



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
North Carolina Dam Safety Grant Fund
Grant Fund Guidelines

1. Program Description

A. Overview

1. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources is committed to protecting lives and downstream property from the risks associated with dam failures. The “North Carolina Dam Safety Grant Fund”, established by North Carolina House Bill 1012 (SL2025-26), makes state funding from the legislation available to dam owners for the rehabilitation of eligible dams.
2. For the purposes of this grant, “rehabilitation” means the repair, modification, or removal of an eligible dam to meet applicable North Carolina dam safety standards.

B. Objectives

The objectives of the program are to:

1. Provide financial assistance for the repair, modification, or removal of eligible dams.
2. Protect the state investment by requiring operation and maintenance of the project following completion of rehabilitation.
3. Reduce the potential consequences to loss of life, interruption of use or service of public utilities, or to property downstream of high hazard potential dams.
4. Reduce the overall number of high hazard potential dams that pose an unacceptable risk to the public.
5. Reduce costs associated with dam rehabilitation through the deployment of innovative solutions and technologies.

C. Priorities

The North Carolina Dam Safety Grant Fund priorities are the construction activities or design & construction activities related to the rehabilitation of eligible dams. Projects proposed for funding will be prioritized based on factors that emphasize the reduction of overall risk. To be considered for funding, applications for rehabilitation must be accompanied by plans that address all applicable deficiencies and bring the dam to satisfactory condition.

2. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Dams

To be considered eligible for funding under this program, the following requirements

must be met:

1. The dam must be classified as high hazard (Class C) regulated by the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources under the North Carolina Dam Safety Law.
2. The dam must have one or more existing, unresolved Notice of Deficiencies (NODs) or Dam Safety Order (DSO).
3. The dam must have damage directly resulting from Hurricane Helene, in a disaster declared county, that is to be addressed within the scope of work.
4. Applications for rehabilitation (construction-ready projects) must be accompanied by complete plans submitted by a Professional Engineer registered in North Carolina that address all applicable deficiencies and bring the dam to satisfactory condition in compliance with the [North Carolina Dam Safety Law of 1967](#). An Opinion of Probable Cost (OPC) as specified in Section 3.C. must be provided with a complete breakdown of all unit costs.
5. Applications for rehabilitation (design-construction projects) must be accompanied by conceptual plans which consist of a site assessment and preliminary design plans submitted by a Professional Engineer registered in North Carolina that address all applicable deficiencies and bring the dam to satisfactory condition in compliance with the [North Carolina Dam Safety Law of 1967](#). An Opinion of Probable Cost (OPC) as specified in Section 3.C. must be provided with a complete breakdown of all unit costs.
6. The grant funds shall only be used to address deficiencies and shall not be used to perform routine maintenance of a dam, to modify a dam to produce hydroelectric power, to increase water supply storage capacity, nor make any other modification to a dam that does not primarily improve the safety of the dam or eliminate the hazard potential of the dam. Federally owned or operated dam structures are not eligible.

B. Eligible Recipients

To be considered an eligible recipient for funding under this program, the eligible recipient must include every owner of the eligible dam. Eligibility applies to both private and public entities. The final design must be in compliance with the high hazard dam requirements of the [North Carolina Dam Safety Law of 1967](#).

C. Eligible Rehabilitation Activities

“Rehabilitation” means the repair, modification, or removal of an eligible dam to meet applicable North Carolina dam safety standards. The construction activities or design-construction activities proposed by the dam owner in the application must address the structural and/or hydrological deficiencies directly resultant of damage by

Hurricane Helene as identified in a formal inspection performed by a Professional Engineer or state inspectors and communicated to dam owners. Design-only projects shall not constitute eligible rehabilitation activities.

Rehabilitation activities must be completed in accordance with the North Carolina Dam Safety Regulations and receive a Certificate of Approval for construction or breach through the NCDEQ Dam Safety Program. Per [15A NCAC 02K .0203](#), the design, preparation of the plans and specifications, inspection of the construction of or on the dam, and certification that the dam was repaired, modified, or removed according to the plans approved by the Division Director shall be done by a Professional Engineer registered in North Carolina and shall bear their professional seal. All survey data and reports must be shot, prepared, signed, and stamped by a North Carolina registered land surveyor. Pre-award costs are not allowable for reimbursement. The Grant Award shall cover the entire cost of rehabilitation of the dam, professional services plus all other local, state, and federal permits and costs to implement those permits, including the appropriate NC Dam Safety Fee. The project shall be developed as a lump sum cost project. Availability of additional funds beyond the grant should not be expected.

D. Project Grant Agreement and Reporting Requirements

NCDEQ will reimburse actual expenses for eligible activities. Applicants selected to receive funding will be required to enter into a project grant agreement with NCDEQ that will specify the terms and conditions of the award. Those provisions may include but are not limited to:

1. Performance reporting requirements,
2. Closeout reporting requirements,
3. Submittal requirements for financial documents for reimbursement requests,
4. Final design studies produced during assessments that include all necessary modeling,
5. Required compliance with state laws and regulations,
6. Required compliance with NCDEQ standard conditions, document submittals, and procedures,
7. NCDEQ authority to seek and recover paid grant funds from the grantee for non-compliance with the terms of the grant agreement.
8. Construction activities must begin within 1 year from the date of the issuance of the certificate of approval. Applicants may request an extension.

The award may be terminated in whole or in part by NCDEQ if the Applicant fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the award agreement, or by the Applicant sending to NCDEQ written notification of the termination including the reason for the termination.

3. Application and Submission Information

A. Key Dates and Times

1. Application Start Date: **February 18, 2026**
2. Application Submission Deadline: **June 19, 2026**
3. Funding Selection Announcement Date: **September 7, 2026**

Announcement Date may be extended based on the number of complete and/or incomplete applications received.

B. Agreeing to the Terms and Conditions of the Award

By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the requirements of these Grant Program Guidelines and the terms and conditions of the award, should they receive an award.

C. Submission Content

All submissions provided for consideration must include a completed NCDEQ Dam Safety Grant Fund application and necessary supporting documentation. A submission must address all deficiencies present in the dam in order for the submission to be considered for funding. A checklist is included with the application to ensure submittal of all required supporting documents.

All submissions provided for consideration must also include an Opinion of Probable Cost (OPC) prepared by a qualified North Carolina registered Professional Engineer. The OPC should provide unit costs for separate elements of the proposed construction work and any equipment, including all local, state, and federal permit fees and costs required for the repair, modification, removal, or breach of a dam, and the lump sum amount for the cost of all work elements combined. Estimate Costs for Professional Engineering Services must be lump sum as part of the total combined grant request. The lump sum Estimated Construction Cost can be used to calculate the required Estimated Application Processing Fee to be submitted to the Dam Safety Program. **The total Combined Cost/Requested Grant Amount is the complete amount requested in this grant application and is the maximum amount that will be provided for completion of all work as approved in the application process.**

D. Hard Copy Application Submittal

Applications must be received by **5:00 PM ON JUNE 19, 2026**. Applications may be delivered in person or by FedEx/UPS to our office at 512 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27604, or mailed to:

NCDEQ – Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources
ATTN: Dam Safety Program
1612 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1612

E. Electronic Application Submittal

Applications may be submitted electronically via email to DamSafety@deq.nc.gov

4. Review and Selection Process

A. Minimum Criteria for Application Consideration

1. The dam must be classified as high hazard (Class C) regulated by the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources under the [North Carolina Dam Safety Law](#).
2. The dam must have one or more existing, unresolved Notice of Deficiencies (NODs) or Dam Safety Order (DSO) issued against it.
3. The scope of work submitted must address damage directly resulting from Hurricane Helene.

B. Technical Review

Applications will be reviewed by the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources. Once applications have been submitted, the review will evaluate the application for completeness, eligibility, technical approach and risk reduction. Applications will be evaluated on the following:

1. The Applicant demonstrates the capability necessary to successfully complete the proposed activities on or before the date established in the application.
2. The activities presented in the proposal demonstrate compliance with regulations, bring the dam into Satisfactory condition, and support the Dam Safety Program objectives and priorities to reduce the risk to downstream lives and property.

C. Ranking of Submittals for Funding

Applications will receive their ranking from two categories. After all applications are evaluated, the totals will be calculated to produce the final ranking.

1. Dams will be ranked according to their priority rating by utilizing the Dam Safety Program Risk-Based Priority Rating System. The applications will be ranked in order of their priority rating reflecting the current condition of the dam. The review committee will compare the priority rating reflecting the current condition of the dam against the anticipated priority rating post-rehabilitation as proposed in the application. The difference in these two values will be calculated as the Risk Reduction Value (RRV).
2. Utilizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's DSS-WISE web-based automated dam-break modeling/mapping tool, the Dam Safety Program will determine the Population-at-Risk (PAR) value, ensuring that all model parameters are consistent. The PAR values will be utilized in the calculation of the RRV, by which the application can be given a Risk-Based Priority Rating relative to others.