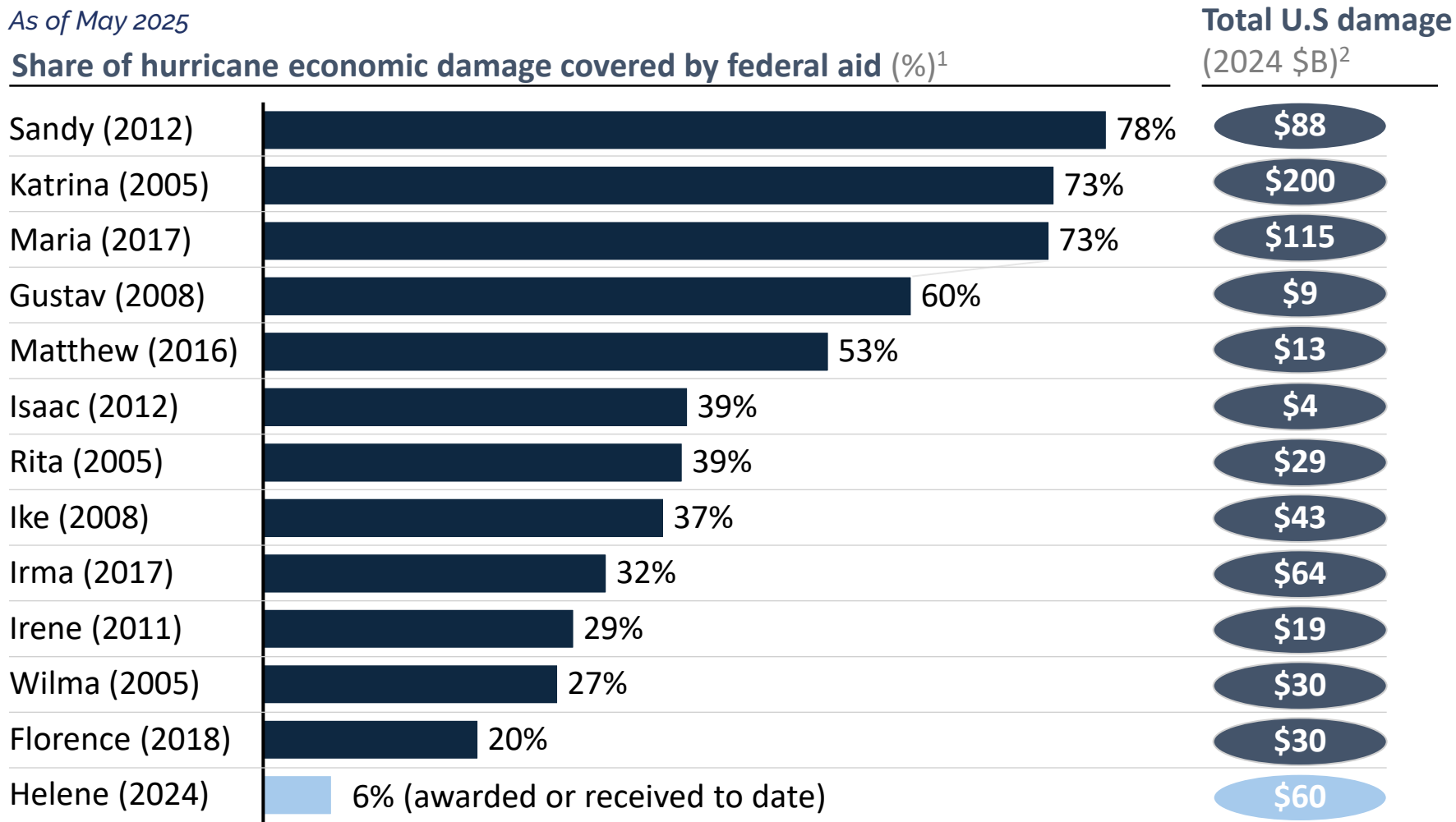
North Carolina has received or been awarded \$3.8 billion in federal funding for Helene recovery and continues to pursue \$16.3 billion in additional funding



^{*} Includes funding awarded by federal agencies and funding that has been both awarded and disbursed.

^{**} While the graphic above reflects the eligibility funding received from sources including FEMA Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding, Disaster unemployment, and SBA loans, it does not include eligibility funding North Carolina anticipates receiving from the government, including approximately \$6 billion in additional FEMA funding.

North Carolina has requested federal funding to cover 48% of Helene's damage, and so far, it has received or been awarded federal funds covering 6% of total damages.



1. Where available, federal aid is estimated using actuals from CBO and FEMA. In all other cases, FEMA actuals for Individual Assistance (IA), Public Assistance (PA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) were utilized, and non-FEMA federal aid was estimated based on the typical share of federal aid represented by FEMA funding, based on historical data.

2. Damage estimated by NOAA, including both insured and uninsured losses.

GROW NC is working with North Carolina's federal delegation and federal agencies to secure additional appropriations and allocations of federal funds

- **EDA Economic Recovery Funds – \$1.45 billion** available on a first come, first served basis for units of government, economic development districts, higher ed institutions, eligible nonprofits. GROW is working with communities to provide technical assistance with applications.
- **Homeland Security** – An additional \$400 million recently released by FEMA for **USACE debris** mission in late June. Approximately \$200 million more is needed to complete USACE assigned debris removal projects.
- **HHS Disaster Supplemental Funds for Child Care** – The US Department of Health and Human Services issued notice in mid-July for states to apply for their portion of **\$250 million** in national funding. NCDHHS preparing to apply by September 15 deadline.

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GROW NC is sharing recovery news, resources, progress metrics, and more.



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