



DHRM HR Highlights November/ December 2024

Adjunct Emergency Workforce (AEW) Activated to Assist with Hurricane Helene Recovery Efforts

On October 11, 2024, the [Adjunct Emergency Workforce](#) (AEW) was activated for the first time since COVID-19 to support the staffing at Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in 11 counties. Since its first activation in 2021 to support COVID Vaccination Centers, the AEW program has undergone many programmatic updates to support different disasters in the Commonwealth. This relaunch started small with 30 AEW members from 22 different state agencies and institutions, deploying to DRCs in Southwest Virginia. They traveled from all over Virginia to support Southwest Virginia recovery efforts, including Norfolk, Richmond, and Northern Virginia.

For the past eight weeks, AEW members have been staffing DRCs to assist Hurricane Helene survivors with their recovery journey. While at the DRCs, they have connected survivors to critical government services, tracked any unmet needs from community members and provided updates to the VDEM team. Their efforts have been instrumental in helping communities recover and navigate the disaster recovery process. We appreciate their time as well as their commitment to service in the Commonwealth.



AEW Member, Cornelius Leonard from the Department of Medical Department of Medical Assistance Services, supporting the Washington County Disaster Recovery Center.



AEW Member, William Westerfield an investigator with the State Corporation Commission, at the DRC in Grayson, Virginia.

Visit the [AEW webpage](#) to find out more information or you can register [here](#) to become a participant. To learn about how your agency can support disasters in the Commonwealth, please reach out to [Rebecca Heins](#) with VDEM.