

Georgia Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricane Helene Recovery

Georgia Tropical Storm Debby & Hurricane Helene

By the Numbers

*All data as of March 26, 2025



\$337M+

Approved Individual Assistance



63

Counties Designated for Individual Assistance



217K

Households Approved



\$377M+

Public Assistance Obligated



\$108M+

Small Business Administration Loans Provided



37.8M+

Debris Removed - Cubic Yards

Key Messages

- FEMA is hosting a Housing Resource Fair in **Statesboro on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 28-29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at the **Honey Bowen Building** located at **1 Max Lockwood Dr., Statesboro, Georgia 31513**. The fair will offer federal, state and local services and resources on affordable housing options to families recovering from Hurricane Helene.
- FEMA is providing three forms of **Direct Temporary Housing Assistance** (Multi-Family Lease and Repair, Direct Lease and Transportable Temporary Housing Units) to eligible applicants in 24 counties: **Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Berrien, Brooks, Burke, Candler, Clinch, Coffee, Echols, Emanuel, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Lanier, Lowndes, McDuffie, Montgomery, Pierce, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Ware, Wayne, and Wheeler** counties.
- Disaster survivors can check the status of their application at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov), on the FEMA App for mobile devices, or by calling toll-free 800-621-3362. Survivors can also contact the Georgia Call Center at 678-547-2861 Monday through Friday.



FEMA

- **FEMA staff** are assisting survivors at Small Business Administration centers in **Coffee, Jeff Davis, Lowndes, Richmond, Telfair, Toombs and Screven counties.**
- **FEMA is calling eligible survivors in Georgia** regarding a housing initiative called the **Home Key Program.**
 - These calls may come from unfamiliar area codes or phone numbers. It is important to answer the call because FEMA may be calling to help you with your immediate housing needs, provide you with additional assistance and give you general information about housing opportunities.
- FEMA cautions survivors to be aware of post-disaster fraud and scams. Fake or unlicensed contractors may try to take advantage of survivors.
 - Make sure the people you hire are authorized to do the work, will complete it and do a good job. Check for proper credentials. Contact the [Georgia Licensing Board for General Contractors](#). FEMA does not certify contractors.
 - Be aware that con artists may try to steal money or personal information through fraud or identity theft. All FEMA staff and housing inspectors carry official identification. Ask to see it.
- **Keep in touch with FEMA.** As your contact information changes, keep FEMA up to date. Be aware that phone calls from FEMA may come from unfamiliar area codes or phone numbers.
- As part of the disaster-assistance process, homeowners must **prove ownership of the property** damaged by Tropical Storm Debby or Hurricane Helene. Owners and renters experiencing loss from the storms must also be able to **prove they occupied the disaster-damaged primary residence** before receiving Housing Assistance and some types of Other Needs Assistance. FEMA accepts a broad range of documentation.
- **Home inspections continue** throughout the affected areas in Georgia. Due to the number of counties affected by the hurricane and the number of homes needing inspections, it may take time for an inspection to be scheduled. Inspectors will make an appointment with the applicant before coming. They will already have the applicant's FEMA application number. They carry photo identification and will show it to the applicant.

FEMA staff available at SBA locations:

<p>Coffee County Satilla Regional Library 200 S Madison Ave. Douglas, GA 31533 <i>Hours: Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.</i> <i>Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</i> <i>Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</i> <i>Sunday: Closed</i></p>	<p>Screven County Screven County Library 106 South Community Dr. Sylvania, GA 30467 <i>Hours: Monday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.</i> <i>Tuesday – Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.</i> <i>Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i> <i>Sunday: Closed</i></p>
---	--

<p>Jeff Davis County Jeff Davis County Recreation Department 83 Buford Rd. Hazlehurst, GA 31539 <i>Hours: Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.</i> <i>Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</i> <i>Sunday: Closed</i></p>	<p>Telfair County Telfair Community Service Center 91 Telfair Ave. # D McRae-Helena, GA 31055 <i>Hours: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i> <i>Saturday and Sunday: Closed</i></p>
<p>Lowndes County Valdosta State University Foundation Inc. 901 North Patterson St. Valdosta, GA 31601 <i>Hours: Monday – Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i> <i>Sunday: Closed</i></p>	<p>Toombs County Center for Rural Entrepreneurship 208 E 1st St. Vidalia, GA 30474 <i>Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i> <i>Saturday and Sunday: Closed</i></p>
<p>Richmond County McDuffie Woods Community Center 3431 Old McDuffie Rd. Augusta, GA 30906 <i>Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.</i> <i>Saturday: noon to 4 p.m.</i> <i>Sunday: Closed</i></p>	

Understanding Your FEMA Eligibility Letter

If you applied for FEMA assistance after Tropical Storm Debby and/or Hurricane Helene, you will receive an eligibility letter from FEMA in the mail or by email.

The letter will explain your application status and how to respond. It is important to read the letter carefully because it will include the amount of assistance FEMA may provide and information on the appropriate use of disaster assistance funds.

Stay in Touch with FEMA

FEMA may need to call you for more information or to continue processing your application for assistance after Tropical Storm Debby, Aug. 4-20, 2024, or Hurricane Helene, Sept. 24-Oct. 30, 2024.

If there are changes to your phone number, current address, banking, or insurance information, please let FEMA know as soon as possible.

Disaster Assistance and Recovery

FEMA assistance does not replace insurance and cannot restore your home to its pre-disaster condition. But FEMA may be able to provide help for uninsured costs. File your insurance claim, then apply to FEMA. FEMA's disaster assistance offers [new benefits](#) that provide flexible funding directly to survivors.

Other Needs Assistance

You may receive money for other disaster-caused necessary expenses. Assistance may include money for emergency supplies like food, water and baby formula, funds to help pay for a temporary place to stay and to make your home safe to live in may also be available. Each situation is unique, and every household has different needs. For more on the types of assistance that may be available, visit: [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

Rental Assistance

Rental Assistance is available for survivors of Tropical Storm Debby or Hurricane Helene who couldn't return to their home after the storms.

For survivors who received Displacement Assistance, contact FEMA to request Rental Assistance if you still have a housing need after 14 days.

Small Business Administration (SBA) Low-Interest Disaster Loans

The Feb. 7 deadline for U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans for physical damage has passed. There is a 60-day grace period for an applicant to apply without penalty for filing an application late. For economic injury loans, the deadline is June 30. Apply online at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster), by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or by visiting a Business Recovery Center.

SBA LOCATIONS

- **Chatham County** | Savannah Entrepreneurial Center | 801 East Gwinnett Street, Savannah, GA 31404 | Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Saturday and Sunday: Closed.
- **Coffee County** | Satilla Regional Library | 200 S Madison Ave Douglas, GA 31533 | Monday – Thursday: 10:00am – 6:00pm | Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Sunday: Closed.
- **Coffee County** | City of Nicholls | 707 Van Streat Hwy., Nicholls, GA 31554 | Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Saturday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. | Sunday: Closed.
- **Jeff Davis County** | Jeff Davis County Recreational Center | 83 Buford Rd., Hazlehurst, GA 31539 | Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Saturday: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. | Sunday: Closed.
- **Lowndes County** | Valdosta State University Foundation Inc. | 901 North Patterson St. Valdosta, GA 31601 | Monday- Saturday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. | Closed: Sunday.
- **Lowndes County** | McMullen Southside Library | 527 Griffin Avenue Valdosta, GA 31501 | Monday – Thursday: 9:30 am - 6:30 pm | Friday, 9:30 am -5:00 pm | Saturday, 11:00 am - 5:30 pm | Closed: Sunday

- **Richmond County** | McDuffie Woods Community Center | 3431 Old McDuffie Rd. Augusta, GA 30906 | Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Saturday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm | Closed: Sunday
- **Screven County** | Screven County Library | 106 South Community Dr. Sylvania, GA 30467 | Monday 10 am - 6 p.m. | Tuesday- Friday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Closed: Sunday
- **Telfair County** | Telfair Community Service Center | 91 Telfair Ave #D McRae-Helena, GA 31055 | Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Closed: Saturday and Sunday
- **Toombs County** | Center for Rural Entrepreneurship | 208 E 1st St. Vidalia, GA 30474 | Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Closed: Saturday and Sunday

Note, center locations may change. SBA will [issue a news release](#) to announce new locations. You can also locate open centers on [Locator Map - SBA BRC](#).

Additional Federal Partner Assistance

- **Disaster Assistance Programs for Farmers, Ranchers:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency offers Livestock Assistance, Farm Loans and help for farmland damage and crop losses. Visit [Disaster Assistance Programs \(usda.gov\)](#) to learn more.
- **Emergency Prescription Assistance for Uninsured Georgians:** Georgians without health insurance can replace prescription medication or certain medical equipment damaged by Hurricane Helene through the Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP). This program is in effect through March 31, 2025. Call the EPAP hotline, **855-793-7470 (TTY 1-800-876-1089)**, or visit the [EPAP website to learn more](#).

Protect Yourself During Recovery

- **Permits Are Needed Before Rebuilding:** Residents are reminded that if their home, business, or other structure was damaged by Tropical Storm Debby or Hurricane Helene, every part of a building requires a permit before rebuilding. A permit may also be needed for demolition.
- **Receive Information from Official Sources:** Learn more about official information regarding FEMA disaster assistance at: [Hurricane Helene: Rumor Response | FEMA.gov](#).
- **Be Alert for Fraud and Identity Theft After Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricane Helene:** Survivors of the recent Georgia disasters should be aware that con artists may try to obtain money or steal personal information through fraud or identity theft. All FEMA staff and housing inspectors carry official identification with photo IDs. A FEMA inspector will never ask for your registration number. They already have it in their records. FEMA inspectors never require banking or other personal information such as a Social Security number.
- **Be Aware of Proper Debris Handling:** Separate debris for collection as instructed by local officials. Make sure to document any property damage with photos and receipts. Be careful during clean up. Wear protective clothing, use appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning mold or other debris.

###

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters.

Follow FEMA online, on X [@FEMA](#) or [@FEMAEspañol](#), on [FEMA's Facebook page](#) or [FEMA Español](#) page, and on [FEMA's YouTube channel](#). Also, follow on X [@FEMA Cam](#).

For preparedness information follow the Ready Campaign on X at [@Ready.gov](#), on Instagram [@Ready.gov](#) or on the [Ready Facebook page](#).

FEMA is committed to ensuring disaster assistance is accomplished in an impartial manner, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. Any disaster survivor or member of the public may contact the FEMA Office of Civil Rights if they feel that they have a complaint of discrimination. FEMA's Office of Civil Rights can be contacted at FEMA-OCR-ECRD@fema.dhs.gov or toll-free at 833-285-7448.