

Community Health Centers on the Frontlines of Helene Response and Recovery

Despite suffering directly from Helene, the nine most affected Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Western NC have been serving on the frontlines of Helene response and recovery in their communities in the following ways:

BRINGING HEALTH CARE SERVICES OUT TO COMMUNITIES IN NEED, INCLUDING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND HEAVILY IMPACTED AREAS IN THE DAYS AFTER THE DISASTER.

- Deploying mobile health units to care for hard-hit communities like Lake Lure just days after Helene. (*Blue Ridge Health*)
- Launching a mobile dental unit in Avery County after losing their dental clinic to flood damage. (*High Country Community Health*)
- Utilizing ATVs for home visits to homebound patients in Caldwell and Buncombe Counties. (*WestLife Wellness, Blue Ridge Health*)
- Bringing mobile health units to senior living centers, homeless shelters, and public housing authorities. (*Appalachian Mountain Health, Western NC Community Health Services*)



VOLUNTEERING THEIR MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS TO CARE FOR DISPLACED RESIDENTS IN TEMPORARY SHELTERS AND FACILITIES.

- Volunteering at the Burnsville field hospital, shelters, and with local EMS to care for displaced individuals. (*Mountain Community Health Partnership*)
- Caring for evacuated nursing home residents at the Hickory Airport for days on end. (*High Country Community Health*)
- Staffing temporary shelters for displaced residents in Ashe and Watauga Counties. (*AppHealthCare*)
- Providing care for residents at the McDowell County Senior Center in Marion. (*Western NC Community Health Services*)



RAPIDLY REOPENING COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND PHARMACIES, EVEN WHILE UTILITIES REMAINED DOWN, SUPPLIES WERE SHORT, AND STAFF FACED PERSONAL IMPACTS.

- Opening their health centers and pharmacies in Madison County seven days a week to first responders and community members. (*Hot Springs Health Program*)
- Providing urgently needed services in the storm's aftermath, including closing lacerations and refilling essential medications, on a walk-in basis in hard-hit Yancey and Mitchell Counties. (*Mountain Community Health Partnership*)
- Launching camp for employees' children to keep services operational during school and childcare closures. (*Mountain Area Health Education Center*)

DISTRIBUTING ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES BEYOND HEALTH CARE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING WATER, FOOD, AND WARM CLOTHES AND TENTS.

- Distributing bottled water, diapers, and other essential supplies to the staff and families of Asheville PEAK Academy and other people in need. (*Appalachian Mountain Health*)
- Assisting their patients with applications for FEMA assistance and disaster benefits. (*Western NC Community Health Services*)

