

THE
HOPE
INITIATIVE

RESTORATION REPORT

Douglas, Georgia

October 17, 2024

Hope Initiative Observations

Description of Disaster

Hurricane Helene made landfall on the Gulf Coast of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane that struck Douglas, Georgia late September 26, 2024, with catastrophic winds still on the dangerous high-end Category 2 hurricane. This left a devastating impact on Douglas as well as the entire Coffee County community. This area has a very dense population of trees that have come down and damaged or destroyed many homes. According to Douglas Now local news and events the Georgia Forestry Commission assessment shows the storm traversed 8.9 million acres of forestland with a total timber resource impact of 1.28 billion. It also had a 6.4-billion-dollar impact on Georgia’s agriculture industry with 48,000 acres of crops affected.

Assessment:

Approximate Population Size of Douglas Georgia: 11,700 people

Approximate Population Size of Coffee County: 43,172 people

Total Residences-Damaged: *Currently collecting data*

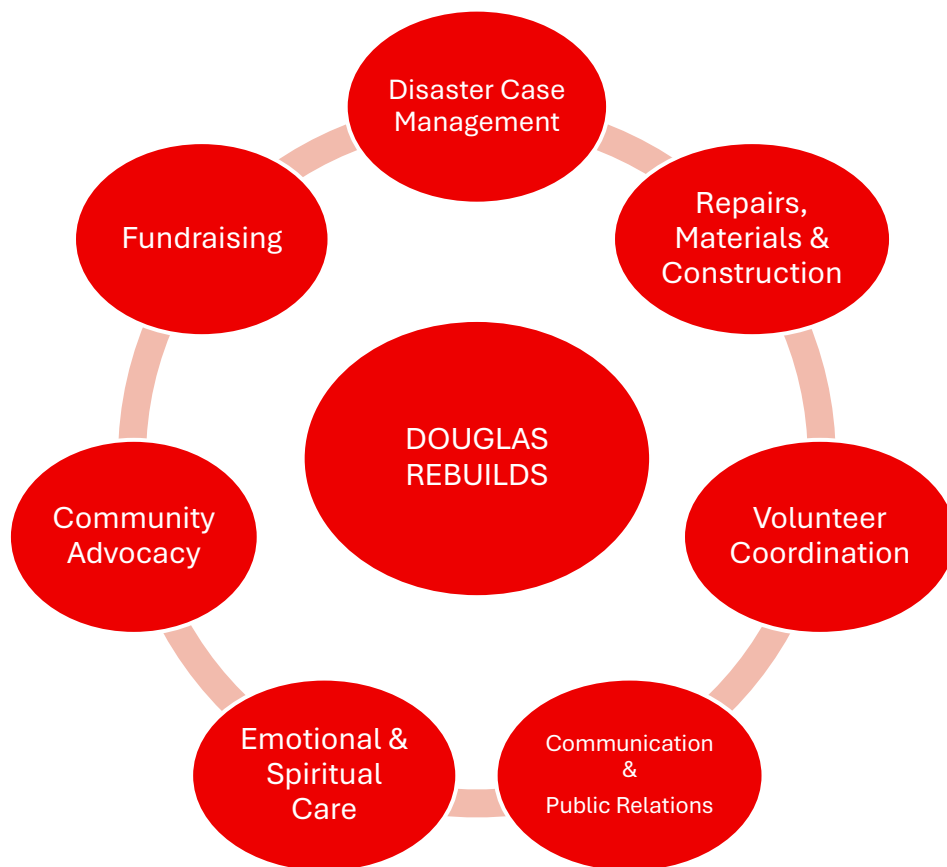
Total Residences-Complete Loss: *Currently collecting data*

Immediate Needs	Intermediate Needs	Long Term Recovery
Power	Tree Removal	Significant Repairs
Food	Repairs	New Builds
Tree Limb Removal	Temporary Housing	
Tarping		

Comments: Currently the greatest need for Douglas is to get a clear picture of total loss in order to have a data driven response. The effective recovery of Douglas will require both data and collaboration.

Rebuilding Engagement Strategies

When the disaster exceeds the ability of the community to respond, enlisting partners is necessary for the Long-Term Recovery of your community. Engaging local faith-based community provides an opportunity to multiply your efforts. This also allows a boots on the ground for faith based and non-profits to engage in the long term process as well. The formation of a local Long Term Recovery Team will allow a delegation of work with a multiplication of resources and prevents a duplication of services.



Hope Initiative Recommendations

Formation of Local Long Term Recovery Team (DOUGLAS REBUILDS)

1. Look at how to create a local Long Term Recovery Team that is made up of churches, businesses, non-profits, and community leaders.
2. The LTRT will need a director. This will be the central leader that guides the organization through the recovery. The director will also need at least one administrative staff.
3. Each of the teams will need a leader that can help coordinate efforts for the area they are responsible for.
4. Executive decisions for the group should be made amongst the executive team which includes the director and team leaders.

First Steps

1. Mayor Pre-Meeting

How churches are engaged:

- a. Gather data with a deadline and create a central site location for data to be turned in.
- b. Sort and categorize all data-needs into excel with the deadline.
- c. Goal to create work orders.
 - i. Work orders to be completed by volunteers.
 - ii. Work orders to be completed by contractors.
 - iii. Create 3 buckets (categories):
 1. Unskilled Labors
 2. Moderate Labors
 3. Homebuilding

2. Pastors/Community Leaders Dinner:

Faith based, Business, Non-profit, & Community leaders

- a. Review Data Collected
- b. Break down walls

- c. Employing local church
 - d. Prioritizing gospel/disaster
 - e. Recovery Training
 - f. LTRT soft formation
3. Formation of the LTRT (DOUGLAS REBUILDS)

Organization of volunteer leaders to oversee recovery

- a. Set goals of the team
- b. Establish best practices
- c. Determine how the team will remain in communication
- d. Establish a central office for the LTRT to meet

Next Steps

1. Disaster Case Management Team
 - a. Centralize all data and family information
 - b. Prioritize needs and connect families with available resources
 - c. Continued identification of homes in town that need to be rebuilt.
2. Repairs, Materials, and Construction Team
 - a. Inventory available resources
 - b. Identify Building Partners with volunteer and non-profit organizations
 - c. Procure warehouse space for donated materials.
3. Volunteer Coordination Team
 - a. Identify Volunteer Housing Site
 - i. Possibly State College Dorms
 - ii. Possibly State Park
 1. State Park possibly used for housing volunteers & temporary displaced – 6 cabins/50 site RV park
 2. Seek governor's aid in securing state college dorms or General Coffee state park.
 3. Secure funding for volunteer housing site.

4. Communication & Public Relations Team
 - a. Create a social media page that can be used to share updates and available resources
 - b. Share information of upcoming opportunities to serve in the community as work orders are generated.

5. Emotional & Spiritual Care Team
 - a. Offer Chaplain care & Trauma Resources to the community
 - b. Identify through case management those who may wish emotional & spiritual care
 - c. Recruit local Pastors and counselors that can provide emotional & spiritual care.

6. Community Advocacy Team
 - a. Identify resources that can be used to supplement unmet needs of those affected by the disaster. (Local Foodbank, Churches, Non-profits, etc.)
 - b. Recruit partners that can help assist with unmet financial needs.

7. Fundraising Team
 - a. Establish where money being donated to the disaster will be held. (Must be a 501-c3)
 - b. Establish process for the record keeping, request, and distribution of funds.
 - c. Actively pursue funds including grants, donors, and government assistance.
 - d. Work with your local and state government to lobby for additional resource for the community of Douglas.
 - e. Use data to convey need, and designate specific ways money will be used in the recovery process.

Hope Initiative Opportunities

With the FEMA 90-day window that provides federal funding for clean up already in motion it is extremely important that the community of Douglas move with urgency to remove as much debris and downed trees as possible to be picked up. As of today there is currently a 69-day window to work in.

1. Volunteer Blitz

The Hope initiative is prepared to recruit and bring in outside volunteers to assist the community of Douglas in this effort. With the appropriate data, and assistance from the faith community, a volunteer blitz can be very effective in completing a large volume of work orders in a short amount of time.

In order for this to take place the data being collected and the LTRT forming are extremely important.

A project of this nature would require:

1. A clear picture of needs, including the volume, & types of needs to be matched with volunteer abilities
2. Volunteer Housing.
3. A central office with local staff to help facilitate efforts including coordination and floaters to support any last minute needs that arrive on a job site.
4. Any rebuild jobs to have materials already on site before construction begins
5. If possible meals for volunteers delivered on site so they can continue to work.

2. Permanent Housing

The Hope Initiative is currently reviewing how we can provide permanent housing to those affected by the hurricane. As we receive data, and identify those families in need we will have a clearer picture on how we can assist with this significant need.

