

Florida Disaster Fund

Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton Recovery Round 2

Notice of Funding Opportunity Technical Assistance Call



volunteerflorida

Tips for Participating

- Please mute your lines
- To ask questions, please include them in the chat box or wait for the Question-and-Answer section at the end of the presentation
 - To ask a question, click on the hand icon to let us know you have a question
- Recording of the webinar and the response to questions will be posted at volunteerflorida.org

Florida Disaster Fund (FDF)

The Florida Disaster Fund provides grant opportunities to qualifying organizations to meet disaster-caused needs in Florida with a focus on support for disaster response and long-term recovery activities

Volunteer Florida Foundation seeks to provide financial assistance to organizations supporting needs within a community impacted by disaster

Grant period is a twelve-month period, beginning December 1, 2026 – November 30, 2027

The Volunteer Florida Foundation anticipates awarding up to \$1,200,000 for sub-grantees serving the needs of Floridians impacted by Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton, in counties that received a federal declaration for Individual Assistance.

Eligibility

An organization applying for a FDF grant must:

1. Providing disaster recovery assistance and services in the geography specified by the disaster declaration for Hurricanes and Milton
 - Counties must have received a federal declaration for Individual Assistance
2. 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
3. Serving clients that meet eligibility criteria for proof of disaster related needs caused by Hurricanes Helene & Milton
4. Proposing a project that clearly addresses disaster recovery needs resulting from Hurricanes Helene and Milton
5. Have a system in place for utilizing and supporting volunteers
6. Complete an online application



volunteerflorida

Funding Priorities

Stronger applications will:

- Demonstrate high-cost efficiency
- Show a high level of partnership activities
- 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, private insurance, or other state disaster recovery funds
- Demonstrate integration of volunteers
- Priority will be given to projects that can be initiated within 30 days and either be completed or demonstrate measurable impact within the first 12 months



volunteerflorida

Application Review

Each complete application shall be evaluated and acted upon in a multi-stage process balancing timeliness with fiduciary responsibilities

1. Stage One involves staff review and preparation
2. Stage Two involves evaluation by members of the Foundation's Advisory Committee who will score and forward qualifying applications for aggregation and review.
3. Final determination of award recipients and award amounts made by the Foundation's Executive Committee / Foundation Board.



volunteerflorida

Fatal Criteria

Proposals will not be reviewed for funding unless all of the following criteria are met:

The proposal was submitted in the Blackbaud online portal and received by Volunteer Florida Foundation no later than **October 16, 2026 by 5:00 pm EST**. Proposals will not be accepted via email or hard copy.

The proposal must include:

1. A completed application
2. Supporting documentation
 - I. Project Budget
 - II. Agreement and Certification Form (electronic signatures are acceptable)
 - III. Board of Directors List
 - IV. IRS Determination Letter (evidence of tax exempt status)
 - V. Two most recent financial statements or audits
 - VI. Organization's annual budget
 - VII. W9
 - VIII. Banking details on Volunteer Florida Foundation's EFT

Applicants who do not include all supporting documentation will NOT be considered for funding.



volunteerflorida

Budget

Funds awarded to sub grantees are intended to be used for **disaster recovery efforts for communities impacted by Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton, and received a federal declaration for Individual Assistance**

The minimum grant request (not including match) is \$25,000 and the maximum request is \$100,000.

Grantees are required to provide a 50% in kind and/or cash match. The use of volunteers can be used toward match. Volunteer hours are currently valued at \$34.88/hr.

Grants are cost reimbursement only.

Grantees may submit an advance payment request. Advance payments can not exceed 20% of the award. After the initial advance, remaining payments will be made on a cost reimbursement basis. Advances will need to be spent within the first quarter of the grant period.

No advance payments or monthly reimbursements can be processed without an approved budget in place.

FDF monies can be used to support a salaried position**

Administrative costs must be limited to 10% of the total budget.



Other Requirements

Quarterly Reporting:

Successful sub-grantees will report to Volunteer Florida Foundation on a quarterly basis via Blackbaud. Performance measures should include number of volunteers engaged, hours served, survivors assisted, etc.

- Anecdotal, testimonials, and pictures will be required.
- Spending breakdowns for each event will be required

Financial Reporting:

Successful sub-grantees will report to Volunteer Florida Foundation on a monthly basis with submission of a Volunteer Florida monthly invoice and appropriate supporting documentation of expenditures AND match.

- After submission of an invoice, Volunteer Florida has 45 days to reimburse the organization
- Awarded grantees will be required to attend a Periodic Expenditure and LaserFiche Training at the beginning of the contract year

FDF Anticipated Timeline

- Application opens – September 16, 2026
- **Application Technical Assistance Call – September 28, 2026 2:00PM EDT**
- Budget Technical Assistance Call – October 5, 2026 1:00PM EDT
- **Application closes: October 16, 2026 5:00PM EDT**
- Anticipated Award Announcement: November 12, 2026
- Budget Clarification and Approval Period: November 16, 2026 – November 30, 2026
- Anticipated Contract Period: December 1, 2026 – November 30, 2027

Special Considerations

The Financial Technical Assistance Webinar will be October 5, 2026 1:00PM EDT. This is especially important for those who have never written a VFF budget before or those who have not gone through a VFF clarification period.

Registration is not required and can be accessed through the Microsoft Teams link on the NOFO and on the Volunteer Florida website

Q & A

What kind of work is eligible for reimbursement through this grant?

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.

Who is eligible to receive assistance? What documentation may be needed to confirm eligibility?

Individuals are eligible to receive assistance if their primary residence is within an impacted county that received a federal declaration for Individual Assistance. Projects must meet needs not covered through other sources, such as FEMA public assistance, hazard mitigation grant programs, community development block grant disaster recovery program, insurance, or other disaster recovery funds. The grant may only be used to support recovery, specific to the event on the application, and the support must be related to the impact of the event(s).

Can this grant be used to fund a paid staff position? Like a program manager or grant manager role?

This grant allows for a maximum of 10% administrative costs. Administrative costs can be used to fund a salaried position.



volunteerflorida

Q & A

What documents are required to prove eligibility?

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. Information sharing may be required, as needed.

Who is responsible for the match?

The recipient of this grant would be responsible for the match. That recipient will have to determine, on the budget how they plan on meeting that match.

With the 75% spenddown requirement for other Florida Disaster Fund grants, do the funds have to be completely expensed or can the funds be allocated to qualify?

At least 75% of a previous Florida Disaster Fund grant must be completely expensed with reporting confirming the spend-down to qualify for additional funding.



volunteerflorida

Q & A

What can be used to meet the match requirement?

Grant match can be met by a dollar-per-dollar match, or through the use of in-kind donations and volunteer hours. Dollars from other Volunteer Florida grants or funding sources MAY NOT be used to meet match. Grant dollars from other sources will require a letter of approval to be used as match. Paid staff can be used as match as long as the work completed during the time allocated to the match is specifically tied to the recovery projects worked. Time cards will be required as proof of staff hours. Paid staff member's match is capped at the 10% administrative cap of the grant. Volunteer hours to meet match are only eligible during the grant period.

Can these funds be used to rebuild/repair damage to community buildings, such as condos and apartments, or public facilities?

Community buildings and public facilities will still have to meet eligibility requirements set forth in the NOFO. Community buildings should have been eligible for public assistance or insurance assistance. These funds can be used to fill in the gaps where projects did not receive other support. These funds can not be used to improve projects, and can only be used to repair damages caused by Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton.

Can this grant be sub-granted out to additional entities?

No. Grants cannot be sub-granted out to additional entities. Grant recipients may partner with other entities to complete projects, but the grant recipient remains responsible for the grant match, reimbursement, and reporting.



volunteerflorida

Q & A

For clarity: “A municipality or local government acting as a fiscal agent” does that mean that a county can only apply for a non-profit, etc. in the capacity of fiscal agent? Or, can a local government apply for outright funding?

A local government may also apply outright if the proposed projects aligns with the NOFO purpose, and all other eligibility criteria (directly supports survivor recovery needs resulting from Hurricanes Helene and/or Milton) and the local government is the implementing entity (not just serving as a pass-through). A local government may apply directly if the proposed project directly supports survivor or community recovery from Hurricanes Helene and/or Milton. The phrase “acting as a fiscal agent” simply means that local governments are also eligible to apply when serving in that role for the eligible nonprofit or community organization.

Are you looking to prioritize Hurricane Helene damage or both Helene/Milton?

Projects supporting recovery from Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton are eligible for funding under this funding opportunity. The Volunteer Florida Foundation is seeking to fund a range of projects addressing unmet recovery needs from both storms across Florida’s impacted counties.



volunteerflorida

Q & A

Local information sharing system

A local information sharing system refers to any coordinated tool or database used by recovery partners within a community to track assistance provided to disaster survivors and avoid duplication of benefits. These systems are managed by Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) or local government. The goal is to ensure all recovery partners, volunteer rebuild groups, and funders can document what resources have already been provided to each household and identify remaining unmet needs.

Can the funds be used to cover the 25% match to FEMA/FDEM?

No. Florida Disaster Fund grants cannot be used to fund local government's required match to FEMA or FDEM programs (such as public assistance or hazard mitigation). These funds are intended to support unmet survivor and community recovery needs – not to supplant or match federal or state funding requirements. Projects led by local governments may be eligible only if they are community-based recovery initiatives that directly support disaster survivors or volunteer recovery activities outside of federal match requirements.



volunteerflorida

Q & A

Use the questions/chat feature in the meeting.

Further questions can be directed to:

Peyton Midthun, Emergency Management Coordinator
Peyton@volunteerflorida.org

Christy Rojas, Emergency Management Director
Christy@volunteerflorida.org

A link to the recorded webinar will be made available on the Volunteer Florida website