

Helene Resilience Funding Available to Impacted Communities

In response to Hurricane Helene, Congress passed the American Relief Act in December 2024. The Act includes \$3 billion in disaster relief supplemental funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. It also includes an additional \$85 million in supplemental funding for the CWSRF to improve the resilience of decentralized wastewater treatment systems, e.g., septic systems. The state of Georgia is receiving more than \$493 million of this disaster relief funding.

For a project to be eligible for Helene resilience funding through GEFA, it must be SRF eligible and serve the overall purpose of enhancing the resilience of drinking water, wastewater, and decentralized wastewater systems to flooding and natural disasters.

- Reduce flood or fire damage risk/vulnerability at drinking water and wastewater facilities, or
- Enhance resiliency to rapid hydrologic changes or natural disasters at drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities.

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Flood proofing and flood protection for equipment and facilities,
- Facility and equipment relocation,
- Facility and equipment hardening,
- Backup power,
- Redundancy,
- Flood reduction,
- Decentralized wastewater system consolidation,
- Replacement of damaged equipment and facilities, and
- Disaster and resiliency planning and assessments.

The call for projects for the Helene resilience funding will launch October 1, 2025, and conclude December 31, 2025. During the call for projects, eligible participants should submit preliminary details concerning projects they would like to receive funding under the program.

Additional details, including geographic eligibility areas and the availability of additional subsidization, are available at gefa.georgia.gov/hurricane-helene-resilience-funding. To submit questions and comments to GEFA about the funding, please email helenefunding@gefa.ga.gov.

