



## Create a Temporary State Tax Credit to Facilitate Contributions to Churches and Charities Providing Hurricane Relief

As individuals and families throughout much of the state are struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, churches and charities are providing many types of immediate relief and long-term support. **The General Assembly can help maximize donations to organizations offering these services by creating a temporary state tax credit for contributions to charities and churches working on hurricane relief and recovery efforts.**

### Charities and churches are providing a wide variety of disaster relief services, such as . . .

- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh is working throughout eastern North Carolina to provide food and supplies to individuals affected by the hurricane and help families who have lost their homes to find safe and stable housing.
- United Ways across North Carolina continue to operate the state's 2-1-1 system to connect individuals in need with services providers 24 hours a day.
- Samaritan's Purse has sent teams to assist homeowners with cleanup in a variety of ways—tarping roofs, clearing debris, chainsaw work, and mud-outs.
- The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina is providing immediate food support to families who are without power and who have been displaced from their homes.
- The North Carolina Community Foundation and Cumberland Community Foundation have set up special hurricane relief funds to help direct contributions to the areas of greatest need both now and as recovery efforts continue over the coming months and even years.
- Legal Aid of North Carolina is providing free legal help as individuals affected by the hurricane navigate through insurance policies, deal with interruptions in utility services and employment, and try to piece together lost legal documents.

### Why would a state tax credit help these relief and recovery efforts?

- Because of recent federal tax law changes, the vast majority of North Carolinians will be taking the standard deduction this year, meaning they will get no tax savings for their charitable contributions. In the past, about one-third of North Carolinians claimed the charitable deduction. **Adding a temporary state tax credit would encourage people throughout the state to give more generously to help their fellow North Carolinians during this time of urgent need.**
- Churches and charities are grateful for the generous contributions of food, water, hygiene supplies, batteries, and equipment they have been receiving. However, monetary contributions are the best way to help them provide more – and more efficient – relief and recovery support. **A state tax credit would encourage individuals to provide this much needed financial assistance – in addition to the contributions they are already making.**

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