

Department of Public Safety

Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund 2025 Financial Audit

Raleigh, NC



Performance Audit Report

December 2025

State Auditor
Dave Boliek

A Constitutional Office of the
State of North Carolina



The key findings and recommendations in this summary may not be inclusive of all the findings and recommendations in this report.



North Carolina Office of the State Auditor

Dave Boliek, State Auditor

Auditor's Transmittal

The Honorable Josh Stein, Governor
The Honorable Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore
The Honorable Destin Hall, Speaker of the House
Honorable Members of the North Carolina General Assembly
Eddie Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary, North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since Hurricane Florence made landfall in 2018, the North Carolina General Assembly has allocated over \$942 million to assist with recovery efforts. The money was housed in the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund and has been administered by the Department of Public Safety to over a dozen different state entities.

In efforts to ensure recovery dollars were properly accounted for, the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (OSA) was charged with conducting multiple audits of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund. This audit shows that as of December 31, 2023, DPS has disbursed \$876.8 million from the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund and the fund had \$34.8 million remaining.

I would note that while the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) exists within DPS and was allocated funds, this audit did not include NCORR's overspending of budgeted federal disaster recovery funds. This audit had the narrow scope of determining whether DPS accounted for, allocated, and disbursed amounts appropriated to the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund in accordance with associated legislation. OSA found that DPS did so in accordance with state law.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Boliek
State Auditor

Executive Summary

The Office of the State Auditor (OSA) has completed a final financial audit in accordance with Chapter 147, Article 5A of the North Carolina General Statutes concerning the oversight of



Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS).

In October 2018, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted the Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act.¹ The Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act established the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund² “to provide necessary and appropriate relief and assistance³ from the effects of Hurricane Florence.” Through a series of legislation,⁴ the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund allocated a total of \$942.4 million in assistance to various entities across the state.

Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation required DPS to administer the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund, to carry out the provisions of the law,⁵ and to ensure the proper accounting of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund. Session Law 2018-138, Section 2.14.(c)⁶ required OSA to conduct financial audits of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund every two years and a final financial audit once all funds are expended, or by March 1, 2025, whichever occurs first.

This report details the results of OSA’s third financial audit of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund and will fulfill the legislative requirement for a final financial audit. It includes DPS’s accounting, allocation, and disbursement of Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds during the period July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

OSA’s November 2023 audit titled [*Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds - 2023 Preliminary Financial Audit*](#) and September 2021 audit titled [*Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund - Preliminary Financial Audit*](#) found that DPS accounted for, allocated, and disbursed a total of \$870.5 million during the period November 1, 2018, through June 30, 2023.

However, the audit scope did not include federal disaster recovery funds or other state disaster recovery funds received from sources other than the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund. Specifically, the audit scope did not include NCORR’s overspending⁷ of budgeted federal disaster recovery funds because those funds are not part of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.

¹ An Act to Enact the Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act, S.L. 2018-134.

² An Act to Enact the Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act, S.L. 2018-134, § 3.1.(a).

³ The intended purpose and use of Hurricane Florence Recovery Funds are contained in applicable sections of Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation. See Appendix B for summary of intended purpose and uses of funds.

⁴ See Appendix A for details regarding legislation affecting the state’s Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.

⁵ Pursuant to S.L. 2018-134, the Office of State Budget and Management or another state agency determined by the Governor, was responsible for maintaining and administering the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund. On November 5, 2018, the Office of State Budget and Management issued a memo transferring this responsibility to the Department of Public Safety.

⁶ An Act to Provide Additional Disaster Relief in Response to Hurricane Florence, S. L. 2018-138, § 2.14.(c), amending the 2018 Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Act, S.L. 2018-136, § 5.19.

⁷ <https://sites.ncleg.gov/houseoversight/2024/11/ncorr-deficit-is-100-million-larger-than-acknowledged/>

Executive Summary (Concluded)

Objective:

The objective of this audit was to determine whether DPS:



- (1) Accounted for, allocated, and disbursed amounts appropriated to the State of North Carolina's Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds in accordance with Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation.⁸

Findings:

DPS accounted for, allocated, and disbursed amounts appropriated to the State of North Carolina's Hurricane Florence Recovery Fund in accordance with Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation.

During the period July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, DPS disbursed:



- \$6.3 million to state agencies.



- \$17,800 to an institution of higher education.

As of December 31, 2023, DPS disbursed in total:



- \$779.9 million to state agencies.



- \$62.5 million to institutions of higher education.



- \$34.5 million to a non-profit foundation.

⁸ See Appendix A for details regarding legislation affecting the state's Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.



Table of Contents

	Page
Background	1
Findings	
Allocations and Disbursements from the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund ...	4
Objective, Scope, and Methodology	5
Appendices	7
Response from Department of Public Safety	10
Ordering Information	11

Chapter 147, Article 5A of the North Carolina General Statutes gives the Auditor broad powers to examine all books, records, files, papers, documents, and financial affairs of every state agency and any organization that receives public funding. The Auditor also has the power to summon people to produce records and to answer questions under oath.



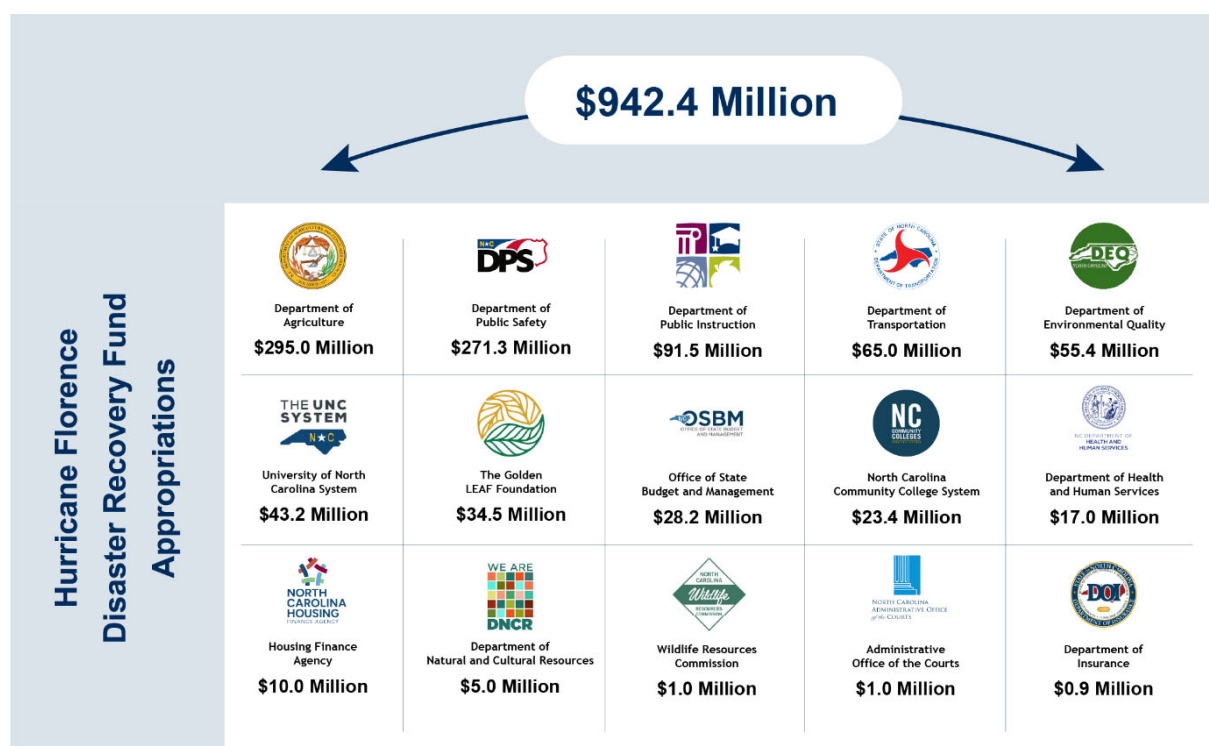
Background

In September 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall bringing high winds, dangerous storm surge, and record rainfall that caused historic flooding and numerous fatalities throughout North Carolina.⁹

In October 2018, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted the Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act (Response Act)¹⁰ in response to the effects of Hurricane Florence on the State of North Carolina.

The Response Act established the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund¹¹ to provide the necessary and appropriate relief and assistance¹² from the effects of Hurricane Florence. The Fund is maintained as a special fund administered by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS),¹³ to carry out the provisions of the law and subsequent acts needed in response to Hurricane Florence.

Through a series of legislation,¹⁴ the State appropriated approximately \$942.4 million to state agencies, institutions of higher education, and a non-profit foundation through the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund as presented in the following illustration:



⁹ Office of State Budget and Management's [Hurricane Florence Recovery Recommendations](#).

¹⁰ An Act to Enact the Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act, S.L. 2018-134.

¹¹ An Act to Enact the Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act, S.L. 2018-134, § 3.1.(a).

¹² The intended purpose and use of Hurricane Florence Recovery Funds are contained in applicable sections of Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation. See Appendix B for summary of intended purpose and uses of funds.

¹³ Per S.L. 2018-134, the Office of State Budget and Management was responsible for maintaining and administering the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund. On November 5, 2018, the Office of State Budget and Management issued a memo transferring this responsibility to the Department of Public Safety.

¹⁴ See Appendix A for details regarding legislation affecting the State's Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.

To receive funds, each state agency, institution of higher education, and non-profit foundation would spend funds on recovery efforts and later request reimbursement from DPS for qualifying expenditures. These recipients would submit reports to DPS on a quarterly basis that included a summary of program activities, how much was spent to date, and performance metrics outlined in legislation.

Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation¹⁵ also created the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) within DPS. NCORR is responsible for:

- Providing general disaster recovery coordination and public information.
- Citizen outreach and application case management.
- Program and construction management services.
- Audit, finance, compliance, and reporting on disaster recovery funds.
- Reporting on the use, oversight, and results achieved by Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds.

Unless stated otherwise, references to DPS in this report also encompass the responsibilities and activities of NCORR. However, the audit scope did not include NCORR's overspending¹⁶ of budgeted federal disaster recovery funds because those funds are not part of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.

Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation¹⁷ required DPS to administer the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund to carry out the provisions of the law, and to ensure the proper accounting¹⁸ of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund. Specifically, DPS is required to:

- Allocate and disburse Hurricane Florence Recovery Funds as directed by Hurricane Florence legislation.
- Ensure adherence with reporting requirements established in Hurricane Florence legislation.
- Account for the Hurricane Florence Recovery Fund in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the requirements established by the North Carolina Office of the State Controller (OSC).¹⁹

Session Law 2018-138, Section 2.14.(c)²⁰ required the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) to conduct financial audits of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund every two years and a final financial audit once all funds are expended, or by March 1, 2025, whichever first occurs.

¹⁵ 2018 Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Act, S. L. 2018-136, § 5.7(a).

¹⁶ <https://sites.ncleg.gov/houseoversight/2024/11/ncorr-deficit-is-100-million-larger-than-acknowledged/>

¹⁷ Per S.L. 2018-134, the Office of State Budget and Management was responsible for maintaining and administering the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund. On November 5, 2018, the Office of State Budget and Management issued a memo transferring this responsibility to the Department of Public Safety.

¹⁸ The Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund is a pass-through where funds are transferred in and transferred out without being retained in the fund.

¹⁹ Per OSC guidance provided to DPS in November 2018.

²⁰ An Act to Provide Additional Disaster Relief in Response to Hurricane Florence, S. L. 2018-138, § 2.14.(c), amending the 2018 Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Act, S.L. 2018-136, § 5.19.

This report details the results of OSA's third financial audit of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund and will fulfill the legislative requirement for a final financial audit. It includes DPS's accounting, allocation, and disbursement of Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds during the period July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

OSA's November 2023 audit titled [Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds - 2023 Preliminary Financial Audit](#) and September 2021 audit titled [Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund - Preliminary Financial Audit](#) found that DPS accounted for, allocated, and disbursed a total of \$870.5 million during the period November 1, 2018, through June 30, 2023.

Key terms discussed in this report include:

Hurricane Florence – The hurricane that made landfall in eastern North Carolina on September 14, 2018.

Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation – The Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act²¹ and subsequent legislation²² enacted by the State of North Carolina to establish the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund and provide necessary and appropriate relief²³ and assistance from the effects of Hurricane Florence.

Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund – The fund established by the state to provide necessary and appropriate relief and assistance from the effects of Hurricane Florence.

Responsible parties discussed in this report include:

North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS) – DPS provides the public safety services for the State including emergency management. The Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act established the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund that is to be maintained as a special fund and administered by DPS to carry out the provisions of the law.

North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) – NCORR is a division of DPS that provides general disaster recovery coordination and public information and is responsible for reporting on the use, oversight, and results achieved by Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds.

²¹ An Act to Enact the Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act, S.L. 2018-134.

²² See Appendix A for details regarding legislation affecting the State's Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.

²³ The intended purpose and use of Hurricane Florence Recovery Funds are contained in applicable sections of Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation. See Appendix B for summary of intended purpose and uses of funds.



Findings



Allocations and Disbursements from Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) allocated \$942.4 million²⁴ from the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund to state agencies, institutions of higher education, and a non-profit foundation (recipients) in accordance with Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation. Of this amount, \$6.3 million (1%) was disbursed during the period July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

As of December 31, 2023, a total of \$876.9 million (93%) has been disbursed. Of the remaining unused funds, \$30.7 million reverted and transferred to the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund by Session Law 2023-134, Section 5.6(a) and Session Law 2024-1, Section 1.4(b).

Auditors tested 16 (100%) of DPS's disbursements to recipients and all (100%) State match²⁵ transactions from July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Auditors found that all disbursements and transactions were properly accounted for and disbursed in accordance with Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation.

The following table illustrates the total amounts allocated, disbursed, recaptured, and remaining to be disbursed to recipients as of December 31, 2023:

	Allocated	Disbursed as of June 30, 2023	Disbursed between July 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023	Disbursed as of December 31, 2023	Recaptured by SL 2023-132 SL 2024-1	Remaining as of December 31, 2023
State Agencies						
Department of Agriculture	\$ 295,000,000	\$ 261,044,511	\$ 1,206,432	\$ 262,250,943	\$ (23,653,405)	\$ 9,095,652
Department of Public Safety	271,308,946	246,401,821	5,125,118	251,526,939	(4,203)	19,777,804
Department of Public Instruction	91,500,000	88,606,342	-	88,606,342	-	2,893,658
Department of Transportation	65,000,000	65,000,000	-	65,000,000	-	-
Department of Environmental Quality	55,425,000	53,796,989	-	53,796,989	(64,905)	1,563,106
Office of State Budget and Management	28,168,000	28,168,000	-	28,168,000	-	-
Department of Health and Human Services	17,000,000	14,448,234	-	14,448,234	(2,249,225)	302,541
Housing Finance Agency	10,000,000	10,000,000	-	10,000,000	-	-
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	5,000,000	-	-
Wildlife Resources Commission	1,050,000	876,911	-	876,911	-	173,089
Administrative Office of the Courts	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
Department of Insurance	930,477	256,864	-	256,864	(673,613)	-
Total State Agencies	841,382,423	773,599,672	6,331,550	779,931,222	(26,645,351)	34,805,850
Institutions of Higher Education						
University of North Carolina System	43,160,000	41,175,501	-	41,175,501	(1,984,499)	-
North Carolina Community Colleges System	23,400,000	21,271,793	17,800	21,289,593	(2,110,407)	-
Total Institutions of Higher Education	66,560,000	62,447,294	17,800	62,465,094	(4,094,906)	-
Non-Profit Foundation						
The Golden LEAF Foundation	34,500,000	34,500,000	-	34,500,000	-	-
Totals	\$ 942,442,423	\$ 870,546,966	\$ 6,349,350	\$ 876,896,316	\$ (30,740,257)	\$ 34,805,850

²⁴ These amounts were all allocated prior to July 1, 2023. No new appropriations or allocations were made during the period July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023 (scope of this audit).

²⁵ State match, or cost share, means the state's portion of federally-assisted project costs not paid by federal funds or contributions.



Objective, Scope, and Methodology

The audit objective was to determine whether the Department of Public Safety (DPS) accounted for, allocated, and disbursed amounts appropriated to the State of North Carolina's Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund in accordance with the Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation.²⁶

The audit scope included DPS's accounting, allocation, and disbursement transactions related to the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund during the period July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

This report details the results of OSA's third financial audit of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.

OSA's November 2023 audit titled [*Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds - 2023 Preliminary Financial Audit*](#) and September 2021 audit titled [*Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund - Preliminary Financial Audit*](#) found that DPS accounted for, allocated, and disbursed a total of \$870.5 million during the period November 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023.

The audit scope did not include federal disaster recovery funds or other state disaster recovery funds received from sources other than the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund. Specifically, the audit scope did not include NCORR's overspending²⁷ of budgeted federal disaster recovery funds because those funds are not part of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.

Further, the following matters were not included in the audit scope and objective:

- Compliance with program requirements established by Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation.
- Adherence to reporting requirements established by Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation.
- Whether Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds were spent in accordance with the Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation.²⁸
- Whether programs that received Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds accomplished their intended purpose.²⁹
- Disbursements to subrecipients, beneficiaries, municipalities, or other secondary entities that did not receive funds directly from Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.

²⁶ An Act to Enact the Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act, S. L. 2018-134 and subsequent legislation. See Appendix A for details regarding legislation affecting the state's Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.

²⁷ <https://sites.ncleg.gov/houseoversight/2024/11/ncorr-deficit-is-100-million-larger-than-acknowledged/>

²⁸ This is the objective of OSA's performance audit of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund required by Session Law 2018-136 §5.19

²⁹ Ibid.

Session Law 2018-136, Section 5.19³⁰ also required the Office of the State Auditor to conduct performance audits³¹ of the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund.

To accomplish the audit objectives, auditors:

- Reviewed relevant laws and regulations.
- Interviewed Department of Public Safety (DPS) personnel.
- Reconciled DPS accounting records for allocations and disbursements to the authorizing legislation and accounting requirements established by the North Carolina Office of the State Controller to ensure the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund was accounted for, allocated, and disbursed³² in accordance with Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation.
- Examined recipient³³ fund requests, memorandums, journal entries, and other documentation supporting all 16 (100%) disbursements from the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund to ensure funds were disbursed in accordance with Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation.
- Tested all (100%) Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund state match³⁴ transactions by recalculating state expenditures and comparing them to the required match based on federal expenditures³⁵ recorded to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants³⁶.

Because of the test nature and other inherent limitations of an audit, together with limitations of any system of internal and management controls, this audit would not necessarily disclose all performance weaknesses or lack of compliance.

This audit was designed to identify, for those programs, activities, or functions included within the scope of the audit, deficiencies in internal controls significant to our audit objectives. As a basis for evaluating internal control, auditors applied the internal control guidance contained in professional auditing standards. However, our audit does not provide a basis for rendering an opinion on internal control, and consequently, we have not issued such an opinion.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

³⁰ As amended by An Act to Provide Additional Disaster Relief in Response to Hurricane Florence, S. L. 2018-138, § 2.14(c).

³¹ [Department of Public Safety Oversight of Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Funds](#)

³² The Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund is a pass-through where funds are transferred in and transferred out without being retained in the fund.

³³ Included state agencies and an institution of higher education.

³⁴ State match, or cost share, means the state's portion of federally-assisted project costs not paid by federal funds or contributions.

³⁵ According to DPS accounting records as of December 31, 2023.

³⁶ FEMA grants include **(1) Individual Assistance** to help individuals recover through temporary housing, home repairs, and other essential needs, **(2) Public Assistance** to support state and local governments with debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair of public infrastructure, and **(3) Hazard Mitigation Assistance** to fund long-term preventive projects reducing the risk and impact of future disasters.



Appendices

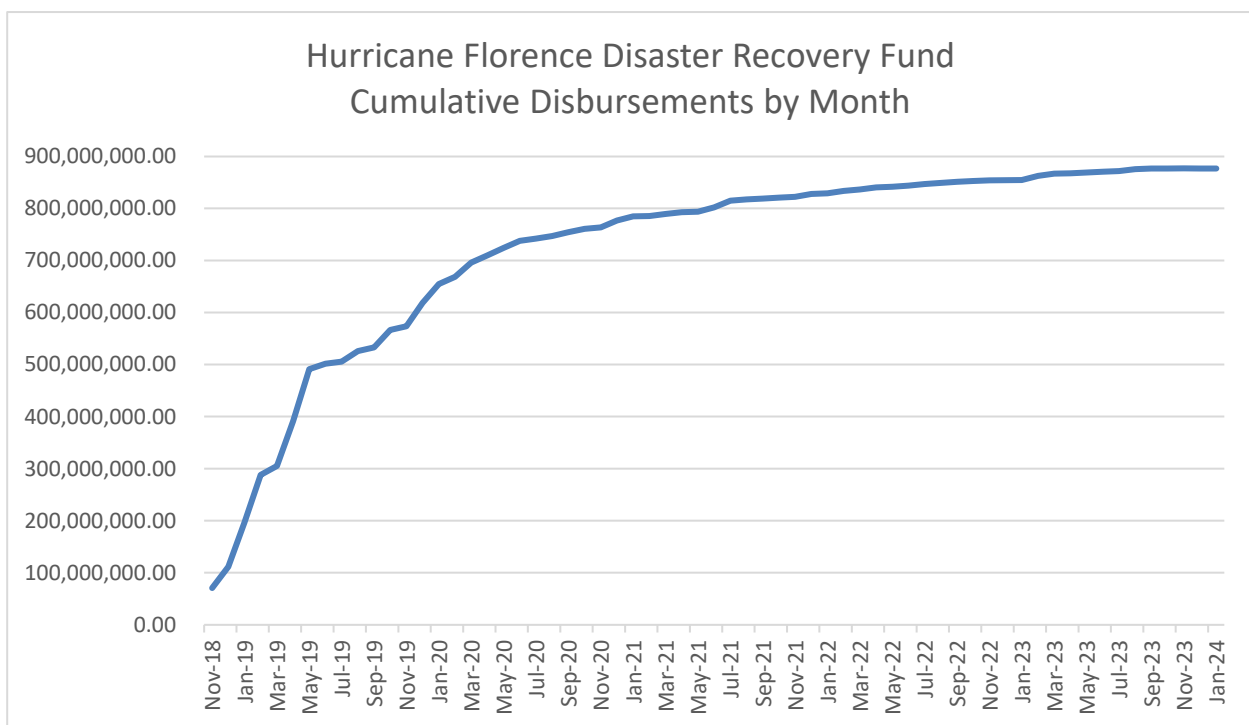
Appendix A

Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund - Summary Schedules

The State of North Carolina appropriated approximately \$942.4 million to the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund through the following series of legislation:

Laws Relevant to the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund	Date Enacted	Net Appropriations
Session Law 2018-134	Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act	10/3/2018
Session Law 2018-136	2018 Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Act	10/16/2018
Session Law 2018-138	Additional Disaster Relief in Response to Hurricane Florence	12/3/2018
Session Law 2019-224	2019 Disaster Recovery Act	9/18/2019
Session Law 2019-250	Funds for Disaster Relief	11/18/2019
Session Law 2020-97	Provide Funding for Disaster Recovery	9/4/2020
		\$ 942,442,423

The following chart illustrates the cumulative disbursements by month from the Hurricane Florence Recovery Fund for the period November 1, 2018, through December 31, 2023:



Appendix B

The following table illustrates the total amount appropriated to each recipient and the intended purpose and use of funds to provide necessary and appropriate relief from the effects of Hurricane Florence:

Recipient	Allocation	Intended Purpose and Use of Funds
<u>State Agencies</u>		
Department of Agriculture	\$295,000,000	Provides state match for federal farmer assistance, purchase of bulldozers & tractor plows; assists farmers with recovery activities such as hay relief, pasture renovation, and non-field farm road repair.
Department of Public Safety	\$271,308,946	Establishes NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) and provides state match for federal disaster assistance programs. Also provides disaster housing recovery support including homeowner buyouts and relocations, and provides gap funding to move families out of the floodplain. Assists financially-distressed local governments via grants and loans with immediate cash flow assistance and provides grants to non-profit organizations that offer shelters, housing repairs, and other emergency services. Supports various DPS programs including Search and Rescue, Flood Insurance Pilot Program, and installation of river gauges.
Department of Public Instruction	\$91,500,000	Repairs or replaces damaged public-school facilities, furnishings, food, and food equipment and supplements or replaces lost compensation of school lunch employees.
Department of Transportation	\$65,000,000	Provides state match for federal transportation assistance.
Department of Environmental Quality	\$55,425,000	Provides state match and grants for Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund and the Federal Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Also provides commercial fishing assistance to compensate commercial fisherman for equipment and income losses. Assists with surveys of beaches and channels for hurricane related damage and cleanup of water and wastewater infrastructure. Provides grants to Surry County for various creek and river projects.
Office of State Budget Management	\$28,168,000	Provides grants to counties, cities, and towns for repair and renovation for various disaster recovery projects.
Department of Health and Human Services	\$17,000,000	Supports the increased demand for behavioral health services, offsets increases in nursing and staffing expenses, provides medications and medical supplies for uninsured residents. Assists counties in matching administrative expenses incurred operating the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Supports the mosquito abatement program and provides assistance to prevent homelessness for individuals displaced by Hurricane Florence.
Housing Finance Agency	\$10,000,000	Assists with the development of affordable housing and the repair of damaged single-family homes and existing properties in impacted counties.

Recipient	Allocation	Intended Purpose and Use of Funds
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	\$5,000,000	Supports the Fort Fisher Aquarium.
Wildlife Resource Commission	\$1,050,000	For the study, inspection, investigation, and removal of derelict and abandoned water vessels.
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$1,000,000	Replacement of equipment or other disaster related costs for courthouse closures.
Department of Insurance	\$930,477	Provides financial assistance to volunteer fire departments for repairs of damages that were not covered by federal assistance or insurance policy proceeds.
<u>Institutions of Higher Education</u>		
University of North Carolina System	\$43,160,000	Repair and renovation of damaged facilities at UNC Wilmington, UNC Pembroke, and Fayetteville State University. Assists post-secondary students with paying for tuition, fees, and emergency expenses. Funds study of flooding and resiliency against future storms in Eastern North Carolina.
North Carolina Community College System	\$23,400,000	Repair and renovation of local community college facilities. Assists community colleges with the loss of revenues due to enrollment declines. Assists post-secondary students with paying for tuition, fees, and emergency expenses.
<u>Non-Profit Foundation</u>		
The Golden LEAF Foundation	\$34,500,000	Provides support to repair or replace local government infrastructure, facilities, vehicles, and equipment. Provides grants to non-profits to administer loans to small businesses affected by Hurricane Florence.



Response From the Department of Public Safety



NC Department of Public Safety
PREPARE. PREVENT. PROTECT.

Josh Stein, Governor

Eddie M. Buffaloe Jr., Secretary
Casandra S. Hoekstra, Chief of Staff

December 9, 2025

The Honorable Dave Boliek, State Auditor
Office of the State Auditor
2 South Salisbury Street
20601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0601

Dear State Auditor Boliek:

In response to your recent correspondence regarding the completion of the 2025 Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund Final Financial Audit, the Department of Public Safety agrees with your findings that DPS accounted for, allocated, and disbursed amounts appropriated to the State of North Carolina's Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund in accordance with the Hurricane Florence Recovery legislation.

We appreciate the professionalism conveyed by your staff during this audit, and we look forward to future engagements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr.", is positioned above a horizontal blue line.

[Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr. \(Dec 10, 2025 22:54:18 EST\)](#)

Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr.
Secretary

cc: Casandra Skinner Hoekstra, Chief of Staff
Caroline Valand, Chief Deputy for Administration
Melissa B. Earp, Chief Financial Officer
Pryor Gibson, NCORR Executive Director



Ordering Information

Copies of this report may be obtained by contacting:



Office of the State Auditor
State of North Carolina
20601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Telephone: 919-807-7500
Fax: 919-807-7647
Internet: www.auditor.nc.gov



**To report alleged incidents of fraud, waste or abuse in state government
contact the Office of the State Auditor's Tipline:**

Telephone: 1-800-730-8477

Internet: www.auditor.nc.gov/about-us/state-auditors-tipline

This audit required 76.50 hours of auditor effort at an approximate cost of \$11,857.50.