



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR**

January 16, 2025

Re: FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program in Western North Carolina After Hurricane Helene

To Administrator Criswell:

As you know, the people of western North Carolina have faced incredible tragedy and hardship due to Hurricane Helene. I know FEMA has been working to deliver aid, but the people of western North Carolina are experiencing chaos and uncertainty regarding temporary housing that is untenable. Many of these families' homes need long-term rebuilding and are not and will not be safe for some time.

I write today to ask you to extend the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program to eligible North Carolinians for an additional six months through September 30, 2025, so that these folks have certainty that they will have a safe place to live until their home is safe and habitable.

People in the mountains of North Carolina are facing below freezing temperatures. Next week, our state will experience another cold snap that may bring more winter weather. I know that you agree that people are entitled to pass the winter safely and securely as they rebuild their damaged or destroyed homes.

The shock of the damage Hurricane Helene caused is still very real for the people of western North Carolina. They need assurance that they will have shelter during this time so long as their home is still uninhabitable. We owe them support, not fear or confusion.

My goal is to work together with all local, state, and federal partners, including FEMA, because the people of western North Carolina need help, and they need it now. We must come together for the good of our people.

I appreciate your consideration of my request to extend TSA authorization for an additional six months. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible as time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josh Stein".

Josh Stein
Governor