

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

October 2, 2024

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell:

Thank you for your efforts, to date, in response to Hurricane Helene. Following the landfall of Hurricane Helene on September 26, 2024, some affected county and municipal governments in Florida face looming budget shortfalls that could severely disrupt ongoing disaster response and recovery efforts. In light of these challenges, we write to request you expedite outstanding reimbursements to local governments affected by Hurricanes Irma (DR-4337-FL), Michael (DR-4399-FL), Ian (DR-4673-FL), and Idalia (DR-4734-FL).

With the compounding impacts of Hurricanes Debby and Helene, some local governments in Florida face budget shortfalls that could affect their ability to pay wages, overtime, and other up-front expenses related to disaster response and recovery for Hurricane Helene. Given the devastation in Florida, municipal budget shortfalls could further exacerbate the challenges our communities are facing. Delivering outstanding FEMA reimbursements for costs associated with past storms will help provide the budget flexibilities needed for a robust response to Helene.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator