



HEARTS Georgia *Housing Emergency Assistance and Recovery Through Sheltering*

Hurricane Helene Sheltering Program



What is it?

The State of Georgia's Housing Emergency Assistance and Recovery Through Sheltering (HEARTS) Program is available to provide temporary sheltering assistance to Georgians whose primary residences were majorly damaged, destroyed, or deemed not habitable by Hurricane Helene in one of the sixty-one (61) counties declared for both the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA) Programs. HEARTS will provide emergency sheltering in hotels or motels to eligible survivors who are both unable to locate alternate rental homes or apartments and agree to the HEARTS terms and conditions.

Georgia Counties declared for FEMA's PA and IA Programs for Hurricane Helene

Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Butts, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Columbia, Cook, Dodge, Echols, Effingham, Elbert, Emanuel, Evans, Fulton, Glascock, Glynn, Hancock, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lanier, Laurens, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Lowndes, McDuffie, McIntosh, Montgomery, Newton, Pierce, Rabun, Richmond, Screven, Stephens, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Telfair, Thomas, Tift, Toombs, Treutlen, Ware, Warren, Washington, Wheeler, and Wilkes Counties.



Who is providing this service?

HEARTS is a state-led sheltering program. The State will operate the program through the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS).

How long does the program last?

HEARTS is a temporary program that may last up to six (6) months. HEARTS focuses on transitioning survivors into sustainable housing.



How do I know if I'm eligible?

Hurricane Helene survivors within the 61 federally declared counties must first apply for FEMA's IA Program to be considered for HEARTS.

Once a Hurricane Helene survivor has applied for FEMA's IA Program, the survivor may be eligible for HEARTS if: 1) the survivor's primary residence was majorly damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Helene and is not habitable; 2) the survivor's primary residence is located within one of the 61 FEMA designated counties listed above; and 3) the survivor has a valid FEMA Registration Number. Survivors' homes deemed habitable are not eligible for HEARTS. FEMA and GEMA/HS are coordinating to ensure there are no duplication of benefits in providing emergency sheltering.



Eligible survivors who enroll in the HEARTS program must follow all laws and emergency sheltering rules provided by the State of Georgia. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the facility.