

## Generator and drones

### Transferred In From Cause Vetting Required

**Mailbox:** Gaston  
**Deadline:**  
**VIP:**  
**Template Type:** Duke Energy Foundation Grant  
**ID:** 10242  
**Status:** Approved  
**Received:** 4/25/2025  
**Label:**

## Duke Energy Foundation Grant

### Organization Information

Were you able to find your organization in the Cause search above? No

Organization Name Gaston County EM and Fire Services

Please confirm you have a Tax ID in the format 00-0000000 or a 7 digit NCES district ID EIN

Tax ID

(IRS): Non-profit Organization Status Not a 501(c) Organization

(IRS): Organization Legal Name

(IRS): Organization Address

(IRS): Organization City

(IRS): Organization State

(IRS): Organization Zip Code

Country United States of America (The)

State North Carolina

City Gastonia

Mission Statement The Gaston County Office of Emergency Management and Fire Services protects life, property, and the environment by leading coordinated efforts to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate emergencies. Through planning, education, and collaboration with public safety partners and the community, we build a safer, more resilient Gaston County.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure No conflict of interest

### Contact Information

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### Program Information

Select the Duke Energy investment priority that best aligns with your grant proposal.	Climate Resiliency
Select Climate Resiliency focus area(s)	Resiliency projects that prepare communities for and mitigate against the effects of climate change Natural disaster preparedness and response programming
Second priority area of alignment (if applicable)	
Third priority area of alignment (if applicable)	
Grant Request Title	Generator and drones
Grant Request Summary	Gaston County Office of Emergency Management and Fire Services seeks funding for a high-capacity generator and drones to enhance disaster preparedness and climate resiliency. The generator will power our All-Hazards Simulator, an educational tool that teaches residents about severe weather and fire safety, while the drones will support real-time damage assessment, improve disaster response, and aid in early identification of threats. This project will strengthen community readiness, improve response capabilities, and reduce recovery time following climate-related disasters.
Requested Grant Amount	USD 24,200.00
Fund Use	<p>The Duke Energy Foundation funds will be used to purchase a high-capacity generator and advanced drones, both critical components of Gaston County's strategy to strengthen disaster preparedness, response capabilities, and climate resiliency. The generator will power our All-Hazards Simulator, a mobile learning unit that travels to schools, senior centers, and community events to teach residents how to recognize and respond to severe weather, fire hazards, and other emergencies. This proactive education targets populations most vulnerable to disasters and supports long-term community resilience by equipping individuals with the knowledge and confidence to act before, during, and after a crisis.</p> <p>The drones will be deployed in the aftermath of storms or other large-scale emergencies to conduct aerial damage assessments, locate blocked evacuation routes, monitor flood-prone areas in real-time, and support search and rescue operations, particularly in areas that are unsafe or inaccessible by vehicle or foot. These real-time insights allow emergency managers to make faster, better-informed decisions, ensuring resources are directed where they're needed most and reducing risks to both responders and residents. Together, these investments will greatly enhance our capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the escalating threats of climate change, including more intense storms, flooding, and infrastructure strain, delivering maximum impact for the safety and well-being of Gaston County</p>

residents.

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Grant Request Overview

The Gaston County Office of Emergency Management and Fire Services is launching a climate resiliency initiative focused on public education, disaster preparedness, and emergency response. With support from the Duke Energy Foundation, we will purchase a high-capacity generator to power our All-Hazards Simulator and acquire drones to enhance disaster response and recovery operations.

The All-Hazards Simulator is a mobile educational tool that teaches residents, especially youth, seniors, and vulnerable populations, about severe weather events, fire safety, and disaster readiness. It provides realistic, hands-on learning experiences at schools, community events, and preparedness fairs. The generator will ensure continued operation in remote areas and during power outages, increasing community access to vital preparedness programming.

The drones will be used for rapid post-disaster damage assessment, flood monitoring, and identifying blocked evacuation routes or other hazards. These tools will enhance situational awareness, reduce response times, support search and rescue operations, and improve the allocation of emergency resources.

Expected Results and Measures of Success

Educate at least 7,500 residents annually using the All-Hazards Simulator.

Reduce post-disaster damage assessment times by 40% using drone technology.

Increase the reach and continuity of community preparedness events by ensuring generator-powered operation regardless of location.

Improve overall community resiliency by providing timely, accurate information and resources during emergencies.

What Success Looks Like

A more informed and prepared public, quicker and safer response to disasters, and stronger resiliency across Gaston County. This project will help the county better anticipate, endure, and recover from the increasing risks associated with climate change and natural disasters.

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Does most of the funding for this grant program specifically seek to serve

Yes

underserved or low-income populations?

Program confirmation

Supporting Documentation

Grant Acknowledgement

I Acknowledge

Select ALL counties served by this grant program

**County/State**

- |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 1. | Cleveland, NC   |
| 2. | Gaston, NC      |
| 3. | Lincoln, NC     |
| 4. | Mecklenburg, NC |

Please provide the total number of people being served DIRECTLY by this grant program.

750000

**Financial information**

Total Grant Program Budget Amount

USD 24,200.00

Upload the Overall Grant Program Budget

[Duke Energy Grant Budget Worksheet.pdf](#)

Other Funders

N/A

**Volunteer Engagement**

Describe any specific volunteer opportunities associated with this grant program

This grant program creates a wide range of meaningful volunteer and community engagement opportunities that directly contribute to disaster preparedness, response, and long-term resilience. One major component involves trained volunteers supporting the operation of our All-Hazards Simulator. As this mobile educational unit travels to schools, community centers, preparedness fairs, and public events, volunteers assist in facilitating interactive sessions, distributing preparedness materials, and leading discussions on how individuals and families can stay safe during natural disasters. This peer-to-peer learning model strengthens community connections while promoting personal responsibility in emergency readiness. In addition to preparedness education, this program also encourages volunteer involvement in post-disaster operations. Community members, county employees, and volunteers, many of whom are personally impacted by the disaster, often take active roles in conducting preliminary damage assessments, documenting impacts, and assisting emergency personnel by providing situational awareness from the field. These efforts not only speed up the recovery process but also empower residents to be part of the solution during times of crisis. By involving the public in both education and response, the program not only extends its reach but also fosters a culture of shared responsibility and resilience, which is essential in the face of increasing climate-related disasters.

## Approval Info

### Approval Info

Initial Recommendation	Recommended for Approval
Initial Review Feedback	
Foundation Manager Feedback	
Total Amount to be Approved	USD 10,000.00
One payment or multiple payments?	Single Payment
Select Approval Date	6/26/2025
Select Budget:	DEC NC - Gaston, Mecklenburg, Union
Payment Method	Benevity Disbursement

### Budget review

Please confirm that the remaining amount in the Budget is sufficient to create payments. If not, please return to the previous page and choose another budget.

I confirm

**Notes**

**Vetting failed**

Text	Vetting failed, issues with account. Cannot fund.
Contact	
Author	Sarah Wray
Date	6/13/2025 5:08:19 PM
Attachment	

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