

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: September 8, 2026

SUBJECT: Public Hearing for Community Infrastructure Projects

PRESENTER: Natalia Santana-Pollard, Response and Recovery Director

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Presentation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Staff will present information and request public input on proposed infrastructure grant projects.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

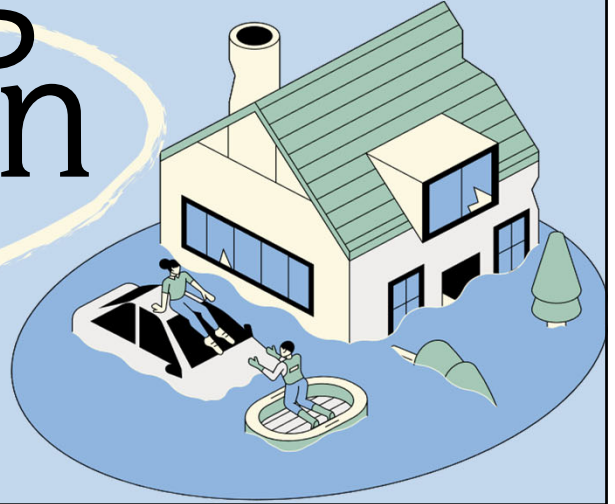
No action requested.

Suggested Motion:

None.

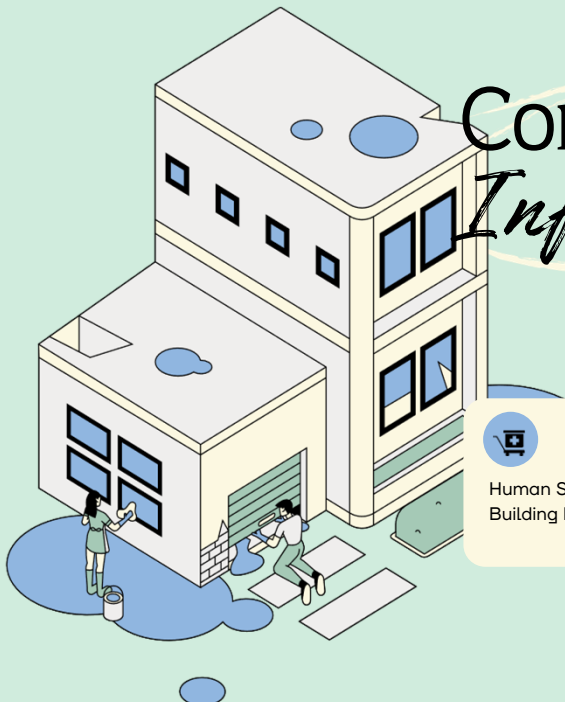
Prepared by
Natalia Santana-Pollard
 September 8, 2026

Rebuilding Henderson County



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Committed to Recovery *Infrastructure Projects*



Human Services
 Building Refit



Restoring the
 Floodplain in the Mud
 Creek Water Basin



Agricultural Services
 Building, Shelter, and
 Distribution Center

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Why These Projects?

Henderson County Staff have spent months analyzing the Hurricane Helene After Action Report, Hickory Nut Gorge Recovery Plan, Emergency Operations Plan, and Continuity of Operations Plan, among other resources, and data from Helene and these options provide thoughtful, evidence-based, and realistic projects that can be completed within the timelines required by these grants.



Additional Considerations

- 01 Is it fiscally responsible?
- 02 Can it build on work already being done within the county?
- 03 Can we see benefits during non-emergency periods?

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Human Services Building Refit

Statistics

- 29.1% of residents are 65 or older
- 1,500 residents are at-risk during disasters
- 46.9% of residents 65+ report having a disability

Proposed Project

Create a space that could serve as a shelter for severely disabled residents with complex medical needs within currently unused space within the Human Services Building.

Gaps During Helene

- Shelters were not prepared for the level of medical acuity and volume of individuals arriving to them.
- Community buildings could not replace/recharge partially filled oxygen cylinders for days.
- Shelter staffing did not have sufficient resources to manage residents with dementia or Alzheimer's.
- Record-keeping was a challenge which is especially necessary for residents with medical needs.
- Licensed care facilities were unwilling to take community residents.

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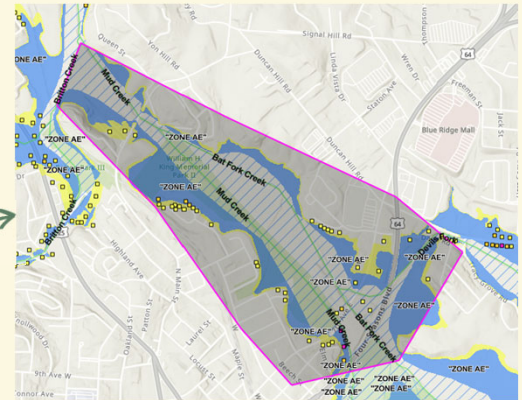
Restoring the Floodplain in the Mud Creek Water Basin

Statistics

- 75 commercial properties and 18 residential properties (as of 2025) are located in the project area.
- As of 2018 the project area contained 13 repetitive flood loss properties.
- 45% of the residents in the project area are low-income, including 26% who live below the poverty level.
- Flooding in this area impedes access to Pardee Hospital, and isolates the only dialysis center located in the project area.

Proposed Project

Request planning funds to create two projects in the Mud Creek watershed that will work to address repetitive flooding in Hendersonville.



Project Area

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Agriculture Services Building, Shelter, and Distribution Site

Statistics

- Henderson County paid over **\$1 million** in rent and utilities fees for distribution centers after Helene.
- Consolidating USDA services available in the county has been a long-term goal.
- Tremendous opportunities for non-disaster use that could also be revenue-generating.

Proposed Project

Buy a suitable office/commercial building and move the USDA offices there. Additionally, build out a distribution center and space for a shelter that serves severely disabled residents.



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Public Comment



E-Mail

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Subject: Community Infrastructure Grant
Comments



Call

828-696-0124



Mail

Henderson County Emergency Management
c/o Community Grant Infrastructure
2529 Asheville Hwy
Hendersonville, NC 28791
