

## Golden LEAF Foundation

Hurricane Helene Relief

Guidelines for Applicants

### Overview

Hurricane Helene ravaged the western part of our state. Golden LEAF is making resources available to support immediate relief for individuals and families as nonprofit organizations work to support survivors by providing home repair, addressing unmet needs, and helping transition out of FEMA supported housing programs. Funds may not be used to support businesses.

At this time, Golden LEAF expects most awards not to exceed \$100,000. If your organization is working across a large region or is an experienced North Carolina-based Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters (NC VOAD) deploying to disaster-declared communities, please contact Golden LEAF at [Helene@goldenleaf.org](mailto:Helene@goldenleaf.org) to discuss the possibility of a larger award.

Golden LEAF is collaborating with other funders in North Carolina and focusing on filling gaps in areas not served by funders with geographic limitations. Golden LEAF is also prioritizing serving rural and underserved communities.

Golden LEAF prioritizes organizations with an open application and referral process in a targeted region. Organizations working to support a limited/defined population (employees of a specific organization, students at a specific school, members of specific religions or denominations) should reach out to Golden LEAF at [Helene@goldenleaf.org](mailto:Helene@goldenleaf.org) to discuss their project prior to submitting an application.

### Process

Golden LEAF uses an online application portal. Applicants should register here: <https://goldenleaf.fluxx.io/>. The full list of application questions is available at the end of this document.

Golden LEAF is reviewing applications and making awards on a rolling basis. Before you apply, you may reach out to Golden LEAF at [Helene@goldenleaf.org](mailto:Helene@goldenleaf.org) for an estimated timeline for decision.

Golden LEAF will post award information on our website. All questions regarding this initiative should be directed by email to Golden LEAF at [Helene@goldenleaf.org](mailto:Helene@goldenleaf.org).

### Eligible Organizations

Only 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofits and governmental entities are eligible to apply. Golden LEAF does not provide direct assistance to individuals or businesses. Priority eligible organizations include:

- Nonprofits based in a community they are serving that have experience in providing case management and assistance to individuals (either in a disaster or ordinary circumstances)
- North Carolina-based Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters (NC VOAD) deploying to or supporting disaster-declared communities
- Governmental entities

In cases where nonprofit organizations are collaborating with each other or with a local government, the applicant to Golden LEAF should be the organization that will be responsible for managing the funds, making the purchases, and reporting on the use of funds to Golden LEAF.

## Organizations Not Based in North Carolina

Nonprofit organizations/VOADs not based in North Carolina must be collaborating with a community and be endorsed by a local government or by a North Carolina based VOAD. It must be clear that the local government or North Carolina based VOAD is requesting the nonprofit to serve in this capacity.

## **Eligible Uses of Funds**

Generally, costs associated with provision of assistance for survivors are eligible. All funds must be paid directly to a vendor by the Golden LEAF grantee and have supporting documentation (receipts, copy of lease, etc.).

- Home repair -- purchase of materials to be used by volunteers or homeowners and/or hiring of contractors to complete minor to moderate home repair. Home repair also includes muck-and-gut as well as debris removal. Homes must be owned by the survivor or a nonprofit.
- Tools, equipment -- purchase or rental of tools and equipment for volunteer organizations to use to provide home and property repair.
- Housing assistance -- rent and security deposit to enable a survivor to secure replacement housing, mortgage assistance, and temporary hotel stays. Funds must be used for locations in North Carolina.
- Utility assistance -- payment of past-due utilities or deposits necessary for move-in fees.
- Replacement personal property -- clothing, furniture, appliances, car repair, and equipment necessary to enable a survivor to return to work. May also include food assistance (pantry restock).
- Case management -- wages, mileage, computers, tablets, phones, hotspots for new case management capacity to assist organizations with applications intake, review and duplication of benefit checks.
- Volunteer support -- rental or purchase of portable bathrooms and shower units, purchase of food, transportation, other needs to support volunteers. May also include limited staffing costs for employees or contractors providing logistics and other services to maximize the ability of volunteers to serve survivors.
- Other

## Other

The application will include a space to describe a project under "other." Please reach out to Golden LEAF by email at [Helene@goldenleaf.org](mailto:Helene@goldenleaf.org) prior to completing an application to discuss an "other" use of funds.

## Duplication of Benefits

Grantees must have a process in place to assess if providing support would create a duplication of available benefits. These funds are intended to support needs beyond what is provided by other sources.

## Special Requirements

Individual equipment purchases of \$5,000 or more will require specific approval from Golden LEAF. Wages must be aligned with industry standards.

## **Ineligible Uses of Funds**

Grant funds may not be used to provide cash or loans to survivors, to purchase land, or for grant administration. Costs incurred or paid prior to the award date are not eligible.

## **Reporting**

Grantees will be required to report invoice-level detail and provide copies of receipts or other expense documentation. Funds may be advanced. A grantee will report on the use of advanced funds before additional

advances will be provided. Grantees will also be asked to report on outcomes of their work including the number of homes repaired and households served. Golden LEAF makes disbursements on a weekly basis by ACH. [See example Comprehensive Reporting Form posted on our website.](#)

### **Required Application Attachments**

[Download the required Certification and Signature form from our website.](#)

Applicants must also provide a copy of their IRS determination letter as evidence of tax exempt status.

### **Application Questions**

Complete overview of application questions begins on the next page.

## Application Questions

Field	Help Text
Project Title:	Helene Relief Project is prefilled. Do not edit.
Program Area:	Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative is prefilled. Do not edit.
Organizational History (375 words)	<p>Provide an overview of your organization’s history and specific previous prior experience working in disaster relief and recovery. Include how long your organization has been operating.</p> <p>If not experienced in disasters, provide information about other related programs your organization has managed and why your organization has decided to work in Helene relief.</p>
Amount Requested	<p>Enter the exact amount requested. <u>At this time, Golden LEAF expects most awards not to exceed \$100,000.</u></p> <p>If your organization is working across a large region or is an experienced North Carolina-based Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters (NC VOAD) deploying to disaster-declared communities, please contact Golden LEAF at <a href="mailto:Helene@goldenleaf.org">Helene@goldenleaf.org</a> to discuss the possibility of a larger award.</p>
Priority area(s) this project addresses -- check one or more as applicable:	<p>See list included in application and above under the “Eligible Uses of Funds” section.</p> <p>Projects are not required to address more than one category.</p>
Other Specific Project (500 words)	If you are requesting funds for a project not listed in the priority areas above, please contact Golden LEAF at <a href="mailto:helene@goldenleaf.org">helene@goldenleaf.org</a> before completing an application.
<p><u>Overview</u> Provide a summary of the proposed project. (500 words)</p>	<p>Please be as specific as possible in describing the unmet need the proposed project will address. For example, if your organization will only focus on furniture/clothing.</p> <p>Golden LEAF is prioritizing projects to fill unmet needs and support implementation of other available programs (e.g., volunteer supports needed to allow volunteers to help with home repair)</p>
<p><u>Implementation</u> Provide detail regarding how the proposed project will be implemented. What is the timeline? (300 words)</p>	How long will it take to set up the program and how long do you expect it to operate?

<b>Field</b>	<b>Help Text</b>
<p><u>Implementation</u> How will beneficiaries be identified and selected? How will you collaborate with other relief providers and avoid duplication of benefits? (500 words)</p>	<p>Describe the application and outreach process your organization will implement.</p> <p>Golden LEAF prioritizes organizations with an open application and referral process who are working collaboratively with other organizations.</p>
<p><u>Implementation</u> Identify any partner organizations or other stakeholders involved with the project. (300 words)</p>	<p>For organizations not based in North Carolina, this should include specific leaders within a community you are working with to provide assistance.</p>
<p><u>Outcomes</u> What counties and/or municipalities will be served by the proposed project?</p>	<p>If a whole county will be served, do not list individual municipalities.</p>
<p><u>Outcomes</u> Approximately how many homes will be repaired and/or individuals do you anticipate the project will serve? How will you gather and track information about numbers served? (300 words)</p>	<p>Outcomes will be required to be reported at regular intervals.</p>
<p><u>Budget Narrative</u> Provide a brief description of expected expenses based on the priority(ies) selected above.</p>	<p>Grant funds may not be used to provide cash or loans to survivors, to purchase land, or for grant administration. Individual equipment purchases of \$5,000 or more will require specific approval from Golden LEAF. Wages must be aligned with industry standards. Costs incurred or paid prior to the award date are not eligible.</p>
<p><u>Budget Narrative</u> Provide a list of other significant grants and state or federal funding received by your organization for this disaster relief project and the amount of the funding. (300 words)</p>	<p>Golden LEAF is coordinating with other nonprofit funders.</p>