

Hurricanes Helene and Milton Response

FLORIDA DISASTER FUND OPERATIONS REPORT
AS OF MAY 31, 2025



Building Resilience Across Florida

In 2025, Florida's Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) remain a cornerstone of the state's disaster preparedness and recovery efforts. More than 30 active CERT programs have been deployed to support response operations in over two dozen counties impacted by hurricanes and other emergencies. These dedicated volunteers have contributed thousands of hours to shelter operations, wellness checks, debris removal, and neighborhood outreach — playing a pivotal role in restoring stability and strengthening community resilience across the state.

Mobilizing Local Resources: A Community Strategy

At Volunteer Florida, we understand that effective community engagement is vital. While strategizing local resource mobilization may feel daunting, it's essential to have a plan in place to ensure your efforts are impactful. Here are three pivotal recommendations for enhancing local volunteer initiatives:



1

Fostering Collaboration

Public-private partnerships can significantly enrich community service efforts. By collaborating with local businesses, nonprofits, and civic organizations, we can create a collective force that supports volunteer initiatives and maximizes community involvement.



2

Engage the Community

Connect with local groups, organizations, and individuals who can help promote volunteer opportunities. Engage businesses and civic members to spread the word and potentially participate in service projects, ensuring that everyone feels ready to contribute when needed.



3

Utilize Resource Sharing

Sharing knowledge and best practices among Volunteer Florida affiliates and partner organizations can strengthen our collective efforts. Regular training sessions focused on volunteer management and technical assistance will empower leaders to effectively mobilize their communities whenever necessary.

CERT Engagement & Community Resilience

Florida Disaster Fund



QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS:



3,442

Volunteer hours
donated by
CERT members.



16

CERT trainings
conducted for 190
participants.



11

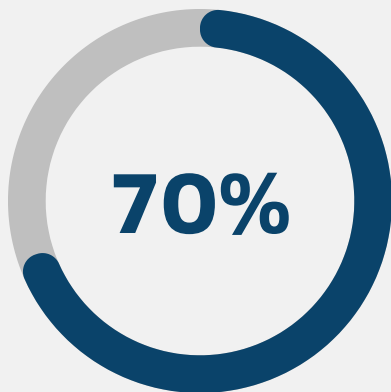
Emergency
exercises held with
61 participants.

The Florida Disaster Fund supported robust CERT efforts this quarter, strengthening state preparedness and response. Through training, outreach, and deployments, CERT volunteers showed extraordinary commitment to service and safety in their communities.



LOCAL IMPACT SNAPSHOT:

Bay County CERT: Assisted 230 residents during a water contamination emergency, graduated 13 new members, and participated in a mass casualty training with 29 agencies and 125 responders.



DAVIE ACADEMY
PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



City of Tampa CERT: Hosted a Basic Training course with 8 new members and engaged 19 volunteers in hurricane support roles.



Jefferson County CERT: Supported post-Hurricane Helene cleanup, EOC call-taking, and traffic control, donating 128 volunteer hours.



Town of Davie CERT: Launched a new CERT Academy training 70 participants over 4 weeks and maintained mentorship programming.


VOLUNTEER IMPACT ANALYSIS

Community Impact Report


A summary of our recovery efforts—highlighting impactful volunteer service, critical aid distribution, and targeted financial support for affected communities.




\$11.5 Million

 in funding deployed to support recovery efforts.

3,022

 individuals were served through our various outreach programs.

12,468

 volunteer hours were generously donated to aid the community.

Direct Aid & Distribution



81,201

meals were distributed to individuals and families in need.



3,550

clothing items were delivered.



815

homes were repaired for families.

Community & Family Support



592

foster families were supported with essential resources.



25

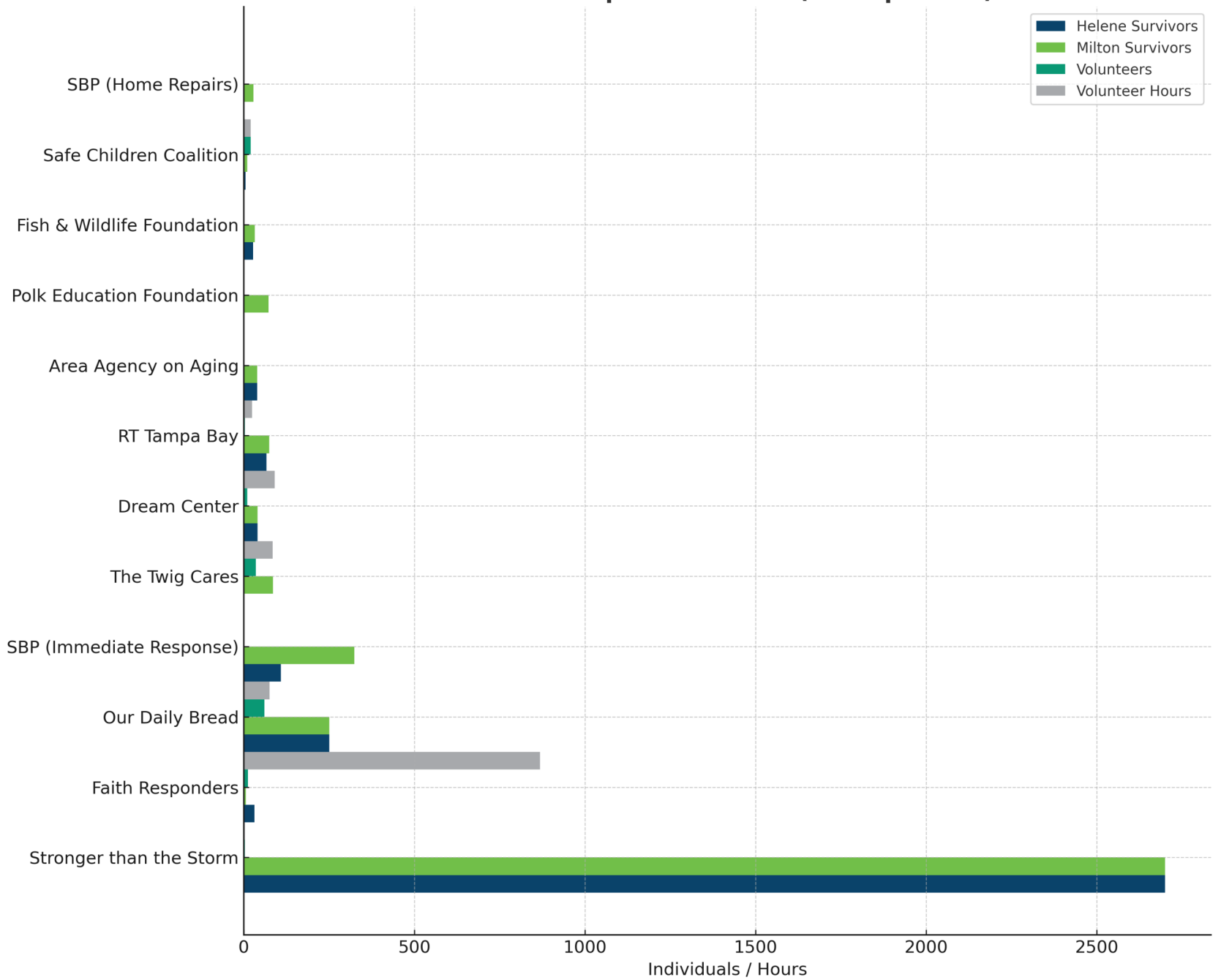
counties were reached by our dedicated teams and volunteers.



Home repairs were conducted in
15 COUNTIES

as part of our recovery initiative, expanding our regional support.

Grantee Impact Overview (Feb-Apr 2025)



As we close this quarter's report, we are reminded that recovery is never the work of one—but the collective effort of many. From CERT volunteers, nonprofit grantees to local government partners, and every Floridian who stepped up to help a neighbor in need, the work highlighted here reflects the very best of the work being done.

With Hurricanes Helene and Milton leaving long-term marks across our state, the Florida Disaster Fund remains committed to supporting survivors, strengthening communities, and building a more resilient future. As we move into the next quarter, our mission continues—powered by service, guided by compassion, and supported by the incredible partnerships that make this recovery possible.

"Being a part of the recovery effort has been humbling and inspiring. The resilience of our communities is truly remarkable, and volunteer efforts have played a crucial role in helping families rebuild their lives."

Kate Trott, Rebuilding Together Tampa