



2025 Helene Resilience Funding Guide to Providing Hurricane Impact Description and Documentation

October 2025

Introduction

To be eligible for Helene Resilience Funding (HRF), you must have experienced impacts from Hurricane Helene. This guide is intended to help HRF applicants complete the required fields in the HRF pre-applications.

HELENE IMPACT DESCRIPTION

Each of the Helene Resilience Funding pre-applications requests that you provide a written description of the impacts your system / your service area / your project area experience during Hurricane Helene and how your proposed project relates to those impacts (with a 500 character limit). GEFA seeks a concise, but descriptive description of impacts you experienced and some detail on how your proposed project relates to these impacts and enhances the resilience of your system. We have provided three sample Helene impact descriptions below as guides.

Sample Helene Impact Description #1

Our water utility lost power during Hurricane Helene and power was not restored for two weeks. Our primary high-service pump located at our well site shut down during the outage. We were forced to rent a large generator for more than two weeks and repressurize and restore water system service, during which time we issued a two-day boil water advisory. We seek funding under the Helene Resilience Funding program to purchase and install a backup generator for our primary high-service pump. The generator, fuel tank, and switch gear will be elevated to avoid future flood damage.

Sample Helene Impact Description #2

Our largest wastewater treatment plant flooded during Hurricane Helene, and we were forced to shutter the plant for three days, during which time we experienced several sewer overflows in our sewer collection system. We had to rent portable pumps to clear the plant of floodwater. We propose to flood proof our wastewater plant by creating a levee that encircles the plant and seek HRF funding for that purpose.

Sample Helene Impact Description #3

During Hurricane Helene, several of our sewer collection pump stations (lift stations) flooded and went out of service. As a result, we spill untreated sewage into our primary watershed. We proposed to use HRF funding to elevate the pumps and associated electrical equipment for 15 lifts stations above the 500-year flood elevation and raise the lift station shafts by 6 – 10 feet.

HELENE IMPACT DOCUMENTATION

Further, each HRF pre-application requires you to submit (via upload) relevant documents related to the Hurricane Helene impacts you described above. Here is a list of documents that might be appropriate to submit. You should submit at least one document demonstrating impact.

- **Photographs and Videos** capturing the damage immediately after the hurricane to document the extent of the impact
- **Site Inspection Reports** from professionals who assessed the water system's condition post-hurricane
- **Cost Documentation** justifying the costs associated with repairs or replacements of damaged water systems
- **Scope of Work Documentation** outlining the specific tasks and activities required for repairs or reconstruction
- **Flood Data**, for instance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including high-water marks, GPS coordinates, and photographic documentation
- **Power Outage Data**
- **Water/Sewer System Outage data**
- **Environmental Data**, including but not limited to:
 - Sewer overflow or sewer spill data submitted to EPD
 - Stream contamination data related to post-hurricane flooding / overflows / decentralized system flooding
- **Public Advisories** such as boil water advisory or other notices provided to water system customer due to hurricane impacts and loss of service
- **Receipts and/or Invoices for Recovery Work**, including, but not limited to:
 - Receipts / invoices for Hurricane debris removal
 - Receipts / invoices for back-up generator rental post Hurricane Helene
 - Receipts / invoices for portable pumps to address Hurricane Helene-related flooding
- **State Emergency Operations Center Data Submissions**
- **Mutual Aid Requests** for portable generators, pumps, etc. to address flooding and/or to restore system service