



# House Select Committee on Helene Recovery

January 29, 2025

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# 1. Helene's impacts were severe and long-lasting to western North Carolina – a comprehensive recovery will be vital to addressing the need

**\$59.6B**

Total estimated damages and needs

**\$44.4B**

Estimated direct cost

+

**\$9.4B**

Estimated indirect cost

+

**\$5.8B**

Strengthening and mitigation

=

**105**

North Carolinians lost their lives

**74K**

Homes damaged (estimated)

**5K**

Miles of state-maintained roads severely impacted

**7K**

Private roads, bridges, and culverts reported damaged

**50M**

Cubic yards of debris



## 2. On his first full day in office, Governor Stein issued five Executive Orders to support Western North Carolina Helene Recovery

Executive order	Description
1 Increasing Temporary Housing Supply in Western NC	Authorizes the purchase of up to 1,000 manufactured housing units to be used as temporary dwellings to address urgent need to shelter families displaced by Helene
2 Repairing Roads and Bridges	Delegates authority to the Division of Emergency Management to administer state assistance for repairing private roads and bridges
3 Reorganizing Executive Branch to Meet Needs of Western NC	Creates the <b>Governor's Recovery Office for Western North Carolina (GROW NC)</b> to deliver a cross-agency vision for Helene recovery efforts across the Executive Branch Directs the Department of Commerce to create the <b>Division of Community Revitalization</b> to rebuild homes and revitalize the economy
4 Establishing Advisory Committee on Western NC Recovery	Forms a 35 member Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery
5 OSHR Exceptions - Helene Relief	Expands community service leave for employees of cabinet agencies and participating Council of State agencies by 16 hours

**Governor  
Stein has a  
clear  
vision to  
drive Helene  
recovery**

**We will make  
communities  
*safer...***

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- North Carolina will ensure affected residents have secure, healthy places to live

**...and *stronger* than  
before...**

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- The state will rebuild homes and infrastructure in a way that reduces damage in future disasters
- North Carolina will invest to revitalize businesses and spur new economic growth of key industries, helping communities grow, not just recover

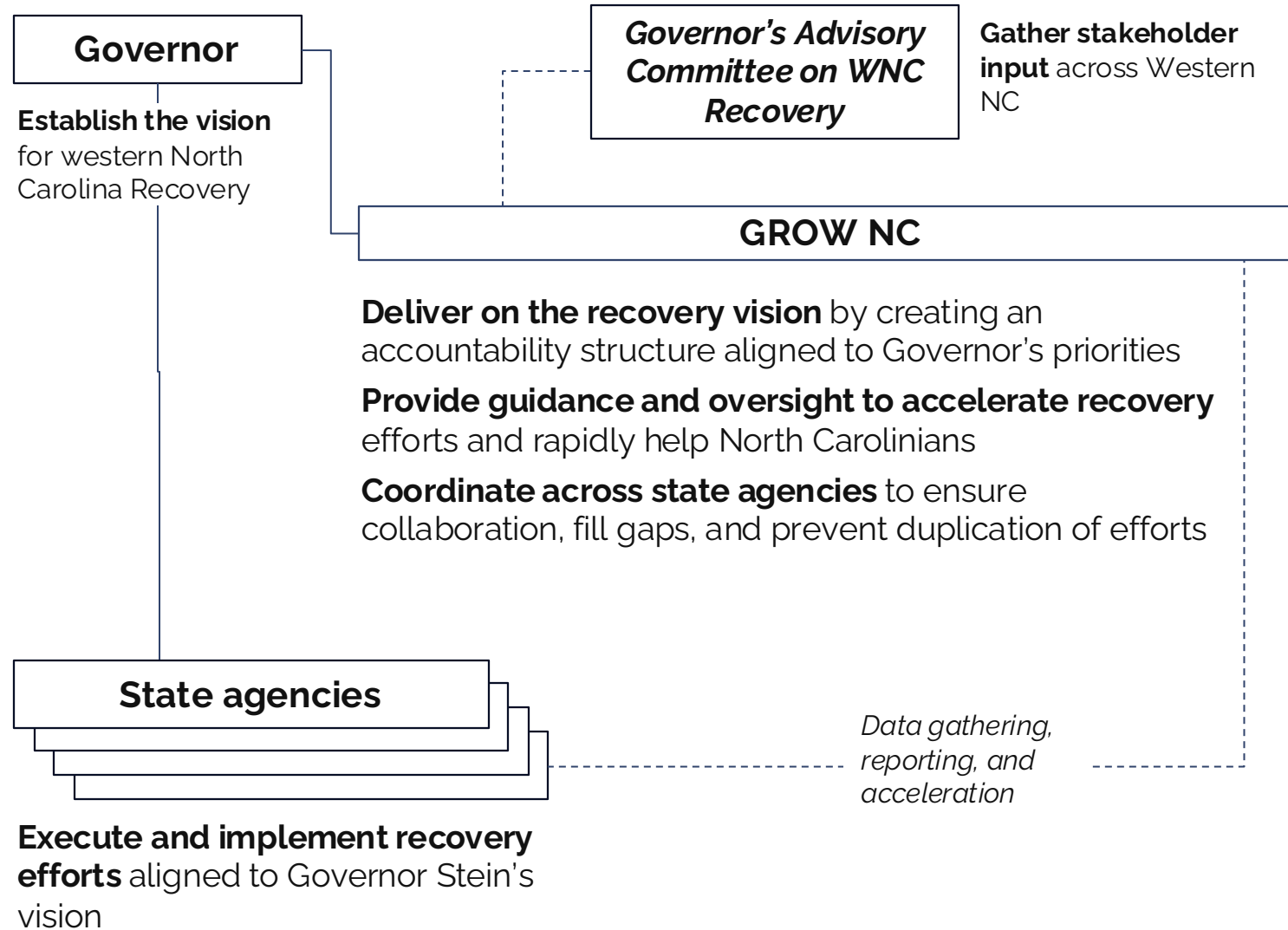
**...through a  
recovery that  
helps North  
Carolinians  
*quickly.***

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- The state will put the best interests of impacted residents first and reduce red tape in favor of rebuilding homes and reopening businesses quickly
- The state will work to streamline and simplify the assistance process

# 3. The Governor's Recovery Office of Western North Carolina (GROW NC) will deliver on the Governor's vision by accelerating and overseeing the effort

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION



## ***GROW NC's mission is...***

**...to...** *accelerate recovery in western North Carolina through home rebuilding, business revitalization, and infrastructure restoration*

**...by...** *securing and deploying federal, state, and philanthropic resources quickly, effectively, and transparently*

**...SO...** *communities in western North Carolina can come back safer and stronger than ever before*

## 4. Division of Community Revitalization Focus and Proposed Approach

**Focus:** Division will be principally responsible for executing the HUD Action Plan, once finalized, which will include housing and small business supports (among other potential programs).

### Proposed Approach

- Set clear expectations about CDBG-DR funds for disaster recovery; provide appropriate housing choices
- Deploy robust financial oversight
- Provide transparency of funding, processes, and progress through regular communications and reporting
- Engage Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery, stakeholders and partners to communicate, identify challenges, and assist with recovery

## 5. There is a gap between what was requested from the federal government and the estimated portion of federal funds to NC

	Federal funds requested	Federal funds: estimated NC portion
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.7B</b> Outlined in Federal Funding Request (Nov 2024), including:	<b>~\$15.7B<sup>1</sup></b> Estimate of federal funds allocated to NC, including:
FHWA Emergency Relief (DOT)	\$7.3B	~\$3.2B
CDBG-DR (HUD)	\$5.7B	\$1.65B
Disaster relief fund (FEMA)	\$6.8B	~\$6.9B
Disaster Loans (DOC – SBA)	\$1.2B	~\$0.25B
Additional sources (e.g., USDA, EPA, DOC – EDA)	\$4.7B	~\$3.7B <sup>2</sup>

1. Actual allocations as of Jan '25 for CDBG-DR and current state funding, all other calculations constitute estimates from NC OSBM and Representative DeLauro's Office  
 2. Includes \$1.729B of construction funds and allotment for the Blue Ridge Parkway  
 3. \$3.9B requested from NCGA in Damage and Needs Assessment, \$1.2B appropriated by NCGA as of January '25



# Open requests to support Helene recovery and accelerate action

During President Trump's visit to western North Carolina on 01/24/25, Governor Stein met with the President and made the following requests for North Carolina's Helene recovery

## North Carolina disaster recovery requests:

- 1 Extend the 100% federal cost-share period for the applicable streams of FEMA funding for another six months; the President can do this unilaterally
- 2 Direct HUD to approve North Carolina's Action Plan for accessing CDBG-DR dollars as quickly as possible so that we can begin drawing down and investing funds to help North Carolinians recover
- 3 Ensure that a robust additional funding package for Western North Carolina is included in any funding bill related to the California wildfires
- 4 Encourage Congress to amend the Stafford Act to allow the repair or replacement of private roads and bridges to qualify for FEMA funding

## 6. There is much work to be done, and we need your help to ensure a strong recovery for NC

Several critical areas must be addressed quickly:



**Debris removal**, particularly from waterways and right-of-way routes



**Housing recovery**, including temporary and permanent housing solutions



**Economic revitalization**, including for small businesses and larger industries



**Roads and bridges repair**, for both public and private routes

# Appendix

# Recovery efforts will be guided by the local expertise and diverse knowledge of the Western North Carolina Advisory Committee

**Co-chair:** Mayor Esther Manheimer

Mayor of Asheville, Partner at Van Winkle Law Firm,  
former Asheville City Councilwoman

**Co-chair:** Senator Kevin Corbin

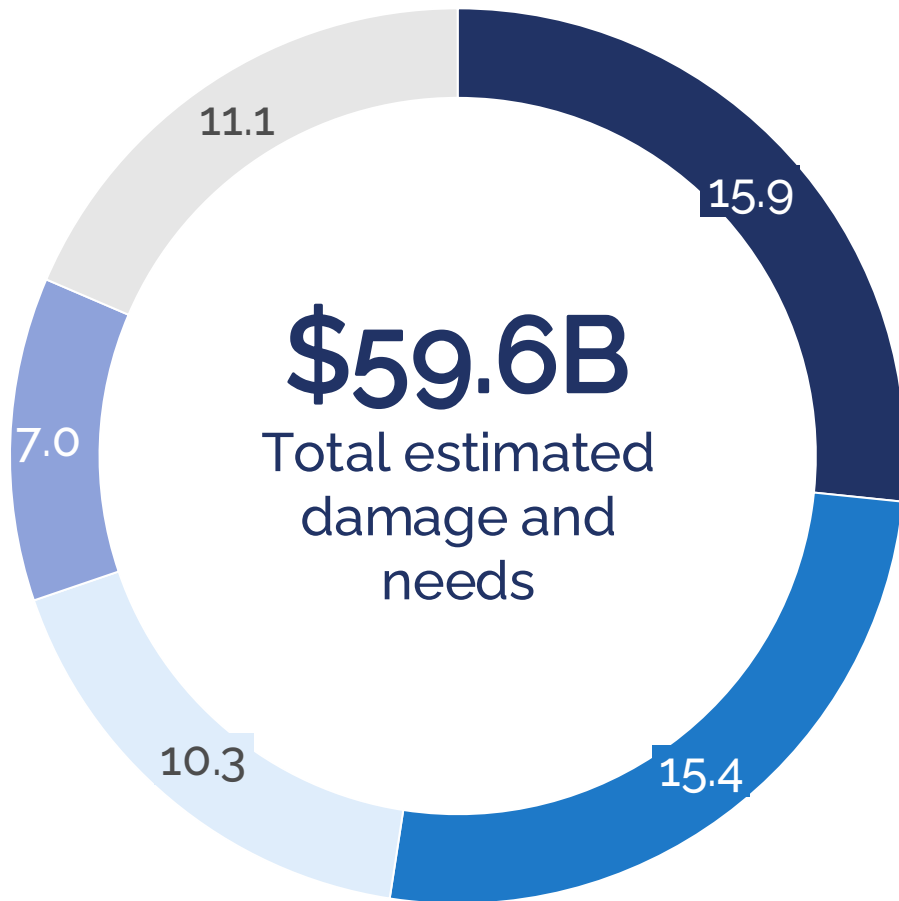
NC Senator, former NCHR Member, former Macon  
County Commissioner, Insurance Agency owner

**Committee members:** Dr. Jim Beeler, Mayor Preston Blakely, Katie Button, Ashley Cook, Jack Cecil, Casey Cooper, John Cooper, Walter Dalton, Sharon Decker, Brittany Duncan, Senator Ralph Hise, Will Hoffman, Rep. Jake Johnson, Donny Laws, Larry Leake, Dr. Laura Leatherwood, Kevin Leonard, Rep. Chuck McGrady, Tim Moffitt, Dee Dee Perkins, Van Phillips, Rep. Lindsey Prather, Nathan Ramsey, Debbie Roundtree, Mayor Zeb Smathers, Commissioner Charlie Wallin, Commissioner Al Whitesides

**Represent 17 North Carolina Counties:** Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Wake, Watauga, Yancey

**Offer diverse expertise,** including Agriculture, Business, Education, Finance, Healthcare, Law, Philanthropy, Politics

# Economy, Housing, Transportation, and Utilities damages represents 82% of total financial damages



## Economy

115K business establishments and 384K “mom and pop” shops in western North Carolina - even those spared physical damages will feel the long-lasting effects from business closures and limited access

## Transportation

Critical I-40 corridor, 5K miles of state roads, 1K+ bridges and culverts, and 7K+ private roads were damaged by Helene

## Housing

74K homes were damaged by the fast-moving flood waters and landslides of Helene leaving thousands of families displaced according to estimates

## Utilities

Damage to 163 water and sewer systems; 28 electric utilities facilities; and cellular networks. 1k+ cellular site outages at peak left thousands without critical life sustaining services

## Other categories