



February 14, 2025 | nclm.org

Legislators Focus on Disaster Bill

Lawmakers in the state House were back at work developing a relief and recovery package for western North Carolina this week, advancing legislation dubbed “[Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 Part I](#).” The \$500 million package includes funds for home reconstruction and repairs, assistance for farmers, support for reconstructing bridges and roads, debris removal, repair to state facilities, and grants for volunteer organizations and fire departments. Of that total, \$20 million would go for additional debris removal. A plain-language summary of the proposal is available [here](#).

The legislation passed two House committees this week and is anticipated to be before the full House next week. House bill sponsors continue to offer assurances that more help is on the way, as signaled by the title of the legislation as “Part I.” If approved by the House next week, the measure will then head to the Senate, where Senate leaders have been preparing their own package. Details on the Senate approach have yet to be published.

In separate news, the State Treasurer’s Office announced yesterday important actions local governments must take to access an \$100 million lending program that provides loans to local governments. As outlined [in this memo](#) and further described in the article below, the program is aimed at assisting local governments with cashflow while the larger state and federal funding streams begin to flow.

Attention Western North Carolina Municipalities Impacted by Hurricane Helene

The Department of State Treasurer has released [this memo](#) related to the State Cashflow Loans for Disaster Response Activities. The memo highlights the process required for receiving cashflow loans related to Hurricane Helene, including providing a Loan Agreement and several steps that must be completed to receive funding. In the

coming days, towns that have submitted FEMA project worksheets by today's deadline will receive completed forms from the Treasurer's office notifying them of the amount of funding they are initially eligible for. Once those completed forms have been received, towns must submit certain items in order to receive funding, including:

1. An executed resolution of the unit's governing body approving the unit's assumption of the loan obligation by entering the Loan Agreement (see [Exhibit A](#) for a sample form resolution; however, this precise form is not a requirement).
2. An executed [Loan Agreement](#) and [Promissory Note](#). The terms of the Loan Agreement and Promissory Note are non-negotiable, and any changes reflected in either document upon receiving them back from your unit will be rejected. The North Carolina League of Municipalities and North Carolina Association of County Commissioners have each participated in the drafting of these documents, and thus we believe the interests of each unit have been adequately represented.
3. A completed [wire form](#) so the Department of State Treasurer can wire the loan funds to the unit's chosen account.

Please note: Upon receipt of your notice of eligibility for funding from the Treasurer's office, you should email scanned copies of the fully executed Resolution, Loan Agreement, and Promissory Note, and completed wire form to jeff.poley@nctreasurer.com and then mail the executed originals via overnight delivery to: Jeffrey A. Poley, Director of Disaster Services and Rural Economic Development, Office of the State Treasurer, 3200 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604.

Please send any questions about the Cashflow Loan Program to [Chris Nida, NCLM Director of Technical Assistance for Citie](#)

READ FULL MEMO & ATTACHMENTS

Legislative Goals Approved

After a lengthy member-driven process, member cities and towns have chosen the Legislative Goals for the 2025-26 legislative biennium. NCLM thanks all municipal representatives who were involved in this process, whether you served on the NCLM Legislative Policy committee, took part in the numerous in-person or virtually listening sessions soliciting ideas, or assisted your city or town in the final electronic voting to select the list of 10 goals to be pursued. Here are the goals, for your consideration, in both a [single-page listing](#) and a [two-page document](#) providing context for each goal.

This process ultimately involved 197 individuals representing 154 municipalities, and that broad participation is so important as we now begin the work of seeking approval of the goals before the North Carolina General Assembly. We hope that you take the opportunity to discuss these proposals with your legislators at an appropriate time. Your involvement in NCLM's advocacy efforts is so vital to our success.

ONE PAGE GOALS

TWO PAGE GOALS

Housing Solution: Community Land Trusts

Time magazine recently provided an in-depth look at a solution to housing affordability that is often overlooked in policy discussions: community land banks or land trusts. The land trusts encourage homeownership but do so while mitigating the cost of a land, which is usually the biggest determinant of housing costs. (In typical private development, land costs drive the financing decisions that then often dictate home square footage and amenities.)

The community land trust model usually involves a nonprofit buying the land, and then either developing it or bringing in a private developer to do so. Individual buyers or renters then buy a house or unit on that land at an affordable price and in a long-term (often 99-year) renewable lease. In the case of multi-family rental homes, rents are typically capped. Read the full Time article about community land trusts [here](#).



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