

Biden-Harris administration blasted for running out of money to deal with Hurricane Helene after blowing billions on migrants

11:40 EDT 03 Oct 2024, updated 15:11 EDT 03 Oct 2024 By Jon Michael Raasch, Political Reporter In Washington, D.C., For Dailymail.Com



The federal government's disaster response agency doesn't have enough money to help Americans left in distress by Hurricane Helene after blowing billions on illegal migrants.

Over the last two years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has handed out more than \$1 billion taxpayer dollars to specifically support illegal migrants with housing.

But now there's no money to help out the 150,000 American citizens who have reached out for federal assistance after their homes were damaged by Hurricane Helene.

'FEMA does not have the funds to make it through the season,' Department of Homeland Security Secretary [Alejandro Mayorkas](#) admitted on Wednesday.

Only last week, [Congress](#) passed a funding bill for an additional \$20 billion for the anticipated hurricane season.



A member of law enforcement surveys flood damage in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene on October 2, 2024 in Chimney Rock, North Carolina. The death toll has topped 180 people across the southeastern U.S. due to the storm, according to published reports, which made landfall as a category 4 storm last Thursday. Mayorkas says FEMA is running out of money to help

But it won't be enough after Hurricane Helene ripped through Appalachia and the south [killing nearly 200 Americans](#) - with additional storms on the horizon.

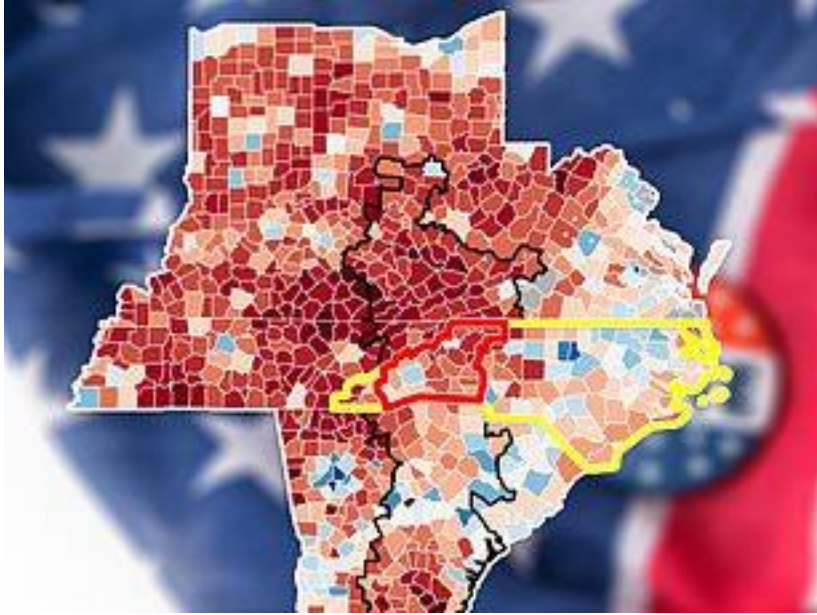
And that is triggering lawmakers who are baffled after the taxpayer-funded agency pumped billions into nonprofits supporting illegal migrants.

FEMA was given \$640 million to support migrants in the 2024 fiscal year - and outrage is mounting that the agency is refusing to re-allocate those funds to disaster relief for Americans.



'Mayorkas and FEMA — immediately stop spending money on illegal immigration resettlement and redirect those funds to areas hit by the hurricane,' [Texas](#) Gov. [Greg Abbott](#) posted on X.

'Put Americans first.'



'WTF!' Donald Trump Jr. wrote on X in response to a report about FEMA running out of money.

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody also ripped the federal department for prioritizing migrants ahead of Americans.

'They have taken the FEMA emergency food and shelter program and over time siphoned off hundreds of millions of dollars into basically making it an illegal immigrant resettlement program,' she said Thursday.

Mayorkas was impeached by the House of Representatives earlier this year for his handling of the U.S.-Mexico, where lawmakers say over 10 million migrants have been [encountered by authorities under his tenure](#), a record number.



Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas was impeached by Republicans in the House of Representatives earlier this year but the Senate did not take up the case



Migrants wait to be processed by U.S. Border Patrol agents after crossing into the U.S. from Mexico on June 14, 2024 in Jacumba Hot Springs, California. FEMA has received over \$1 billion to shelter non-citizens since 2023



© Getty Images
Lawmakers estimate that over 10 million migrants have been encountered crossing into the U.S. over the last several years under Joe Biden

Many Republicans, and a select few Democrats, have openly criticized his leadership of DHS and have said he is more focused on facilitating migrants entering the U.S. than enforcing laws to restrict the flow of illegal immigration.

This is evident in the 2023 creation of FEMA's non-citizen-only Shelter and Service Program (SSP).

'The Shelter and Services Program (SSP) provides funds to state, local, tribal, and nonprofit organizations to support sheltering and other eligible activities, including facility improvements, to support noncitizen migrants who have been encountered and released by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS),' according to the DHS website.

The program to provide shelters for non-citizens has received over \$1 billion in funding since its inception two years ago.

Its budget nearly doubled from \$363.8 million in 2023 to \$650 million 2024.

There has been no indication that this money earmarked for migrants will help Americans in dire straights as a result of Hurricane Helene.

'We are meeting the immediate needs with the money that we have,' Mayorkas said Wednesday.
'We are expecting another hurricane hitting.'



Migrants are processed by U.S. Border Patrol agents after crossing into U.S. from Mexico through an abandoned railroad



© Getty Images

Flood damage is seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene on October 2, 2024 in Chimney Rock, North Carolina



Destroyed houses in the mountains of North Carolina

FEMA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

'Mayorkas says FEMA doesn't have enough money to make it through hurricane season, but apparently it had enough to spend \$1B resettling illegal aliens into the U.S. over the past few years,' Rep. Eric Burlison, R-Mo., wrote in a statement Thursday.

'That's the Biden/Harris admin summed up in a nutshell. They put Americans last, always.'

Iowa Republican Rep. Ashley Hinson posted on X: 'FEMA shouldn't be able to spend taxpayer funds to support illegal immigrants & perpetuate the border crisis created by Biden & Harris.'

'The agency should be solely focused on disaster relief & keeping Americans safe. Harris & Biden always put illegals over Americans.'

Tennessee Republican Sen. Marsha Blackburn similarly posted on X: 'Under the direction of the Biden-Harris admin, FEMA has been siphoning more than \$1B in taxpayer dollars meant for disaster relief to support illegal aliens.'

'Even in the face of massive destruction and heartbreak in our communities, this administration puts America last.'

Another Republican, Rep. Mark Alford of Missouri, decried how migrants are occupying homes that could house Americans impacted by the disaster.

'Let this sink in: Millions of illegal immigrants are occupying homes that could be used to house American victims devastated by Hurricane Helene. This is the Harris-Biden America.'