Hurricane Relief in North Carolina

Project Location: North Carolina communities impacted by Hurricane Helene

Team Members Needed: Professional civil and water resource engineers with experience in water infrastructure projects including decentralized systems. Familiarity with State Revolving Funds (SRF) projects and flood resilience design is preferred. Licensed Professional Engineers (PEs) in North Carolina are strongly encouraged.

Background: Community Engineering Corps (CECorps) is partnering with the US Water Alliance through the EPA Environmental Finance Center to provide technical assistance to communities across North Carolina recovering from the severe impacts of Hurricane Helene in September of 2024. The hurricane caused widespread flooding, landslides, and infrastructure failures across western and central parts of the state, leaving many local governments and utilities with damaged or destroyed drinking water and wastewater systems.

To help address these urgent needs, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) established the Helene State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program, providing up to $10 million per project in forgivable loans and grants to support the planning, design, and construction of resilient water infrastructure. This funding aims to help communities repair and modernize essential systems while building long-term resilience against future storm events.

Engineering Support Needed: CECorps is seeking engineering professionals to assist communities in developing conceptual scopes of work and cost estimates for projects eligible under the Helene SRF program. These preliminary engineering efforts will help small and underserved communities prepare strong, fundable SRF applications and prioritize critical improvements.

Project Scope of Work: Volunteers will work with CECorps, the US Water Alliance, and local communities to:

- Assess post-storm infrastructure damage
- Develop preliminary scopes of work and cost estimates for water infrastructure repairs
- Support communities in preparing technical documentation for NCDEQ Helene SRF applications
- Provide general engineering guidance to improve infrastructure resilience and sustainability

Timeline: As soon as possible with engagement depending on project availability and complexity. Volunteer hours will vary depending on when projects arise. Each project will need between 5-15 hours a month.

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