



Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton
Recovery Grant – Round 2
Florida Disaster Fund
Grant Funding Opportunity

Grant Applications
Due 5:00 PM EDT,
October 16, 2026
via Blackbaud
[Application Link](#)

OVERVIEW

The Volunteer Florida Foundation is pleased to issue this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to address unmet disaster recovery needs resulting from Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024.

The Volunteer Florida Foundation anticipates awarding up to \$1,200,000. Applicants may request grant funding in an amount from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Applications requesting less than \$25,000 or more than \$100,000 will not be considered. As a condition of award, successful applicants must provide a match equal to 50% of the approved grant amount. The required match may consist of cash, in-kind donations, volunteer hours, or a combination of these sources.

Included in this document are the forms and necessary information required to apply for this NOFO. The funding is administered by the Volunteer Florida Foundation, which has been designated to assist and support recovery activities through grants, training, technical assistance, and coordination with partner organizations. Grant awards are a result of funding from the Florida Disaster Fund.

For information regarding this notice, and throughout this competitive acquisition process, interested service providers should contact:

Peyton Midthun
Emergency Management Coordinator
Volunteer Florida
1545 Raymond Diehl Rd, Suite 250
Tallahassee, FL, 32308
Phone: 850-414-7400 x120
E-mail: peyton@volunteerflorida.org

OR

Christy Rojas
Emergency Management Director
Volunteer Florida
1545 Raymond Diehl Rd, Suite 250
Tallahassee, FL, 32308
Phone: 850-414-7400 x106
E-mail: christy@volunteerflorida.org

I. MISSION

Administered through the Volunteer Florida Foundation, the mission of the Florida Disaster Fund (FDF) is to provide financial assistance to organizations supporting needs within a community impacted by disaster.

II. BACKGROUND

The FDF was established in 2004 to assist other disaster relief organizations with unmet needs following a disaster. The FDF is administered by the Volunteer Florida Foundation. The Florida Disaster Fund has distributed over \$100 million in funding to over 225 organizations since July 2017 supporting response, short-term recovery and long-term recovery across Florida's disaster-impacted communities.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this NOFO is to make financial resources available to support survivor recovery in communities that were impacted by the Hurricanes Helene (DR-4828-FL) and Milton (DR-4834-FL) and those counties who received a federal declaration for Individual Assistance.

IV. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants must be:

- A. Providing disaster recovery assistance and services in the geography specified by the disaster declaration for Hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- B. Be classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt 501(C)(3) nonprofit, a long-term recovery, faith-based or community organization, a municipality or local government acting as a fiscal agent, or an organization making use of a fiscal agent with such a designation
- C. Serving clients that meet eligibility criteria for proof of disaster related needs caused by Hurricanes Helene & Milton, including proof of residency and ownership of any disaster damaged dwelling, income, insurance payment statements, documentation through a local information sharing system of all resources provided for disaster assistance, willingness to sign all required agreements for release of information and data sharing, and legal resident of the United States.
- D. Proposing a project that clearly addresses disaster recovery needs resulting from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Projects may include, but are not limited to, home repair and reconstruction, volunteer coordination, unmet needs assistance, community-based recovery initiatives (such as, neighborhood clean-up, or rebuilding community facilities), and other services that support survivor and community recovery. Projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes and coordination with local recovery partners.
- E. Have a system in place for utilizing and supporting volunteers.
- F. Complete an online application. Previous grant recipients are eligible to apply if they have completed all close out paperwork on previous grant. Current grant recipients are eligible to apply as long as they have expended at least 75% of their funds from any previous grant award prior to submitting a subsequent application. Current and previous grantees are required to have maintained compliance through the timely submission of all required reports.

V. APPLICATION PROCESS

All grant applications for funding will be carefully screened and reviewed for completeness. Any application determined to be incomplete will be disqualified. Applicants whose applications are deemed disqualified will be notified in writing.

1. Application Requirements
 - a. A completed online application, including the project budget form;
 - b. Agreement and certification form;
 - c. Board of directors list;
 - d. IRS determination letter;
 - e. Last two years financial statements or audit;
 - f. Organization's annual budget;
 - g. W9, and;
 - h. Banking Details on Volunteer Florida's EFT Form
2. Priority will be given to applicants who:
 - a. Demonstrate high-cost efficiency
 - b. Show a high level of partnership activities
 - c. Projects that meet the needs not covered through other sources, such as FEMA Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs, Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program, or other state disaster recovery funds.
 - d. Demonstrate integration of volunteers
 - e. Preference will be given to projects that can be initiated within 30 days and be completed or demonstrate measurable impact within the first 12 months.
 - f. Preference will be given to projects that support Hurricane Helene
3. Application scores are based on the following point system:
 - a. Proposals will be scored on a 100-point scale based on the components outlined in the Proposal Requirements section below. The Volunteer Florida Foundation may conduct clarifying interviews in person or through conference calls prior to final approval. A copy of the Proposal Review Form and scoring elements is included as Attachment A.
 - b. There are five application categories:
 - i. Alignment – 20 points max
 - ii. Qualifications and Readiness - 25 points max
 - iii. Risk Management and Mitigation - 15 points max
 - iv. Budget - 25 points max
 - v. Tracking and Reporting – 15 points max
 - c. Only applicants receiving a minimum score of 60 points will be considered for funding.
4. Following the scoring and ranking of applications, a list of the intended awards will be posted on the Volunteer Florida Foundation website, www.volunteerflorida.org.
5. Successful applicants will be notified in writing of the intent by Volunteer Florida Foundation to issue the grant award. After the notice of award, Volunteer Florida Foundation will review the proposed budget provided with the application and provide feedback during the week of November 16, 2026, through November 30, 2026. At the

discretion of Volunteer Florida Foundation, based upon funding availability, priorities, and other factors, a grantee may be funded at less than their requested amount.

6. Electronic applications must be submitted electronically via Blackbaud and received no later than 5:00 PM EDT, Tuesday October 28, 2025.
7. If an accommodation is needed for a disability in order to participate in this solicitation process, please contact Christy Rojas at Christy@volunteerflorida.org **at least five days prior** to the date that the accommodation is needed.

VI. ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES

Florida Disaster Fund resources may only be used to support disaster and survivor recovery. Allowable activities include, but are not limited to: clean-up, home repair/rebuilding, replacement of household goods, office supplies, staffing, volunteer support, and community projects. Reimbursement will be limited to expenses in the program budget approved by the Volunteer Florida Foundation.

VII. FUNDING PERIOD

Upon proposal approval, the term of the award shall commence with receipt of a signed original contract by the Volunteer Florida Foundation and shall expire one year from that date. Requests for no-cost extensions may be submitted for consideration and if approved, an amendment to extend the term of the contract will be required.

VIII. REQUEST FOR ADVANCE

If an advance on the awarded amount is needed for startup, the applicant should submit the Request for Advance Payment Form (Attachment B) with the proposal. Up to 20% of the funding award may be made available as an advance upon execution of contract. If the grant is awarded and the advance request is approved, the funding advance must be spent by the end of the first quarter of the grant. (90 days).

IX. REPORTING PROCESS

A Periodic Expenditure Report (PER) shall be submitted monthly, due on the 15th of the month and shall include supporting documentation, including but not limited to receipts, invoices, proof of payments, volunteer sign-in sheets, etc. and must be submitted by the 15th of each month to Volunteer Florida in the Laserfiche Portal and reviewed before a reimbursement will be made to the Grantee. A copy of the reporting format has been included as Attachment C.

Quarterly programmatic reports with accompanying documentation will be submitted to the Volunteer Florida Foundation by the 15th of the month following the end of a contract quarter. A copy of the reporting format has been included as Attachment D.

X. PROPOSAL DEADLINE

Utilize the Proposal Checklist (Attachment E) to ensure all items are included in the proposal at the time of submission.

XI. APPLICATION SCHEDULE

Timeline	Deadline
Notice of Funding Availability & Application Release:	September 16, 2026
Deadline to Submit Technical Assistance Questions: Hurricanes@volunteerflorida.org	September 23, 2026, 5:00PM EDT
Applicant Technical Assistance Webinar	September 30, 2026, 2:00PM EDT
Financial Technical Assistance Webinar	October 5, 2026, 1:00PM EDT
Technical Assistance Questions Posted	October 9, 2026, 5:00PM EDT
Deadline for Receipt of Applications via Blackbaud:	October 16, 2026, 5:00PM EDT
Grant Review Period	October 21, 2026 – November 10, 2026
Board Approval:	By November 12, 2026
Budget Clarification/Approval:	November 16, 2026 – November 30, 2026
Anticipated Contract Award:	December 1, 2026
Contract Period of Performance:	December 1, 2026 – November 30, 2027

- a. Interested parties may attend the Technical Assistance Webinar to be held on September 30, 2026, 2:00PM EDT by registering here.
 - i. Link to the Teams Meeting here: [FDF \(Helene/Milton\) - Technical Assistance Webinar](#)
 - ii. Meeting ID: 295 003 350 835 546
 - iii. Passcode: Yg3L4Yd7
- b. Interested parties may attend the Financial Technical Assistance Webinar to be held on October 7, 2026, 2:00PM EDT by registering here.
 - i. Link to the Teams Meeting here: [FDF \(Helene/Milton\) Financial Technical Assistance Webinar](#)
 - ii. Meeting ID: 261 110 049 695 504
 - iii. Passcode: t2Zn7GX9
- c. Volunteer Florida Foundation reserves the right to revise the application schedule provided above. Revisions to this schedule will be posted on the Volunteer Florida Foundation website, www.volunteerflorida.org. Applicants are responsible for checking the Volunteer Florida Foundation website for updates to the schedule.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Grants awarded by the Foundation are subject to the specific terms and conditions stated in the award notification letter or contract as well as the general terms and conditions provided in this document.
2. Grant funds will be provided on a cost-reimbursement basis for approved and documented expenditures incurred by the Grantee.
3. The Grantee acknowledges that the application review process is competitive and that applications are evaluated and scored according to established criteria.
4. Grants are made in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and Grantee confirms that it is organized in or under the laws of the United States, or any state of the United States, and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Services as an organization described under Code Section 501(c)(3).
5. Grant funds shall be disbursed according to the payment schedule provided in the award notification letter or contract.
6. Grantee is responsible for securing the designated percentage match of an award amount.
7. To acknowledge that the period of performance will be from December 1, 2026 – November 30, 2027.

Attachment A
Florida Disaster Fund – Reviewer Score Sheet

Proposal Components	SCORE	Comments
<u>REQUIREMENTS:</u> ALL necessary documentation must be submitted with proposal AND proposals meet ALL requirements listed in order to be reviewed		
The proposal was complete and included cover page with all required documents listed in the RFP	Yes No	
<u>Alignment (20 Points)</u>		
Project Overview: Does the applicant describe the project overview? (5 points)	1 2 3 4 5	
Key Outcomes: Does the applicant describe their key outcomes expected (5 points)	1 2 3 4 5	
Partnerships: Does the applicant identify partnerships and resources to reach their expected outcomes? (5 points)	1 2 3 4 5	
Unmet Needs: Does the applicant describe how their proposal is not otherwise addressed by other programs? (5 points)	1 2 3 4 5	
<u>Qualifications and Readiness (25 Points)</u>		
Dates: Does the applicant identify an expected start date, a date of measurable impact, and an expected completion date? (5 points)	1 2 3 4 5	
Previous Experience: Does the applicant describe previous experience in their proposed projects? (10 points)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Applicant Readiness: Does the applicant demonstrate readiness through their proposal? (10 points)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
<u>Risk Management and Mitigation (15 Points)</u>		
Risks: Does the applicant identify risks or challenges that may impact their projects, as well as approaches to reduce risk or mitigate? (10 points)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Contingency Plans: Does the applicant describe a contingency plan for their project if their proposal is not funded? (5 points)	1 2 3 4 5	
<u>Budget (25 Points)</u>		
Funding Structure: Does the applicant describe a funding structure, including how they expect to meet the match requirement? (5 points)	1 2 3 4 5	
Budget Narrative: Does the applicant describe how their budget narrative relates to the budget costs of their proposal? (10 points)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Budget: Did the applicant complete the budget worksheet template? Does the budget relate to the proposal? (10 points)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
<u>Tracking and Reporting (15 Points)</u>		
Tracking: Does the applicant describe existing capabilities for tracking and reporting progress? (10 points)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Reporting: Does the applicant agree to submitting quarterly reports and the final, end of project, report? (5 points)	1 2 3 4 5	

Maximum = 100 points

TOTAL POINTS: _____

Attachment B
VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION
ADVANCE PAYMENT REQUEST FORM

If you are requesting an advance, indicate same by checking the box below.

☐ ADVANCE REQUESTED Advance payment of \$ _____ is requested.
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Any advance payment request cannot exceed 20% of the total award. Advance payments will specify the amount of advance payment needed and provide an explanation of the necessity for and proposed use of these funds. After the initial advance, payment shall be made on a reimbursement basis with supporting documentation.

Complete the following chart and line-item justification below.

For each line item, provide a detailed justification explaining the need for the advance payment. Support documentation should include quotes for purchases, delivery timelines, salary and expense projections, etc. to provide the Volunteer Florida Foundation reasonable and necessary support for the requested advance funds.

Authorized Signature

Printed Name

Title

Date

Estimated Expenses

BUDGET CATEGORY/LINE ITEMS (list applicable line items)	Justification
<u>General Administrative and Operating Costs</u>	
<u>Contractual Costs</u>	
<u>Materials and Products</u>	
<u>Equipment/Furniture/Fixtures</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	

VF Emergency Management Director Signature

VF Finance Staff Initials

Date Approved

Attachment C

Periodic Expense Report Worksheet

VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION Periodic Expenditure Report

LEGAL APPLICANT (LEAD AGENCY):			
PROGRAM:			
INVOICE DATES		TO	
PROGRAM YEAR:			
	MONTHLY INVOICE		
	FDRF	Match	Total
A. General Administrative and Operating Costs (Salaries, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Rent, (non-tangibles) etc. not to exceed 10% of the total grant - list each item separately below)			
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
A. General Administrative and Operating Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
B. Contractual Costs (includes costs for hiring of contractors in completing tasks/projects - list each item separately below)			
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
B. Contractual Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
C. Materials and Products (includes supplies/materials purchased to complete tasks/projects/nails, wood, roofing, etc. - list each item separately below)			
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
C. Materials and Products	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
D. Equipment/Furniture/Fixtures (includes equipment/furniture/fixtures to complete tasks/projects (air conditioning units, desks, computers, plumbing, etc. - list each item separately below)			
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
D. Equipment/Furniture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SUBTOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL PER AMOUNTS:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FDRF / Match Share:	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
APPROVED BY (must be typed or signed by program):			
Date PER sent to Volunteer Florida Foundation			

Attachment D **Quarterly Report**

FDF - Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton Recovery Q1 Report

Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton

Organization Name

Due Date *

Please specify any work completed for Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Milton, or both

Only activities directly related to the event specified in your award letter should be tracked and funded.

Summary of Activities *

Please detail activities for both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

What counties did the activities take place in? *

Please describe in detail the successes and accomplishments thus far. *

Please do not duplicate volunteer numbers that are tracked in other streams of funding from Volunteer Florida or Volunteer Florida Foundation.

Share two - three unique outcomes achieved with funding. *

Examples could include: # of clients served, # of homes repaired, # of meals distributed, # of students impacted, etc.

How many Helene survivors assisted? *

(Enter number)

How many Milton survivors assisted? *

(Enter number)

Volunteers and Volunteer Hours

Please note the number of volunteers and volunteer hours specific to each event. If no volunteer hours were noted for an event, please enter '0'

HURRICANE HELENE

Number of Hurricane Helene volunteers during this reporting period? *

(Enter number)

Number of Hurricane Helene volunteer hours during this reporting period? *

(Enter number)

HURRICANE MILTON

Number of Hurricane Milton volunteers engaged during this reporting period? *

(Enter number)

Number of Hurricane Milton volunteer hours during this reporting period? *

(Enter number)

Spending Breakdown

Please note the dollar amounts spent, specific to each event. If funds were not applied to a specific event, please enter '0'.

HURRICANE HELENE

Funds expended for Hurricane Helene during this reporting period

(Enter dollar amount)

HURRICANE MILTON

Funds expended for Hurricane Milton during this reporting period

(Enter dollar amount)

Please note the number of volunteers and volunteer hours specific to each event. If no volunteer hours were noted for an event, please enter '0'

HURRICANE HELENE

Number of Hurricane Helene volunteers during this reporting period? *

(Enter number)

Number of Hurricane Helene volunteer hours during this reporting period? *

(Enter number)

HURRICANE MILTON

Number of Hurricane Milton volunteers engaged during this reporting period? *

(Enter number)

Number of Hurricane Milton volunteer hours during this reporting period? *

(Enter number)

Spending Breakdown

Please note the dollar amounts spent, specific to each event. If funds were not applied to a specific event, please enter '0'.

HURRICANE HELENE

Funds expended for Hurricane Helene during this reporting period

(Enter dollar amount)

HURRICANE MILTON

Funds expended for Hurricane Milton during this reporting period

(Enter dollar amount)

I verify I have uploaded pictures. Important: Please label photos with the name of your organization.
Upload your pictures to Dropbox HERE. *

Please right click HERE to upload the pictures in a different tab or copy and paste this link: <https://www.volunteerflorida.org/emdropbox/>
Select one

- ☐ False
☐ True

Attachments (If Applicable)

Attachment E

Florida Disaster Fund – Proposal Submission Checklist

- ☐ Budget
- ☐ Agreement and Certification Form
 - *Agreement and Certification form must be signed and dated by two authorized officials of the applicant organization. For 501c3 organizations, one signatory must be a member of the applicant organization's board of directors
- ☐ Board of Directors List
 - *List should include the organization's board members along with their addresses and occupations
- ☐ IRS Determination Letter
- ☐ Most Recent Financial Statements or Audit
 - *Organizations with an audit: Please upload two years of audits along with most recent management letter and/or reports on internal controls.
 - *Organizations without an audit: Please upload two years' worth of Balance Sheets, Statements of Financial Position, and Statements of Cash Flow.
- ☐ Organization's Annual Budget
- ☐ W9
- ☐ Banking Details on Volunteer Florida's EFT