

Notes from Statewide Multifamily Housing Industry on Hurricane Helene Relief **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

Advocacy & Funding

- **Grow NC Group Board:** No progress yet in securing a seat.
- **Legislative Funding Gaps:** Last week, state legislators discussed a significant funding shortfall for recovery efforts.

GCAA Hurricane Helene Rental Assistance Fund (\$250,000)

- **Expanded Eligibility:** Now open to any property in the affected area.
- **Increased Support:** Assistance per resident has increased from \$1,000 to \$3,000.
- **Member Action Needed:** Encouraging members to submit applications on behalf of renters.
- **Eligibility Reminder:** Funds are only for current residents providing extended temporary, long-term, or permanent housing to displaced individuals from Western NC. More details: [FAQ](#).

Lima Charlie Assistance Program

- Third-party federal government provider.
- Some policies may not align with member procedures.
- AAWNC is listing this as an informational resource only. More details: [AAWNC Lima Charlie](#).

Grace Covenant Church Assistance Program

- Jon Lowder & Bryan Holladay are meeting with church leadership to address fair housing and legal concerns.
- Until issues are clarified, AAWNC will not officially endorse or list the program.
- Members are encouraged to accept the funds and donate independently.

Federal Relief & Long-Term Rebuilding

- **Disaster Block Grant:** \$1.65 billion secured for long-term recovery (backed by Senators Tillis & Burr).
 - \$22.5 million allocated to Asheville.
 - Loan opportunities available—must be denied a traditional bank loan first.
- **Recovery vs. Rebuild:**
 - Asheville is entering the rebuilding phase.
 - Rural counties remain in critical recovery, addressing infrastructure and basic needs.

State-Level Advocacy

- **Governor Josh Stein** is pushing for \$1.07 billion in additional recovery funding for Western NC:
 - \$150 million for businesses.
 - \$25 million in rental and utility assistance.
 - More info: [Governor's Proposal](#).

Asheville Marathon – March 15

Theme: This Is Our Comeback Story.

- More than just a race—this year’s event symbolizes resilience and community strength.
- Participants will run through areas affected by the storm, showing Asheville’s determination to rebuild and thrive.
- Learn more: [Asheville Marathon](#).