

**Dear Georgians,**

I pray that you and your loved ones are all safe in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene's devastating landfall in our state. Now some areas are bracing for Hurricane Milton. I join Georgians all over in mourning those we have lost during this awful storm, and I am immensely grateful for the first responders who have risked their lives to keep our communities safe.

**In the interim, I wanted to share some resources to help you and your communities stay safe and begin to recover during this difficult time.**

**First and foremost, if you require immediate emergency assistance, please dial 911. For non-damage related questions, you can call 211 for assistance.**

*For additional assistance, such as food, water, or shelter-related questions:*

- The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA) has compiled a list of resources related to food, shelter, and donations here: <https://gema.georgia.gov/hurricane-helene>.
- You can contact your local Emergency Management Agency, which can be found here: <https://gema.georgia.gov/locations>. If you cannot reach your local agency, you can contact the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA) at 404-635-7200 or 1-800-TRYGEMA (1-800-879-4362).
- Georgians receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) benefits can report food lost by submitting Form 841 to the Georgia Division of Family & Children Services, either at a county office (<https://dfcs.georgia.gov/locations>) or electronically: <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/form/food-loss-replacement-form>. More information is available here: <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/snap-food-stamps/benefits-replacement-request>.
- You can also contact your local American Red Cross Regional Office. The contact information for their Georgia offices is available at <https://www.redcross.org/local/georgia.html> or 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) 24 hours a day.
- You can also find more information about locating a loved one through the American Red Cross here: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/contact-and-locate-loved-ones.html>.

*For those recovering from hurricane-related damage:*

- You can report damages to your home, business, or other property here: <https://damage-assessment-gema-soc.hub.arcgis.com/>.
- You can find resources and apply for disaster assistance here: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>.

- You may also be eligible for low-interest disaster loans for homeowners and businesses from the Small Business Administration, which you can learn more about here: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/hurricane-helene>.
- [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes) offers resources on what to do following a hurricane: <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>.
- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has tips for handling finances while recovering and rebuilding after disasters and emergencies here: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/disasters-and-emergencies/> (Spanish language resources here: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/es/desastres-y-emergencias/>).

*The Federal government offers several resources for those with health care-related needs:*

- People on dialysis/with end stage renal disease (ERSD) can reach out to the ESRD Network 6 (Georgia) toll-free hotline at 1-800- 524-7139. You can find more information on the Kidney Community Emergency Response website here: <https://kcercoalition.com/>.
- People affected by the storm may be able to apply for health insurance in a special enrollment period: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/news-alert/cms-announces-resources-and-flexibilities-assist-public-health-emergency-states-florida-and-georgia>.
- The Federal government also operates a 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline for toll-free, multilingual, crisis support service for those experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters. You can call or text 1-800-985-5990 or learn more here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>.

*Farmers and growers can also access resources provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):*

- You can find your nearest service center here: <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>, as well as resources for hurricane recovery here: <https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/hurricane>, or you can call the Farm Service Agency Georgia State Office at 706-546-2266.
- It is important that agricultural producers keep detailed records of damages and report them to their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible.

*Unfortunately, frauds and scams can be common following a disaster, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself:*

- As a reminder, federal agencies will never charge you for disaster assistance.
- If you believe you may have been the victim of a fraud or scam, you can contact the Georgia's Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 404-651-8600 or 1-800-869-1123 (toll-free in Georgia) or online at <https://consumer.georgia.gov/> and report it to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>.

- You can find more resources about disaster-related frauds and scams here: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scams-after-weather-emergencies-and-natural-disasters>.

Finally, you can read more about the activities of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency at <https://www.fema.gov/hurricane-helene> (Spanish: <https://www.fema.gov/es/helene>) and across Federal agencies at <https://usa.gov/hurricane-helene> (Spanish: <https://www.usa.gov/es/huracan-helene>).