

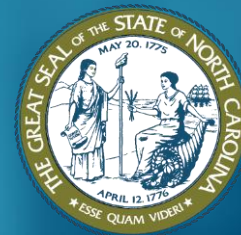
# HELENE RECOVERY

FOR THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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Deputy Secretary, Division of Community Revitalization

January 30, 2025



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# Overview

- Lessons Learned from North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) and Pandemic Recovery Office (PRO)
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Action Plan for Helene
- Reporting and Transparency

# Lessons Learned

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# Lessons from NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency

- Needed better accounting and financial controls, including predictive analytics for cash flow
- Offered too many housing options
- Lacked partnerships with local governments
- Suffered from inconsistent or unclear decisions
- Lack of clear communications and expectation setting

# Lessons from Pandemic Recovery Office

- Build a small, nimble organization of time-limited employees
- Provide robust oversight federal funds through strong technical assistance, clear understanding of federal guidance, contracts and MOUs that outline clear requirements, and monitoring
- Use SAP grants management system to more effectively track monitoring efforts and reporting
- Share information on recovery widely through reporting and website
- Work with state agencies, local governments, and external stakeholders to coordinate work and guidance
- Determine where gaps may be in funding

# Division of Community Revitalization (DCR) Proposed Approach

- Deploy robust financial oversight and controls
- Engage Advisory Group, legislators, stakeholders and partners to communicate, identify challenges and gaps in funding, and assist with recovery
- Set clear expectations about what CDBG-DR is - the “last resort” federal funding source for long-term disaster recovery – and realistic program scope
- Provide transparency of funding, processes, and progress through regular communications and reporting

# HUD Action Plan

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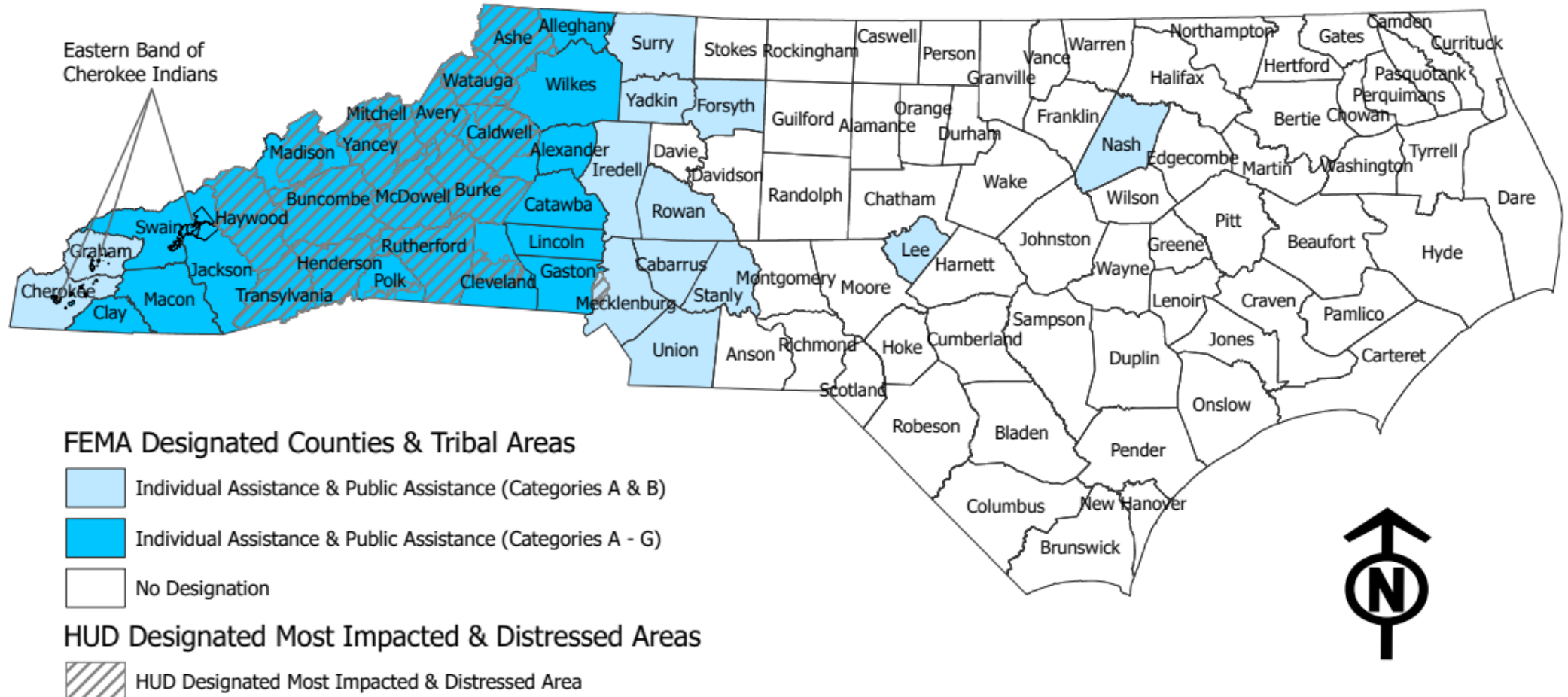
# Action Plan Requirements

- U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires an Action Plan that outlines the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds
- HUD must approve the Action Plan before the DCR can draw down any federal funds
- HUD identifies Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas for the grantees & requires that at least 80% of the CDBG-DR funds are spent in these areas

**NC will receive \$1.2 billion for unmet needs and \$186 million for mitigation activities**



# Helene Designations - FEMA and HUD



Data Sources: FEMA & HUD  
Map created January 28, 2025

# HUD's 3 Core Areas for Recovery

- Action Plan must address:
  1. Housing
  2. Infrastructure
  3. Economy
- North Carolina proposes to spend most of our funding in housing and the rest to support community infrastructure and economic support (e.g., small business grants, commercial district redevelopment)

# Reporting Program Updates



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# Reporting and Transparency

There are several ways that the Division of Community Revitalization (DCR) will share information on progress

1. Required federal reporting – Action plan and Quarterly reports to HUD
2. GrowNC website – centralized source of all disaster metrics
3. DCR website – source for more detailed CDBG-DR information
4. Partner communications – legislators, Advisory Group for Western NC Recovery, local governments, and other stakeholders