



Small Business Infrastructure Program (SmBIZ)

The Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) will establish the

The SmBIZ program will offer grants to local governments and the related infrastructure projects will target and support small businesses that employ 150 or fewer employees. Funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Grants awarded under this program must be used by local governments to address qualifying infrastructure needs that the Department, in consultation with applicant local governments and small businesses, determines are the result of Hurricane Helene's impact and have adversely affected access to, or operations of, the identified small businesses.

PURPOSE OF THE FUND

- Provide financial assistance for **community recovery and resilience** to communities specifically impacted by Hurricane Helene, helping to bring back vital services for small businesses and entrepreneurs.
- **Restore and repair critical infrastructure**, allowing small businesses to resume function and operations to support economic recovery and sustainability.
- Assist in **restoring or expanding small businesses'** ability to attract customers to business districts to help retain business, expand access, spur private investment to create stability, and leverage resources to create resiliency and economic growth.

Qualifying infrastructure must serve one or more businesses within the identified project area and must have been damaged by Hurricane Helene. The infrastructure cannot be owned by the small business, nor can it be such that the small business is responsible for maintaining it. Infrastructure may include but will not be limited to water, sewer, gas, telecommunications, high-speed broadband, electrical utility, sidewalk and curb infrastructure, and other repairs that remove barriers and restore or increase access to impacted small businesses.

Grant Fund Amount

\$55 million

Target Population

SmBIZ will target local governments and small businesses in the Helene impacted areas.

General Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants are those local governments impacted by Hurricane Helene and designated before, on, or after March 19, 2025, under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) as a result of Hurricane Helene (the "Affected Area"). Special consideration will be given to local governments in Tier 1 and Tier 2 Counties.

Max Grant

\$1 million

Get more info at www.commerce.nc.gov/SmBIZ