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| A picture containing text, clipart  Description automatically generated | **Division of Water Infrastructure**  **SRF Funding for Hurricane Helene**  *Last updated: May 9, 2025* | **2025** |

**American Relief Act, 2025 (PL 118-158) includes Supplemental Appropriations for the State Revolving Funds (SRF) for drinking water facilities and wastewater treatment works impacted by Hurricane Helene (SA-HMW)**

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| **Funds are for enhancing infrastructure resiliency** |

**What types of projects can this program fund?**

This program can fund SRF-eligible projects that serve one or more of the following purposes:

* Reduce flood risk and vulnerability at treatment works
* Enhance resiliency to rapid hydrologic change or natural disasters at treatment works

**Who can apply for this funding?**

Any local government unit (LGU) or non-profit water/wastewater corporations affected by Hurricane Helene may apply for this funding. LGUs include counties, cities, towns, sanitary districts, water and sewer authorities, etc. Investor-owned drinking water corporations affected by Hurricane Helene may also apply for the DWSRF SA-HMW funds.

**How much funding is available?**

North Carolina’s allotment is $409 million for DWSRF projects and $253 million for CWSRF projects, including administrative costs. There is also approximately $22 million for the CWSRF program to improve the resilience of decentralized wastewater treatment systems.

**What are examples of types of drinking water and wastewater projects that can be funded by SA-HMW?**

* Projects that prevent interruption of collection/distribution system operation in the event of a flood or natural disaster
* Projects that prevent floodwaters from entering treatment works or well house
* Projects that maintain the operation of treatment works and integrity of a treatment train in the event of a flood or natural disaster
* Projects that preserve and protect treatment works equipment in the event of a flood or natural disaster
* Projects that make connections from homes served by decentralized wastewater treatment systems to centralized wastewater treatment systems

This is not an all-inclusive list.

**What are the program specifics for this funding?**

* Funds will be made available as no interest loans, with principal forgiveness applied to a portion of the loan.
* Project funding can have 20- to 30-year loan terms based on the anticipated life of the infrastructure.
* Program specifics such as amount of principal forgiveness and funding limits per applicant will be established in an Intended Use Plan that will be published for public comments around May 2025 [anticipated].

**What do I need to know before I apply for SRF SA-HMW funding?**

* The primary purpose of the project must be to reduce flood risk and enhance resiliency. Recovery from hurricane damage is only eligible if the recovery includes reducing flood risks or enhancing resiliency.
* The scope of a project seeking SA-HMW funds must include resiliency and must be different from the scopes that received funding from other federal agencies.
* SRF federal cross-cutter requirements apply, including Engineering Report approval, Environmental Review, federal and state procurement requirements, American Iron and Steel requirements, Davis-Bacon Wage requirements, etc. Cross-cutters will be applicable to the entire project.
* Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act requirements do not apply to SA-HMW funds. However, American Iron and Steel requirements apply.
* Planning and design costs incurred after September 27, 2024 will be eligible to receive these funds if they meet the eligibility criteria for SA-HMW funding and costs were incurred for projects that are/were in compliance with all of the SRF requirements applicable to SA-HMW funds.

**What about funds for decentralized wastewater treatment systems?**

* Local governments can apply for separate funding to improve the flood resilience of decentralized wastewater treatment systems in areas that were affected by Hurricane Helene, or to connect homes with decentralized wastewater treatment systems to a centralized wastewater collection system.
* An application process is being developed in the same manner and timeline as that for the drinking water and wastewater programs.

**How do I apply for SA-HMW funds?**

Projects seeking these funds will follow a process similar to the one used in the Division’s other funding programs. The Division is currently developing an application and is working with the State Water Infrastructure Authority to adopt a simplified Priority Rating System by which applications can be prioritized. Once the Division is ready to accept applications, the [Division’s Application Forms and Additional Resources](https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding/application-forms-and-additional-resources) page will be updated with all necessary information.

The Division will announce more information about the application process in workshop sessions in western North Carolina from May 20-23, 2025. **The registration link can be accessed via the QR code below:**

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