



Emergency Management
NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

North Carolina Emergency Management



**NCGA Joint Legislative Commission on
Governmental Operations Briefing**

2 April 2026





North Carolina Private Road & Bridge Program

- The Disaster Recovery Act of 2025, Part I (March 19, 2025) authorized \$100M for the program to prioritize repairs to private roads and bridges that are:
 - The sole access for emergency services to residential properties that are occupied by the owner for over 6 months each year.
 - Provides access to multiple residential homes, recreation, or commercial facilities.
- The Disaster Recovery Act of 2025, Part II (June 27, 2025) authorized an additional \$75M for the program's continued efforts and to:
 - Utilize \$25M to reimburse up to 50% of the costs to repair private roads and bridges that have been incurred by homeowners and homeowners associations that completed qualifying projects.





Construction Project Types

- Private Bridges
- Private Roadways
- Private Pipe & Culvert Replacement





Private Bridge Replacement



Private Bridge Replacement

- Complex Bridge Designs (Site-specific designs based on unique site circumstances).
- Standard Bridge Designs (Designs specific for 20', 30', 40', and 50' span lengths to be used for many bridge replacement locations).
- Modular Bridge Designs (Generally prefabricated superstructures, such as converted railcar.)
- Coordination to allow contractors without an “H Stamp” to build bridges for this program.
- Multiple industry forums to collaborate with contractors to reduce bridge costs, standardize construction methods, and increase contractor base.





Private Road Repair



Private Roadway Projects

- Most often includes grading, slope repairs, and graveling to restore EMS access.
- Can include small pipe repairs or replacements.
- Greatest percentage of applications for assistance from residents is for private roadway projects.





Private Pipes & Culvert



Large Pipe & Culvert Repair

- Water-redirection solutions, including stormwater runoff, under roadway surface crossings.
- Includes both culvert and large pipe replacement projects.



Voluntary Agency Collaboration

- Regular meetings with volunteer and non-profit organizations working on private road and bridge projects.
- Deconflicting and coordinating projects to ensure efficient operations.
- The state program is taking the complex or larger projects that also may be beyond the scope of non-profit or volunteer organizations.
- Sharing of standard bridge designs to support voluntary organizations without designated engineering support.
- Provided grants to non-profit or volunteer organizations to support more complex bridge replacements.





Reimbursement Program

- Funding authorized as part of the Disaster Recovery Act, Part II.
- Can reimburse up to 50% of eligible costs incurred for a private homeowner or homeowner's association to repair a private road, bridge or culvert.
- Requires duplication of benefits assessment for each application against Federal Individual Assistance potentially received.
- Applications are reviewed, and a site visit completed prior to grant award.
- Site ownership is not always straightforward, which can delay reimbursement requests.





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