

2025 SOUTH CAROLINA HERO GRANT PROGRAM

Duke Energy Foundation is awarding \$500,000 through the 2025 Helping Emergency Response Organizations (HERO) Grant Program to support severe weather emergency preparedness across South Carolina. The grants to 38 organizations will fund training, life-saving equipment and innovative technology identified as gaps or needs following recent severe weather events – all aimed to aid in weather-related disaster planning and recovery operations.

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION	COUNTY	AMOUNT
Abbeville County Emergency Management	Funding will secure software that will provide real-time weather information to the emergency operations center when other sources of information are out of service.	Abbeville	\$5,000
Anderson County	The grant will provide traffic management equipment to include in a standalone trailer for use during emergency traffic operations in severe weather.	Anderson	\$15,000
City of Belton	Grant funds will acquire additional multi-band radios so first responders can communicate more effectively.	Anderson	\$11,000
Cherokee County Emergency Management	Project will fund installation of permanent digital signage with backup generation that will provide timely information to the community.	Cherokee	\$15,000
Town of Cheraw	Project funding will purchase a mobile command center for centralized rapid communication during severe weather events.	Chesterfield	\$10,500
City of Hartsville	Funding will fill a critical need for a utility task vehicle (UTV) and road barricades to enhance the city's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters.	Darlington	\$17,500
Dillon County Emergency Services	Grant funds will purchase a standby generator for use when severe weather events create multiday power outages.	Dillon	\$20,000
Dorchester County Emergency Management	Funding will provide chainsaws and training for county first responders.	Dorchester	\$10,000
Edgefield County	Grant money will purchase a permanent digital billboard for emergency notifications.	Edgefield	\$15,000
Fairfield County Emergency Services	Funding will purchase swift water equipment and training for first responders.	Fairfield	\$15,000

City of Florence Fire Department	The project will install a vehicle repeater system for communications equipment to keep lines of communication open when power outages and damaged infrastructure disable traditional radio systems.	Florence	\$14,000
Florence County	Funding will fill a critical need for a utility task vehicle (UTV) and road barricades to enhance the city's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters.	Florence	\$20,000
City of Lake City	Grant funds will acquire additional handheld multi-band radios so firefighters can communicate more effectively.	Florence	\$6,000
Georgetown County	Project will fund additional radio equipment to allow the emergency operations center (EOC) to communicate with state and other partner agencies when other communication systems are inoperable after a severe weather event.	Georgetown	\$12,000
Greenwood County	Grant funds will purchase a rescue boat and trailer to respond to severe flooding.	Greenwood	\$15,000
Greenville County Sheriff	Funding will purchase swift water dry suits to allow first responders to enter waters of any temperature or condition which ensures their safety and allows for a greater percentage of successful rescues.	Greenville	\$10,000
Greenville County Emergency Management	Funding will purchase swift water dry suits to allow first responders to enter waters of any temperature or condition which ensures their safety and allows for a greater percentage of successful rescues.	Greenville	\$10,000
Kershaw County Fire Service	Grant funds will water rescue equipment and training to respond to severe flooding.	Kershaw	\$19,500
Lugoff Fire Department	Funding will provide chainsaws and training for first responders.	Kershaw	\$17,500
City of Lancaster Police Department	Grant funds will provide a portable generator to serve the emergency operations center.	Lancaster	\$15,000
Durbin Creek Volunteer Fire Department	Funding will fill a critical need for a utility task vehicle (UTV) and road barricades to enhance the city's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters.	Laurens	\$18,000
Marion County	The project will procure emergency management software to help plan for and monitor evacuation activities during emergencies as well as track structures within a flood zone.	Marion	\$20,000

City of Walhalla	The grant will provide traffic management equipment for use during emergency traffic operations in severe weather.	Oconee	\$4,000
City of Westminster	Funding will provide chainsaws and training for county first responders.	Oconee	\$5,000
Oconee County	Funding will provide a mobile platform to deliver supplies to emergency shelters.	Oconee	\$11,000
City of Clemson	Grant money will purchase a transportable woodchipper for use in clearing debris from roadways after severe weather events.	Pickens	\$10,000
School District of Pickens County	Funds will provide satellite phones to improve communication internally and externally when responding to a severe weather event.	Pickens	\$9,000
Town of Ridge Spring	Project will fund additional radio equipment to improve communication with state and other partner agencies after a severe weather event.	Saluda	\$8,500
On Point EMS Network	Funds will provide wet weather gear for emergency response personnel.	Saluda	\$8,500
North Spartanburg Fire District	Grant money will purchase a payload-equipped drone capable of deploying flotation devices and medical supplies before a rescue can occur.	Spartanburg	\$15,000
South Spartanburg Fire District	Funding will purchase Land Mobile Radio Deployment Kit and more handheld multi-band radios so firefighters can communicate more effectively.	Spartanburg	\$15,000
Pacolet Station Fire District	Funding will fill a critical need for a utility task vehicle (UTV) and road barricades to enhance the city's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters.	Spartanburg	\$10,000
Inman Community Volunteer Fire Department	Grant funds will acquire additional handheld multi-band radios so firefighters can communicate more effectively.	Spartanburg	\$20,000
S.C. Emergency Medical Services Foundation	This funding will create ambulance strike team leaders statewide, a gap noted during Hurricane Helene response.	Statewide	\$15,000
American Red Cross	Funding will support long-term recovery of communities affected by Hurricane Helene.	Statewide	\$20,000
City of Sumter	Funding will purchase equipment and supplies to prepare roads for severe winter weather.	Sumter	\$10,250

Sumter County	Grant funds will purchase sandbags for distribution to prevent impacts from high-water events.	Sumter	\$12,750
City of York	Funding will fill a critical need for a utility task vehicle (UTV) and road barricades to enhance the city's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters.	York	\$15,000