

State Water Infrastructure Authority

Meeting Date: April 15-16, 2026

Agenda Item G

Funding Awards for the Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Decentralized Wastewater Systems “SRF Helene” Rolling Applications March 2026 round

Division of Water Infrastructure Staff Report

This report presents a *preliminary* funding scenario for the consideration of the State Water Infrastructure Authority (Authority). Subsequent updates and corrections to the application information and funding scenario (including application scores, ranking, potential funding amount, etc.) may occur and will be presented to the Authority during the April 15-16 meeting. Applications are selected for funding by the Authority during the meeting, and the Authority’s selections are final.

Background

The 2025 State Revolving Fund Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricanes Helene and Milton and the Hawai’i Wildfires (SA-HMW) – also known as “SRF Helene” in North Carolina – is appropriated to the Water Infrastructure Fund, established in NC GS 159G. The SRF Helene funds are administered via the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). North Carolina’s allotment is \$409,422,000 in DWSRF Helene funds, \$253,681,000 in CWSRF Helene funds, and \$22,510,000 in CWSRF Helene funds for decentralized wastewater treatment systems (CWSRF Helene DWTS), including amounts to be used in set-asides for administrative costs. DWSRF Helene and CWSRF Helene funds must be used to improve flood resilience in drinking water and wastewater systems that were impacted by Hurricane Helene, and Helene DWTS funds must be used to improve flood resilience to decentralized wastewater treatment systems (DWTSs) (or to connect to centralized wastewater systems) in Hurricane Helene-affected areas.

The Division accepts applications for funding from SRF Helene SRFs on a rolling basis. Since August 2025, Division staff have reviewed applications and presented them to the Authority as follows:

- Applications received by August 1, 2025 were presented to the Authority on September 17, 2025.
- Applications received by November 3, 2025 were presented to the Authority at the December 10, 2025 meeting.
- Applications received by January 9, 2026 were presented to the Authority at the February 18, 2026 meeting.

Since its September 2025 meeting, the Authority has awarded a total of \$467,928,611 in SRF Helene funds during these last three rounds of applications. Division staff accepted the final round of applications with a cutoff date of March 2, 2026. These applications will be presented to the Authority at the April 15-16, 2026 meeting.

To provide adequate time for all potential applicants to submit applications for SRF Helene funds, funding awards were initially capped at \$10 million per applicant for DWSRF Helene awards and \$5 million per applicant for CWSRF Helene awards until the April 15-16, 2026 Authority meeting.

During application trainings, staff also informed applicants that SRF Helene DWTS awards might also be capped until the April 15-16, 2026 Authority meeting, but the amount of the initial cap per applicant would not be determined until the Division and the Authority received and reviewed the first round of applications to determine what an appropriate cap might be. At the December 10, 2025 meeting, the Authority did not set a cap for the DWTS funding.

After reviewing and awarding new applications received by March 2, 2026, the Authority will then take a separate action at the April 2026 Authority meeting to consider and award additional funding remaining from the SRF Helene allotments to partially funded or unfunded applications received during all four funding rounds (August 2025, November 2025, January 2026, and March 2026). The initial caps will be eliminated in that final round of reviews. These awards will be discussed as Agenda Item H.

Thirty percent of the DWSRF Helene and CWSRF Helene funds are reserved for small systems serving up to 10,000 people, until the April 2026 meeting. Likewise, \$11 million of the SRF Helene DWTS funds are reserved for projects that repair/replace DWTSs only without connections to centralized sewer systems until April 2026. By the second round of funding, awarded in December 2025, the awards met all three reserve targets. Thus, all applications are considered going forward without specifically reserving funds for small systems or repairs to DWTSs only.

This staff report presents information on the applications received between January 10, 2025 and the March 2, 2026 cutoff date (i.e., the March 2026 application round) for drinking water, wastewater, and DWTS projects to be funded from the DWSRF Helene, CWSRF Helene, and SRF Helene DWTS funds, respectively. This report includes a summary of available funds and any limitation on awarding the funds, a summary of applications received, and the process staff used to apply funds in the funding scenario example presented to the Authority.

Summary of Applications Received

Division staff received a total of 40 applications, summarized in Table 1. One of the CW applications and one of the DW applications were determined to be ineligible for the SRF Helene funds.

Four DWTS applications that scored ten points and below were not awarded funding during the December 2025 awards. These applications were reconsidered for the February 2026 DWTS funding awards. For the February 2026 awards, the Authority selected two projects scoring ten points for awards, and the Authority did not select the City of Marion's application extending service to one business (scoring 15 points) due to the high cost of serving a single connection. Along with three new applications received by March 2, 2026, the previously unfunded four applications received to date can also be reconsidered in this round.

Table 1. Number of Applications				
Category	Drinking Water	Wastewater	DWTS	Total
March 2026 new applications	23	14	3	40
Previous applications reconsidered	N/A	N/A	4	4
Incomplete/Ineligible applications	1	1	0	2
Total Complete and Eligible Applications Considered	22	13	7	44
Total funding requested in complete and eligible applications	\$126,449,745	\$50,520,926	\$7,339,623	\$184,310,294

DWSRF Helene and CWSRF Helene Funds Available at the Conclusion of the February 2026 Awards

- Excluding set-asides, there is approximately \$384.9 million in DWSRF Helene funds and approximately \$238.5 million in CWSRF Helene funds available to fund projects. As of the February 2026 meeting, the Authority has awarded approximately \$289.5 million in DWSRF Helene awards and \$158.3 million in CWSRF Helene awards. The remaining funds – \$95,349,535 in DWSRF Helene and \$80,135,891 in CWSRF Helene – are available to applicants who submitted applications by the March 2, 2026 deadline.
- DWSRF Helene and CWSRF Helene funding is available to local government units (LGUs) and nonprofit water corporations (and investor-owned drinking water corporations for the DWSRF) in the form of zero-percent-interest loans and principal forgiveness (PF).
- Applicants must document impacts from Hurricane Helene, and the proposed project must include resiliency with the purpose of reducing flood damage risk and vulnerability to rapid hydraulic change or natural disaster.
- All of the eligible applications received by March 2, 2026 are considered for funding awards by the Authority in this agenda item. DWSRF Helene awards are initially limited to \$10 million per applicant and CWSRF Helene awards are initially limited to \$5 million per applicant from all funding rounds through this agenda item. At the conclusion of this agenda item, all remaining SRF Helene funding will be considered for awards to all eligible applications received in all four funding rounds that were not fully funded, in Agenda Item H.

CWSRF Helene DWTS Funds Available at the Conclusion of the February 2026 Awards

- Excluding set-asides, there is approximately \$21,159,400 in CWSRF Helene DWTS funds available to fund projects. As of the February 2026 meeting, the Authority has awarded \$20,097,217. The remaining funds – \$1,062,183 – are made available to applicants who submitted applications by the March 2, 2026 application deadline.
- All CWSRF Helene DWTS funds are 100 percent principal forgiveness. These funds are available to LGUs, nonprofit water corporations, community development financial institutions (CDFIs), and nonprofits that finance homeowner repairs of DWTSs.

- CWSRF Helene DWTs funds may be used to improve the resiliency of DWTs and/or to connect homes currently on DWTs to public sewer systems. All of the work must be conducted in areas that were affected by Hurricane Helene (e.g. in any of the disaster-declared counties).
- All of the eligible applications received by March 2, 2026, and applications that were not awarded funding in previous funding rounds are considered for funding awards by the Authority in this agenda item. Division staff anticipate awarding the remaining CWSRF Helene DWTs funding as a part of this agenda item.

Example Funding Scenario for SRF Helene Drinking Water and Wastewater Construction Projects

The Authority may consider multiple funding scenarios. In the example funding scenario presented, applications are shown as recommended to receive funding in priority order. Division staff recommend funding all eligible DWSRF Helene and CWSRF Helene applications, provided the award amounts are within the established initial caps.

Staff calculated principal forgiveness eligibility based on the following criteria:

1. Applicants designated as distressed or applicants with up to 20,000 residential connections and with two or more LGU indicators worse than the state benchmark receive the first \$5 million at 100 percent PF, then the remainder of the funding at 75-percent PF and 25-percent zero-interest loan.
2. Applicants with 20,001 – 40,000 residential connections and with two or more LGU indicators worse than the state benchmark receive funding at 50-percent PF and 50-percent zero-interest loan.
3. Applicants serving up to 20,000 people (equivalent to approximately 8,000 connections) receive the first \$5 million at 100-percent PF, then the remainder of the funding at 30-percent PF and 70-percent zero-interest loan.
4. All other applicants receive funding as 30-percent PF and 70-percent zero-interest loan.

During previous Authority meetings, the Authority awarded the Town of Drexel and the Town of Morganton \$10 million each in DWSRF Helene funds (up to the initial DWSRF Helene cap) for an interconnection project with the Town of Valdese. The Town of Valdese had also submitted an application for their share of the interconnection project and require \$24 million to fully fund the interconnection project. The Town of Valdese’s application was not selected for funding because a separate application received the initial DWSRF Helene funding cap of \$10 million to relocate the Town’s raw water intake, which was a higher scoring project and is the Town’s higher priority between the two projects. The Division reached out to other funding agencies to try to identify other funding programs that may fund the Town of Valdese’s \$24 million portion of the interconnection project, but no commitments can be made prior to the Authority’s meeting. Meanwhile, the Towns of Drexel and Morganton each submitted new applications for drinking water system resiliency projects in the March 2 funding round that are DWSRF Helene-eligible projects. Both applicants included letters from the Towns of Drexel, Morganton, and Valdese, each stating support and a request that the DWSRF Helene funding that was previously awarded to the Towns of Drexel and Morganton (\$10 million each) would be considered instead of the new resiliency projects in the March 2026 funding

round since they are also priority projects for the Towns, while they seek other funding sources later to fund the interconnection with the Town of Valdese. The letters from the three Towns are attached as Agenda Item G-6. The Division is recommending that the DWSRF Helene funding for the Town of Drexel (\$10 million) and Town of Morganton (\$10 million) that was awarded in previous Authority meetings be de-awarded and returned to the DWSRF Helene funding availability – raising total funding available to \$115,349,535 – if the new applications for the Town of Drexel and Town of Morganton are awarded DWSRF Helene funding in this agenda item, as is currently proposed in the preliminary funding scenario.

Example Funding Scenario for CWSRF Helene DWTS Projects

The Authority may consider multiple funding scenarios. In the example funding scenario presented, staff recommend awarding funding to applications in priority order until all remaining funds are awarded.

The current proposed funding scenario recommends awards for Well Water Trust’s Decentralized System Improvements project (scoring 15 points) and the Town of Laurel Park DWTS connection to Public Sewer (scoring 15 points). Well Water Trust’s project proposes to use funds to complement a USDA-funded program by financing households’ repairs to septic systems that do not qualify for USDA funding using a revolving fund model for households with failing septic systems in counties that were affected by Hurricane Helene and that are not being served by previous CWSRF Helene DWTS funding awards. The applicant will ensure that more than 50% of the project funds will be used to repair/improve decentralized systems that were damaged by Hurricane Helene. Program income generated through CWSRF Helene Decentralized funding will be used to finance additional septic system repairs in those counties. The Town of Laurel Park will extend sewer service to connect homes whose septic systems were damaged by Hurricane Helene. Both scored 15 points and are the only two applications in this funding round that score 15 points (the maximum for CWSRF Helene DWTS applications). Both are included in the preliminary funding scenario to be awarded funding.

The total funding requests from the two applicants is \$1,599,298, which exceeds the \$1,062,183 funding available at the conclusion of the February 2026 funding awards. To maximize funding available to the two projects, the Division is proposing to reduce its set asides from the CWSRF Helene DWTS allotment – particularly the two percent that may be used for technical assistance – and adding those funds to the funding available for projects. This adds \$450,200, raising the total funding available for projects to \$1,512,383.

Staff recommend fully funding Well Water Trust’s application at \$540,600 and partially funding Town of Laurel Park’s application at \$971,783 to utilize all remaining available funds. The Town of Laurel Park’s application budget estimate was very conservative with a 20-percent contingency and grant administration costs on top of Engineering and construction administration costs. Awarding the Town of Laurel Park \$971,783 should be sufficient to fully fund the project with a reduced contingency and grant administration costs.

Summary of the Example Funding Scenario

Table 2 summarizes the example funding scenario across all three funding sources. The Authority may consider different funding scenarios, which would include awarding fewer (high scoring) projects than what is presented in the example funding scenario.

Funding Source	Complete and Eligible Applications Considered	Potential Applications in the Example Funding Scenario	Potential Principal Forgiveness	Potential Zero-interest Loans	Potential Total Funding	Potential Unfunded Amount
DWSRF Helene	23	21	\$81,258,695	\$19,329,525	\$100,588,220	\$25,861,526
CWSRF Helene	14	12	\$35,910,719	\$5,984,171	\$41,894,890	\$8,626,036
CWSRF Helene DWTS (including 4 reconsiderations)	7	2	\$1,512,383	\$0	\$1,512,383	\$5,740,325
All Projects	44	35	\$118,681,797	\$25,313,696	\$143,995,493	\$40,227,887

Table 3 provides the total amount of awards and funding available after four rounds of SRF Helene application awards if the example funding scenario is selected by the Authority as presented in this report.

Funding Source	Total Available Funds	Total Awarded through February 2026	March 2026 round (pending approval)	Potential Cumulative Funding awards	Potential Remaining Funds (to be considered in Agenda Item H)	Potential Remaining Funds (%)
DWSRF Helene	\$384,856,680	\$269,507,145 ^a	\$100,588,220	\$370,095,365 ^a	\$14,761,315	4%
CWSRF Helene	\$238,460,140	\$158,324,249	\$41,894,890	\$200,219,139	\$38,241,001	16%
CWSRF Helene DWTS	\$21,609,600 ^b	\$20,097,217	\$1,512,383	\$21,609,600	\$0	0%
All Programs	\$644,926,420	\$447,928,611^a	\$143,995,493	\$591,924,104	\$53,002,316	8%

^a\$20 million from Town of Drexel and Town of Morganton previous awards excluded

Table 3. Total Funds Awarded and Available If Example Funding Scenario for SRF Helene Funding is approved						
Funding Source	Total Available Funds	Total Awarded through February 2026	March 2026 round (pending approval)	Potential Cumulative Funding awards	Potential Remaining Funds (to be considered in Agenda Item H)	Potential Remaining Funds (%)

^b2% of set aside funds added to DWTS Helene project funds

Project-Specific Notes for Applications in the Example Funding Scenario

Drinking Water Project Applications (Agenda Items G-1 and G-2, and letters in G-6)

- Staff recommend all 21 eligible applications for funding with DWSRF Helene funds (applications #1 – #3, #5 – #22), up to the initial \$10 million per applicant cap.
- One application from Little Switzerland Community Water Association’s application did not meet the completeness and eligibility requirements.
- Staff bypassed Junaluska Sanitary District’s Tuscola Tank and MV interconnect project, as the applicant previously met the initial funding cap of \$10 million. The application will be reconsidered for any remaining funds (see Agenda Item H).
- Three of 22 applications (14 percent) were from LGUs designated as Distressed.
- Sixteen projects in the funding scenario could be fully funded with DWSRF Helene funds in this round.
- The proposed funding scenario includes fully funding the Town of Drexel’s (\$5,939,992) and the Town of Morganton’s (\$8,052,665) new drinking water system resiliency projects, in lieu of the interconnection projects that were previously funded (\$10 million each), as requested by the two Towns and the Town of Valdese (see letters in Agenda Item G-6). The DWSRF Helene funding awards to the Town of Drexel and Town of Morganton regarding the interconnection project will be rescinded to fund the new projects in this funding scenario.
- At the December 2025 meeting, the Authority fully funded the Town of Black Mountain’s DW System Resiliency Improvement project \$4,999,632. The Town added scope to the same project and requested an additional \$4,886,922. Staff included this project in the proposed funding scenario, as the funding requested is within the initial caps and eligibility.
- The City of Marion requested \$716,286 for a WTP resiliency project. At its February 2026 meeting, the Authority awarded \$9,462,760 to the City for another project. Therefore, the proposed scenario recommends partially funding this project to meet the initial \$10 million funding cap. The Authority may consider this project for additional funds from any remaining funds (see Agenda Item H).

Wastewater Project Applications (Agenda Items G-3 and G-4)

- Staff recommend 12 out of 13 eligible applications for funding with CWSRF Helene funds (applications #1 – #6, #8– #13).

- Division staff considered Henderson County’s application to be ineligible for CWSRF Helene funds. At this time, the applicant does not own a wastewater utility and planned to build a new wastewater system. While the design of the project was underway, the land on which the project was planned suffered Helene damage. The Helene Implementation memo limits CWSRF Helene eligibility to wastewater systems affected by Helene.
- Two out of 13 eligible applications (15 percent) were from LGUs designated as Distressed.
- Six projects in the funding scenario could be fully funded with CWSRF Helene funds.
- All applicants except two (the City of Gastonia and the Town of Highlands) qualified for the first \$5 million as 100 percent PF.
- The City of Marion has two applications in the funding range and staff recommend both for funding, as the total award will be within the initial funding cap of \$5 million.
- The Town of Boiling Springs has two applications in the funding range. Staff bypassed the applicant’s Sewer Resiliency project, as staff recommended a higher-scoring sewer extension project to be partially funded. At the December 2025 Authority meeting, the applicant received \$3,445,250 for a different project. The Authority may consider both projects for additional funding from the remaining CWSRF Helene funds (see Agenda Item H).

Decentralized Wastewater System Project Applications (Agenda Item G-5)

- Staff received three new applications for SRF Helene DWTS funding.
- Staff reconsidered the four applications that did not receive funding during the previous rounds.
- In the proposed funding scenario, staff recommended two projects from new applications that scored 15 points.
- Well Water Trust fund’s application requests \$540,600 to complement a USDA-funded program by supporting households that do not qualify for USDA funding. The applicant proposes to develop revolving loan funds at one-percent interest for households above a certain income level.
- The Town of Laurel Park can be awarded \$971,783, including funding added to projects from the set asides originally intended for technical assistance. This application would be awarded all remaining CWSRF Helene DWTS funding but is less than the funding request by the applicant. The cost estimate provided by the applicant is conservative, with 20-percent contingency and seven-percent grant administration costs. Awarding \$971,783 to this project should fully fund the necessary activities for the project with lower contingency and grant administration costs.
- Staff received a third application from Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG), and the project requested \$1 million to establish a revolving loan program. The application scores 10 points. No funding remains available after awarding the two applications with 15 points. The applicant has already been awarded \$7,556,854 during previous funding rounds.
- Table 7 lists all eligible new and reconsidered applications and the respective proposed cost per connection or cost per septic system.

The example funding scenarios for DWSRF, CWSRF and DWTS funding programs are detailed in Tables 4, 5 and 6 below. These tables identify the projects that would potentially be funded under the example funding scenario. A full list of applications, including those that would not be funded under this scenario, are shown in the accompanying spreadsheets (Agenda Items G-1 through G-5). Application numbers in the tables below refer to application numbers in the accompanying spreadsheets.

Other Funding Scenarios

Note that there are other funding scenarios which could be constructed, and staff can assist the Authority with other scenarios during the meeting. Staff will be prepared to discuss alternative funding scenarios.

Table 4. Drinking Water Project Applications in the Example Funding Scenario for DWSRF Helene Funding

SWIA Sheet Appl. No.	Applicant Name	County	Project Name	Amount of Funding Requested	Proposed DWSRF Helene Principal Forgiveness	Proposed DWSRF Helene Zero-Interest Loan	Total Proposed DWSRF Helene Funding
1	Black Mountain, Town of	Buncombe	DW System Resiliency Improvements	\$4,886,922	\$1,466,335	\$3,420,587	\$4,886,922
2	Saluda, City of	Polk	Saluda Water Restoration & Mitigation	\$1,203,600	\$1,203,600	\$0	\$1,203,600
3	Montreat, Town of	Buncombe	Montreat Resiliency Project	\$4,845,000	\$4,845,000	\$0	\$4,845,000
5	Lansing, Town of	Ashe	Water System Resiliency Project	\$3,537,405	\$3,537,405	\$0	\$3,537,405
6	Marion, City of	McDowell	Marion WTP Resilience Project	\$716,286	\$402,930	\$134,310	\$537,240
7	Boiling Springs, Town of	Cleveland	Helene Water Resiliency Project	\$2,324,317	\$2,324,317	\$0	\$2,324,317
8	Drexel, Town of	Burke	Water System Resiliency Improvements	\$5,939,992	\$5,704,994	\$234,998	\$5,939,992
9	Broad River Water Authority	Rutherford	BRWA Poors Ford Pump Station Improvement	\$6,162,000	\$5,062,275	\$1,099,725	\$6,162,000
10	Robbinsville, Town of	Graham	Water System Resiliency Improvements	\$6,377,244	\$6,032,933	\$344,311	\$6,377,244
11	Broad River Water Authority	Rutherford	BRWA WTP Floc., Sed., and Filter Expansion	\$17,012,540	\$450,825	\$150,275	\$601,100
12	Gastonia, City of	Gaston	Drinking Water Supply Resiliency	\$10,350,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000
13	Morganton, City of	Burke	Drinking Water Resiliency Improvements	\$8,052,665	\$7,289,499	\$763,166	\$8,052,665
14	Dobson, Town of	Surry	IWSD Water System Transfer	\$685,440	\$685,440	\$0	\$685,440
15	Tuckaseegee Water & Sewer Authority	Jackson	WTP Expansion & Resiliency Improvements	\$10,000,000	\$8,750,000	\$1,250,000	\$10,000,000

Table 4. Drinking Water Project Applications in the Example Funding Scenario for DWSRF Helene Funding

SWIA Sheet Appl. No.	Applicant Name	County	Project Name	Amount of Funding Requested	Proposed DWSRF Helene Principal Forgiveness	Proposed DWSRF Helene Zero-Interest Loan	Total Proposed DWSRF Helene Funding
16	Waynesville, Town of	Haywood	Clyde/Canton/Waynesville Interconnect	\$756,840	\$756,840	\$0	\$756,840
17	Cleveland County Water	Cleveland	DW System Resiliency Improvements	\$8,556,070	\$4,278,035	\$4,278,035	\$8,556,070
18	Rosman, Town of	Transylvania	Rosman Water Projects	\$8,016,180	\$4,782,200	\$1,250,000	\$6,032,200
19	Concord Community Water System	Rutherford	CCWS Interconnection with BRWA	\$5,616,475	\$5,462,357	\$154,118	\$5,616,475
20	Lake Junaluska Assembly	Haywood	Water System Resiliency and Redundancy	\$4,106,898	\$4,106,898	\$0	\$4,106,898
21	Columbus, Town of	Polk	Columbus Drinking Water Helene SRF	\$12,472,560	\$8,750,000	\$1,250,000	\$10,000,000
22	West Jefferson, Town of	Ashe	Supplemental Water Reservoir Tank	\$366,812	\$366,812	\$0	\$366,812
Totals for DWSRF Helene Applications in Funding Scenario:				\$121,985,246	\$81,258,695	\$19,329,525	\$100,588,220

Table 5. Wastewater Project Applications in the Example Funding Scenario for CWSRF Helene Funding

SWIA Sheet Appl. No.	Applicant Name	County	Project Name	Amount of Funding Requested	Proposed CWSRF Helene Principal Forgiveness	Proposed CWSRF Helene Zero-Interest Loan	Total Proposed CWSRF Helene Funding
1	Marion, City of	McDowell	Catawba River Sewer Aerial Mitigation	\$1,438,442	\$1,438,442	\$0	\$1,438,442
2	Spruce Pine, Town of	Mitchell	WWTP/Collection System Repairs	\$5,547,516	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
3	Cliffside Sanitary District	Rutherford	CSD Climate Resiliency Improvements	\$9,175,950	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
4	Boiling Springs, Town of	Cleveland	Helene Sewer Extension Resiliency	\$3,159,251	\$1,554,750	\$0	\$1,554,750
5	Marion, City of	McDowell	Marion Wastewater System Helene Resilience	\$2,407,200	\$2,407,200	\$0	\$2,407,200
6	Murphy, Town of	Cherokee	Wastewater Resiliency Improvements	\$5,019,828	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
8	Lake Junaluska Assembly	Haywood	WW System Resiliency and Redundancy	\$4,712,036	\$4,712,036	\$0	\$4,712,036
9	Highlands, Town of	Macon	Wastewater Resiliency Improvements	\$4,977,388	\$1,493,217	\$3,484,171	\$4,977,388
10	Robbinsville, Town of	Graham	Wastewater System Resiliency Improvement	\$4,933,230	\$4,933,230	\$0	\$4,933,230
11	Gastonia, City of	Gaston	Long Creek Wastewater Outfall Resiliency	\$5,330,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$5,000,000
12	Columbus, Town of	Rutherford	Columbus Wastewater Helene SRF	\$771,146	\$771,146	\$0	\$771,146
13	West Jefferson, Town of	Ashe	Downtown Sewer Lining	\$1,100,698	\$1,100,698	\$0	\$1,100,698
Totals for CWSRF Helene Applications in Funding Scenario:				\$48,572,685	\$35,910,719	\$5,984,171	\$41,894,890

Table 6. Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System (DWTS) Applications in the Example Funding Scenario for CWSRF Helene DWTS Funding

SWIA Sheet Appl. No.	Applicant Name	County	Project Name	Project Type	Amount of Funding Requested	Proposed Total CWSRF Helene Decentralized Funding (100% Principal Forgiveness)
1	Water Well Trust	Cabarrus, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Nash, Rowan, Stanly, Surry, Union, Yadkin	DWTS Projects in Helene Impacted Areas	Septic Replacements	\$540,600	\$540,600
2	Laurel Park, Town of	Henderson	Laurel Park DWTS Connection Project	Sewer Extension	\$1,058,698	\$971,783
Totals for DWTS Applications in the CWSRF Helene DWTS Funding Scenario:						\$1,512,383

Table 7. Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System (DWTS) Applications and cost per premises for CWSRF Helene DWTS Funding						
SWIA Funded?	Applicant Name	Estimated # of Premises to be addressed	Project Name	Project Type	Amount of Funding Requested	Estimated cost per Premise
New (Proposed)	Water Well Trust	55	DWTS Projects in Helene Impacted Areas	Septic Replacements	\$540,400	\$9,852
New (Proposed)	Town of Laurel Park*	12	Laurel Park DWTS Connection Project	Sewer Extension	\$1,058,698 (considered for only \$971,783)	\$86,915 (considered amount is \$80,982)
New (not in the scenario)	Western Piedmont COG*	35	Decentralized System Improvements	Septic Replacements	\$1,000,000	\$28,571
Yes (Dec 2025)	Western Piedmont COG*	300	Joint WPCOG/HCCOG Onsite Wastewater Program	Septic Replacements	\$7,556,854	\$25,190
Yes (Dec 2025)	Mountain True	Used average Repair cost	Septic Repair Replacement	Septic Replacements	\$4,261,917	\$12,000 ^a
Yes (Dec 2025)	Chimney Rock	64	North Side and South Side Septic Improvements	Septic Replacements	\$4,163,192	\$65,050
Yes (Feb 2026)	North Carolina Clean Energy Fund d/b/a Clean Energy Fund of the Carolinas	Used Average repair cost	WNC Septic Revolving Loan Fund	Septic Replacements	\$1,637,100	\$12,000 ^a
Yes (Feb 2026)	Mountain True	Used Average repair cost	Septic Repair and Replace	Septic Replacements	\$2,248,284	\$12,000 ^a
Reconsidering	Marion, City of	1	1904 US 70W Sewer Connection	Sewer Extension	\$612,800	\$612,800
Reconsidering	Boiling Springs, Town of	25-32	DWTS - Sewer Extension	Sewer Extensions	\$2,005,300	\$70,000
Reconsidering	Elk Park, Town of	8	DWTS - Maple St. Sewer Extension	Sewer Extensions	\$669,330	\$83,666
Reconsidering	Town of Fletcher	34	Fletcher Sewer Project	Sewer Extensions	\$1,452,895	\$42,700

^aApplicant estimated average cost per septic system for their existing program as \$12,000. Since SRF DWTS applications must include resiliency, this cost may be higher for SRF Helene program.

*used proposed funding to calculate cost per connection