



How Can I Help Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind North Carolinians Impacted by Hurricane Helene?

DONATE MONEY

There are many community, nonprofit, faith-based and other types of organizations actively involved in providing support and relief to disaster survivors in their recovery. You can search for an organization or see the list below for possible options:

- [United Way of North Carolina](#): has a [North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- [North Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster \(NCVOAD\)](#): has a [list of disaster relief organizations](#) that NCVOAD has vetted that provide services to survivors.
- [American Red Cross](#)

(*Note: North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing does not have an exhaustive list of all organizations or endorse any specific organizations)

Designating How the Donation is Used

You can donate to organizations' general funds or specify that your donation is used to help Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind people. However, some organizations may reject restricted donations if doing so places additional administrative burdens on the organization to track that money and ensure it is only used for specific purpose.

SUPPLY DONATIONS

Hurricane victims need nonperishable food items (such as canned or dry goods), hygiene items, household cleaning items, paper products, baby supplies, bottled water and more. Collection sites are listed at [Supply Collections Locations and Supply Distribution Locations \(Helene Relief\) - NC 211](#)

VOLUNTEERING

General Volunteering

There is a great need for volunteers. Volunteers should wait to go to a disaster site until they are given an assignment from an established organization that has asked for assistance. If you need an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter to assist with your communication needs while volunteering, consider asking your local interpreting community if someone would be interested in co-volunteering with you. Many ASL interpreters want to help and including them reduces the burden on the relief organization that is focused on helping survivors. You can search for an organization that aligns with your views on volunteering or see the list below for some possible options:

- [United Way of North Carolina](#): Visit the list of websites listed to find a match for you.
- [North Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#): View a list of volunteer opportunities by county or volunteer agency.
- [American Red Cross](#): View the volunteer application.

Volunteering as an American Sign Language interpreter

There are many community, nonprofit, faith-based and other types of organizations that accept volunteers. First understand that the need for volunteer interpreters is small compared to the need for volunteers to staff shelters, help with cleanup and distribute food and supplies. Consider volunteering for whatever the need is rather than only as an interpreter. Or you can volunteer with a Deaf community member or group to work alongside them and provide interpreting. There are organizations listed by [North Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#), the [United Way of North Carolina](#) and the [American Red Cross](#) that can use your assistance, and may be able to utilize your skills as an ASL interpreter if the need arises. You can also contact the NCDHHS Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) [Communication Access Team](#) to be placed on a volunteer list. Being placed on that list does not guarantee you will have an opportunity to provide volunteer interpreting services, but if DSDHH finds out about a need we may contact you to see if you are available to assist. North Carolina does require a license to interpret in North Carolina, but that requirement has been waived by [Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 318](#) as it pertains to Helene relief efforts.

