



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

March 1, 2023

Lonnie Hunt, Executive Director  
Deep East Texas Council of Governments  
1405 Kurth Drive  
Lufkin, TX 75904

Re: Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) Hurricane Harvey CDBG-DR Local Infrastructure Program MOD Amendment Approval

Mr. Hunt,

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) Community Development and Revitalization division (GLO-CDR) is approving the DETCOG Hurricane Harvey CDBG-DR Local Infrastructure Program Method of Distribution (MOD) Amendment. The amendment was initially submitted January 31, 2023, underwent review by GLO staff, and was submitted a final time with corrections made on February 23, 2023. The below entity has been allocated funds in addition to their initial total:

Entity	Initial Allocation	Reallocation Amount	Final Total Allocation
San Jacinto County	\$2,155,799	\$101,103	\$2,256,902

Acceptance of the MOD amendment does not indicate approval of any proposed reallocation recommendations. With this approval, the entity receiving reallocated funds will receive additional information regarding the application process from the GLO. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Alex Swift at [alex.swift.glo@recovery.texas.gov](mailto:alex.swift.glo@recovery.texas.gov)

Sincerely,

*Alexandra Gamble*

Alexandra Gamble, Policy Development Director  
Community Development and Revitalization

Cc: Shawn Strange, Community Development and Revitalization Policy Development Manager

# **Amendment to Deep East Texas Council of Governments Method of Distribution for Hurricane Harvey CDBG-DR Local Infrastructure Program Funds (MOD Amendment)**

**Approved December 15, 2022**

## **Purpose:**

This Amendment deals with the reallocation of \$101,103 in declined or de-obligated Hurricane Harvey CDBG-DR funds from the original Local Infrastructure MOD. This action amends the Local Infrastructure MOD which was adopted by DETCOG on July 12, 2018 and approved by the GLO on October 3, 2018.

## **Public Hearing and Comment Period:**

The DETCOG Board of Directors conducted a public hearing/public planning meeting on October 27, 2022 and another public hearing on November 22, 2022. Written comments were received from October 21, 2022 until December 9, 2022.

## **Use of Funds Approved:**

At a public meeting on December 15, 2022, the DETCOG Executive Committee adopted a Resolution which is attached and made part of this MOD Amendment. The following reallocation of funds was approved:

The available funds of \$101,103 are reallocated to San Jacinto County, the top-ranked eligible entity. San Jacinto County will be required to confirm acceptance of the reallocation and confirm it has an eligible project that meets the 70 percent LMI requirement; otherwise, the reallocation will go to the next highest-ranking entity that accepts and confirms it has an eligible project. Ranking of entities is as follows:

1. San Jacinto County
2. Newton County
3. Jasper County
4. Polk County
5. Tyler County

*I certify that this Amendment was approved by unanimous vote of the Executive Committee of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments on December 15, 2022.*



*Lonnie Hunt, Executive Director & Authorized Official*

December 15, 2022

*Date Signed*



# Council of Governments (COG) Method of Distribution Amendment 1 Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster Recovery Local Infrastructure Program

## Contact Information

Council of Governments: **Deep East Texas (DETCOG)**

Principal Contact Name, Title: **Lonnie Hunt, Executive Director**

Principal Contact Telephone: **936-634-2247 ext. 5264**

## Local Infrastructure Program COG MOD Amount:

\$7,464,224

## Reallocation Amount:

HUD MID Total	<b>\$101,103</b>
State MID Total	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Reallocation Amount</b>	<b>\$101,103</b>

## Local Infrastructure Program Method of Distribution Amendment Detail

The COG is required to prepare a method of distribution amendment for the Local Infrastructure Program funds between the eligible cities and counties. The GLO has directed the COG to use a direct allocation technique based on objective and verifiable data. The distribution should be based on, but not limited to, unmet need tied back to Hurricane Harvey damages.

## Reallocation Summary

The following is a summary of the reallocation process of funds, including entities that have declined funds, entities that are receiving reallocated funds, and eligible activities.

The purpose of this MOD Amendment is to reallocate \$101,103 in declined MOD funding that was originally allocated to San Augustine County.

The original MOD allocation was based on two distribution factors:

- (1) A \$100,000 set aside for each county included Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4332; and (2) Remainder of funds distributed based on verified housing damages weighted by severity.

It is impossible for the MOD Amendment to include any set asides due to the limited amount of funds available. Therefore, the MOD Amendment allocates all available funding based on verified housing damages weighted by severity.

Because of the requirement to ensure allocation of at least a minimum percentage of funds to HUD-Most Impacted (HUD-MID) Counties and Zip Codes, the MOD Amendment includes a Threshold Factor that an entity is only eligible if a majority of its population is included in a HUD-MID area.

The amount of funding available (\$101,103) and the required minimum allocation (\$100,000) only allow for an allocation to one entity. Eligible entities are ranked based on weighted housing damages. The entire reallocation will go to the top-ranked eligible entity: San Jacinto County.

## Reallocation Changes Table:

Attached is a table showing all jurisdictions that have had a change in allocation, including jurisdictions that have declined funds and the jurisdictions that have been reallocated those funds. All allocations must meet or exceed a floor of \$100,000 to help ensure sufficient funds for at least one eligible project.

Reallocation Table Page Number:	7
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## Distribution Factors

Have the distribution factors been amended? \*

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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\* Same distribution factor is used, but the set asides were eliminated.

The COG has selected the following distribution factors:

Distribution Factor*	Weight	Documentation Source	Explanation of Factor Selection and Weighting
<b>Verified Housing Damages Weighted by Severity</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>“FEMA Individual Assistance Housing Registrants Large Disasters-V1”</b>	<b>Most reliable &amp; comprehensive data available. Claims were verified by FEMA and categorized by severity. Number and severity of claims are best indicator of overall impact of the disaster. Claims are weighted with the following multipliers:</b> <b>Minor Low: 0.5</b> <b>Minor High: 1.0</b> <b>Major Low: 2.0</b> <b>Major High: 4.0</b> <b>Severe: 5.0</b>

## Threshold Factors

(New Added Section)

If any, please describe threshold factors that were used to allocate funds.

Distribution Factor	Documentation Source	Explanation of Factor Selection
<b>More than 50 Percent of Entity's Population is Located in a HUD-MID Area.</b>	<b>Determination of HUD-MID areas: "State of Texas Plan for Recovery: Hurricane Harvey – Round 1."</b>  <b>Population statistics: U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Communities Survey.</b>	<b>Required to meet guidance provided by TXGLO that the MOD Amendment must ensure allocation of at least a minimum percentage of funds to HUD-MID Counties and Zip Codes. Since there is only enough funding for one allocation, that allocation must be to a HUD-MID area.</b>

## Eligible Activities

Have the eligible activities been amended?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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Activities must be specifically related to Hurricane Harvey, and must meet the following criteria as outlined in the State of Texas Plan for Disaster Recovery: Hurricane Harvey as amended.

Each infrastructure activity must demonstrate how it will contribute to the long-term recovery and restoration of housing.

The COG has addressed prioritization of eligible activities as follows:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The COG has chosen not to limit Subrecipients in the region to projects meeting regional priority activities.	
<b>-OR-</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	The COG has limited Subrecipients in the region to selecting projects meeting the following regional priority activities:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Specially Authorized Public Facilities & Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sewer Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Public Utilities (gas, et al)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearance & Demolition Activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Street Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flood and Drainage Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Centers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debris Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Centers & Emergency Shelters (Existing)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks, Playgrounds and other Recreational Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Protection Facilities and Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other CDBG-DR eligible activities related to infrastructure

## Ineligible Activities

Ineligible activities for the local infrastructure program are outlined in the State of Texas Plan for Disaster Recovery: Hurricane Harvey and should be referenced accordingly.

## **Low- and Moderate-Income Requirement**

Below is an explanation of how the method of distribution meets the 70 percent low- and moderate-income (LMI) requirement for each program. This means that 70 percent of the funds must benefit areas that are 51% or more LMI persons with incomes below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Before being awarded the reallocated funds, the receiving entity will be required to acknowledge in writing that they will accept the funds, and that they have an eligible project which will meet the 70 percent LMI requirement.

## **Citizen Participation**

Below is a description addressing how the COG complied with their Citizen Participation Plan regarding citizen and nongovernmental organization outreach, and any additional efforts exceeding GLO minimum public participation requirements:

Prior to development of the MOD Amendment, DETCOG conducted a public hearing (Public Planning Meeting) within the Harvey Disaster area. To encourage greater participation, this meeting was held in conjunction with a regular monthly DETCOG Board Meeting which was open to the public and complied with provisions of the Texas Public Meetings Act. In addition, we promoted and conducted an online public information meeting for the convenience of all interested parties. Comments were also accepted by mail, email, or fax. A Solicitation of Public Comment notice was published in English and Spanish in seven newspapers which are published in Jasper, Newton, Polk, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Sabine, and Tyler Counties. Notices were sent to the County Judge and County Clerk of each of these counties with a request for the notice to be posted publicly in the same location that meetings of the County Commissioners Court are posted. Notices were also sent to Cities, School Districts, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, and local Housing Authorities within these seven counties. The notice was posted publicly at the DETCOG office. The notice was posted on DETCOG's website with direct links in both English and Spanish on the homepage. The notice was posted in both English and Spanish on DETCOG social media pages (Facebook and Twitter). Notices were also be mailed, emailed, or faxed to identified housing advocacy organizations which are active within our region, including the Jasper Branch of NAACP, Texas Appleseed, Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, Texas Association of Community Development Corporations, and the Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living. In addition, the notices were sent to members of the DETCOG Board of Directors, which includes a Minority Representative from each county within the region. Notice of the public hearings was also posted in the Texas Register at the Texas Secretary of State website. Notices were also sent by mail, email, or fax to the following agencies: DETCOG Regional Housing Authority, DETCOG Housing Assistance Program, Hemphill Housing Authority, Jasper Housing Authority, Livingston Housing Authority, Newton Housing Authority, Pineland Housing Authority, San Augustine Housing Authority, Woodville Housing Authority, Texas Department of Health/Human Services Offices in Polk, Sabine, and Tyler Counties, the Jasper-Newton County Public Health District, and Burke (Regional Mental Health Authority).

## Public Hearing Information

Meeting Type	Public Planning Meeting	MOD Public Hearing
Date(s):	October 27, 2022	November 22, 2022
Location(s):	Howard Civic Center, Newton TX	Polk County Commerce Center, Livingston TX
Total Attendance:	50	71

*Direct Notice.* As required, direct notice was sent to eligible entities at least **five (5) days** in advance of the public hearing using the following method(s) (at least one must be selected):

Method	Public Planning Meeting	MOD Public Hearing
	Date(s) Sent	Date(s) Sent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email	10/19/2022	11/14/2022
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fax	10/19/2022	11/14/2022
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Delivery		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mail	10/19/2022	11/14/2022

*Internet Notice.* As required, public notice was distributed on the Internet at least **five (5) days** in advance using the following method:

Website Notice	Public Planning Meeting	MOD Public Hearing
Date(s)	10/20/2022	11/10/2022

*Published Notice.* As required, notice of the public hearing was published in all newspapers of record at least **three (3) days** in advance. Notice of public hearing was published in the following regional newspaper(s):

Newspaper Name	Public Planning Meeting	MOD Public Hearing
	Date Published	Date Published
East Texas Banner -Kirbyville (Jasper Co.)	10/19/2022	11/16/2022
Newton County News (Newton Co.)	10/19/2022	11/16/2022
Sabine County Reporter (Sabine Co.)	10/19/2022	11/16/2022
Polk County Enterprise (Polk Co.)	10/20/2022	11/13/2022
San Augustine Tribune (San Augustine Co.)	10/20/2022	11/17/2022
San Jacinto News-Times (San Jacinto Co.)	10/20/2022	11/17/2022
Tyler County Booster (Tyler Co.)	10/20/2022	11/17/2022

## Public Comment Period

Provide the dates of the public comment period for the COG MOD Amendment.

Start Date:	10/21/2022	End Date:	12/9/2022	No. of Days:	50
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*Accommodations.* Describe any efforts to notify and accommodate those with modified communication needs, such as posting information and providing interpretive services for persons with Limited English Proficiency and for people with hearing impairments or other access and functional needs (ADA compliance).

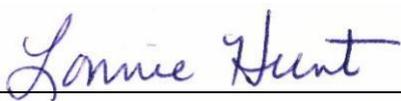
The Solicitation For Public Comment offered special accommodations if requested 24 hours in advance, and language interpreters or other special communication needs if requested 48 hours in advance. Even though no requests for special accommodations or communication needs were received, a Spanish language interpreter attended the meeting and was available to provide services if needed. The two hearings were held in ADA-compliant buildings.

### **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Statement**

All subrecipients will certify that they will affirmatively further fair housing (“AFFH”) in their grant agreements, and will receive GLO training and technical assistance in meeting their AFFH obligations. Additionally, all project applications will undergo AFFH review by GLO before approval of projects. Such review will include assessment of a proposed project’s area demography, socioeconomic characteristics, housing configuration and needs, educational, transportation, and health care opportunities, environmental hazards or concerns, and all other factors material to the AFFH determination. Applications should show that projects are likely to lessen area racial, ethnic, and low-income concentrations, and/or promote affordable housing in low-poverty, nonminority areas in response to natural hazard related impacts.

### **Approval and Signatory Authority**

Attached is a Resolution from the COG approving the method of distribution and authorizing its submittal to the Texas General Land Office. I certify that the contents of this document and all related attachments are complete and accurate.

	12/15/2022
Signature	Date
Lonnie Hunt	Executive Director
Printed Name	Title
<a href="mailto:lhunt@detcog.gov">lhunt@detcog.gov</a>	936-544-6963 ext. 5264
Email Address	Telephone Number

# Reallocation Changes Table

DETCOG Harvey Local Infrastructure MOD Amendment

Eligible Entity	Original Allocation			Reallocation		
	Allocation	Percentage of Allocation	70% Low-to-Moderate Income Requirement	Allocation	Percentage of Allocation	70% Low-to-Moderate Income Requirement
Jasper County	\$1,298,067	17.39%	\$908,647	\$1,298,067	17.39%	\$908,647
Newton County	\$1,609,719	21.57%	\$1,126,803	\$1,609,719	21.57%	\$1,126,803
Polk County	\$995,241	13.33%	\$696,669	\$995,241	13.33%	\$696,669
Sabine County	\$160,124	2.15%	\$112,087	\$160,124	2.15%	\$112,087
San Augustine County	\$101,103	1.35%	\$70,772	\$0	0.00%	\$0
San Jacinto County	\$2,155,799	28.88%	\$1,509,059	\$2,256,902	30.24%	\$1,579,831
Tyler County	\$757,502	10.15%	\$530,251	\$757,502	10.15%	\$530,251
City of Jasper	\$174,304	2.34%	\$122,013	\$174,304	2.34%	\$122,013
City of Kirbyville	\$102,597	1.37%	\$71,818	\$102,597	1.37%	\$71,818
City of Shepherd	\$109,768	1.47%	\$76,838	\$109,768	1.47%	\$76,838
	<b>\$7,464,224</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		<b>\$7,464,224</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

**Summary:**

San Augustine County declined original allocation of \$101,103.  
 \$101,103 was reallocated to San Jacinto County.

**DETCOG Local Infrastructure MOD Amendment Distribution Factors**

County_FIPS	County_name	Jurisdiction	Unweighted						Weighted						Share of Total Weighted Damages	Rank
			Minor Low	Minor High	Major Low	Major High	Severe	Total Damages	Minor Low	Minor High	Major Low	Major High	Severe	Total Weighted Damages		
48241	San Jacinto County	San Jacinto County Uninc	638	226	152	169	55	1240	319	226	304	676	275	1800	29.62%	1
48241	Newton County	Newton County Uninc	435	143	152	140	23	893	217.5	143	304	560	115	1339.5	22.05%	2
48241	Jasper County	Jasper County Uninc	621	160	112	76	15	984	310.5	160	224	304	75	1073.5	17.67%	3
48241	Polk County	Polk County Uninc	462	94	56	48	17	677	231	94	112	192	85	714	11.75%	4
48351	Tyler County	Tyler County Uninc	393	61	54	34	4	546	196.5	61	108	136	20	521.5	8.58%	5
48351	Jasper County	Jasper city	186	23	8	4	2	223	93	23	16	16	10	158	2.60%	6
48373	San Jacinto County	Shepherd city	47	17	13	7	1	85	23.5	17	26	28	5	99.5	1.64%	7
48373	Jasper County	Kirbyville city	50	15	8	8	1	82	25	15	16	32	5	93	1.53%	8
48373	Polk County	Livingston town	53	4	1	4	0	62	26.5	4	2	16	0	48.5	0.80%	9
48373	San Jacinto County	Coldspring city	32	5	7	3	0	47	16	5	14	12	0	47	0.77%	10
48373	Tyler County	Ivanhoe city	49	4	1	0	1	55	24.5	4	2	0	5	35.5	0.58%	11
48373	Tyler County	Woodville town	31	5	1	2	0	39	15.5	5	2	8	0	30.5	0.50%	12
48407	Newton County	Newton city	36	2	2	0	1	41	18	2	4	0	5	29	0.48%	13
48407	Polk County	Onalaska city	27	4	1	1	0	33	13.5	4	2	4	0	23.5	0.39%	14
48407	San Jacinto County	Point Blank city	7	1	2	2	0	12	3.5	1	4	8	0	16.5	0.27%	15
48407	Jasper County	Browndell city	5	2	2	1	0	10	2.5	2	4	4	0	12.5	0.21%	T16
48457	Polk County	Goodrich city	5	2	0	2	0	9	2.5	2	0	8	0	12.5	0.21%	T16
48457	Polk County	Corrigan town	20	0	0	0	0	20	10	0	0	0	0	10	0.16%	18
48457	Tyler County	Chester town	7	1	0	0	0	8	3.5	1	0	0	0	4.5	0.07%	T19
48457	Tyler County	Colmesneil city	8	0	0	0	0	8	4	0	0	0	0	4	0.07%	T19
48457	Polk County	Seven Oaks city	6	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	3	0.05%	21
<b>Total</b>														100.00%		

**NOTE:** This sheet includes only entities that meet the Threshold Factor (more than 50% of county population lives in HUD MID Areas)

# Allocation Summary Worksheet

DETCOG Harvey Local Infrastructure MOD Amendment

Eligible Entity	Original Allocation			Reallocation		
	Allocation	Percentage of Allocation	70% Low-to-Moderate Income Requirement	Allocation	Percentage of Allocation	70% Low-to-Moderate Income Requirement
Jasper County	\$1,298,067	17.39%	\$908,647	\$1,298,067	17.39%	\$908,647
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	<b>\$7,464,224</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		<b>\$7,464,224</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

**Summary:**

San Augustine County declined original allocation of \$101,103.  
 \$101,103 was reallocated to San Jacinto County.



**Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting  
Deep East Texas Council of Governments and Economic Development District**

October 27, 2022  
Howard Civic Center  
213 East Court Street  
Newton, TX 75966

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Deep East Texas Council of Governments regular board of directors meeting was called to order at 12:40 pm by President Allison Harbison.

Members Present:

President, Allison Harbison, Shelby County Judge  
President-Elect, Jeff Boyd, San Augustine County Judge  
Secretary, Mark Nettuno, San Jacinto County Commissioner  
Immediate Past President, Roy Boldon, Nacogdoches City Council

Tom Bellmyer, Shelby County Commissioner  
Joe Blacksher, Tyler County Commissioner  
Guessippina Bonner, Lufkin City Council  
Bill Holder, Trinity River Authority  
Leroy Hughes, Small Cities Representative  
Debra Johnson, Shelby County Minority Representative  
Paula Jones, Mayor of Woodville  
Leigh Porterfield, City of Center Mayor Pro Tem  
Nancy Shanafelt, Trinity County Tax Assessor  
Robert Shankle, Lufkin City Council  
Kenneth Weeks, Newton County Judge

Proxies

Roy Boldon for Kathleen Belanger      Robert Shankle for Patricia McKenzie  
Roy Boldon for Jimmy Mize              Roland Poncho for Nita Battise  
Roy Boldon for Chad Huckaby          Guessippina Bonner for Trent Burfine  
Jeff Boyd for Musetta Hosey            Andrew Mills for Don Iles  
Robert Shankle for Wes Suiter

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the September 22, 2022, meeting were distributed for review. President Harbison asked for any questions or corrections to the minutes – there were none. Leroy Hughes made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Joe Blacksher. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**3. Report on actions taken by Executive Committee since last Board Meeting**

The Executive Committee has not met since our last Board Meeting. No action to report and no action necessary.

**4. Public Hearing to receive input on an amendment to the Method of Distribution for Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster**

President Allison Harbison opened a Public Hearing to receive comments on the Method of Distribution Amendment for the Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster Recovery Local Infrastructure program funds at 12:48 pm. Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt, provided more information on the subject. The MOD Amendment will reallocate declined and/or de-obligated funds totaling \$101,103.00. These are Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds related to Presidential Disaster Declaration 4332-DR. His presentation covered the following topics: original allocation amounts and distribution factors, the citizen participation plan, eligible entities, the minimum allocation, the requirement to allocate at least a minimum percentage of funds to HUD-Most Impacted areas, and the requirement to meet the national Low- and Moderate- Income (LMI) objective. He asked for input on distribution factors, threshold factors, eligible activities, and the LMI requirement. Information was also provided on how to submit written comments. Following questions and comments, the public hearing was closed at 1:22 pm.

5. **Review the Preliminary Financial Report for the quarter and year ending September 30, 2022**  
Copies of the financial report were distributed to Board Members. Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt, reviewed the report. The Finance Committee is recommending that the financial report be accepted as presented. (See action taken under Item 6.)
6. **Review the Investment Report for the quarter ending September 30, 2022**  
Copies of the investment report were distributed to Board Members. Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt, reviewed the report. The Finance Committee is recommending that the investment report also be accepted as presented. A motion was made by Leigh Porterfield to accept the Financial Report and Investment Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Bill Holder. Motion passed with all voting in favor.
7. **Consider approving incentives for participation in employee wellness program**  
An information sheet about the employee wellness program were distributed to Board Members. Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt, went over the proposal to approve incentives for participation in employee wellness program. Under the proposal, effective October 1, 2023, employees Employees can earn an extra \$200 in their Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). This would provide a maximum of \$1,200 annual contribution to the employee's HRA, or \$1,400 for employees with dependent coverage. Participation is voluntary. An extra \$100 would be earned by completing an annual physical or wellness exam and tobacco affidavit, and another \$100 by completing two annual fitness challenges using the Healthy County/Sonic Boom platform and wearable devices. Leroy Hughes moved to approve the recommended incentives. The motion was seconded by Joe Blacksher. Motion passed with all voting in favor.
8. **Consider adoption of the Housing Choice Voucher Program Payment Standards to be effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**  
Copies of the Deep East Texas Regional Housing Advisory Committee meeting minutes, the Fair Market Rent for each county as determined by HUD, and our proposed Payment Standards for each county were distributed to Board Members. Regional Housing Authority Director, Janett Lewis, reviewed the Housing Choice Voucher Program Payment Standards and stated that the Housing Advisory Committee has approved the payment standards. A motion was made by Guessippina Bonner to adopt the FY-2023 Housing Payment Standards as presented. The motion was seconded by Robert Shankle. Motion passed with all voting in favor.
9. **Consider approving submission of CDBG-Mitigation grant applications to the Texas General Land Office for Regional Broadband and Regional Interoperable Radio projects, approving**

**the Executive Director as designated official and signatory to authorize and execute all grant documents, and other matters related to the CDGB-Mitigation regional grants**

Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt, reviewed the proposed applications, including projected service areas and budgets. DETCOG was allocated \$56,000,000 for regional projects and proposes to use \$42,000,000 for broadband and \$14,000,000 for interoperable radio communications. A draft resolution was presented to authorize the project applications to be submitted to the Texas General Land Office and designate the Executive Director as Authorized Representative. A motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Joe Blacksher and seconded by Paula Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**10. Executive Director’s Update on DETCOG programs, operations, and facilities**

Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt, gave an update on the re-build of the DETCOG building from the September 2021 fire. The project was delayed because of issues with the roof. A new contractor is addressing those issues as recommended by the structural engineer, and it will likely be next summer before the re-build is complete. He also reported on the Deep East Texas Legislative Reception which will be held January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Austin.

**11. Announcements from Members of the Board (for informational purposes only)**

No announcements were made.

**12. Review of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

It was announced that next month’s Board meeting will be held November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Polk County Commerce Center in Livingston.

**13. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Robert Shankle, seconded by Bill Holder. President Harbison adjourned the October board meeting at 2:03 pm.




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Commissioner Mark Nettuno, Secretary



**Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Deep East Texas Council of Governments and Economic Development District**

November 22, 2022  
Polk County Commerce Center  
1017 US-59 Loop N  
Livingston, TX 77351

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Deep East Texas Council of Governments regular board of directors meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm by President Allison Harbison.

**Members Present:**

President, Allison Harbison, Shelby County Judge  
President-Elect, Jeff Boyd, San Augustine County Judge  
Vice President, Brandon Prescott, Polk County Minority Representative  
Secretary, Mark Nettuno, San Jacinto County Commissioner  
Immediate Past President, Roy Boldon, Nacogdoches City Council

Nita Battise, Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas  
Tom Bellmyer, Shelby County Commissioner  
Joe Blacksher, Tyler County Commissioner  
Guessippina Bonner, Lufkin City Council  
David Brandon, San Jacinto County Commissioner  
Trent Burfine, Lufkin City Council  
Elgin Davis, City of Livingston Alderman  
Robin Dawley, Nacogdoches County Commissioner  
Bill Holder, Trinity River Authority  
Leroy Hughes, Small Cities Representative  
Debra Johnson, Shelby County Minority Representative  
Paula Jones, Mayor of Woodville  
Kermit Kennedy, Angelina County Commissioner  
Dr. Patricia McKenzie, Angelina County Minority Representative  
Sydney Murphy, Polk County Judge  
Guylene Robertson, Polk County Commissioner  
Daphne Session, Houston County Attorney  
Nancy Shanafelt, Trinity County Tax Assessor  
Greg Sowell, Nacogdoches County Judge  
Jerry Don Williamson, Nacogdoches County Commissioner  
Keith Wright, Angelina County Judge

**Representatives  
Present:**

Trent Ashby, Texas State Representative  
Sarah Blacksher, Congressman Brian Babin's Office  
Shawn Dunn, Senator Robert Nichol's Office  
Linda Parker, Representative Trent Ashby's Office  
Betty Russo, Governor Abbot's Office

Staff Present: Bob Bashaw, Regional Planner  
 Mark Cunningham, Facilities Manager / Information Technology Technician  
 Donna Davidson, Housing Deputy Director / Accountant  
 Lonnie Hunt, Executive Director  
 Charlesetta Malone, Regional 9-1-1 Network Program Director  
 DaVina Morris, FAYS Program Director  
 Lacy Sargent, Executive Assistant / HR Coordinator  
 Mickey Slimp, Broadband Contractor

Others: James Arnett, Onalaska City Council  
 Cathy Bennett, City of Ivanhoe Mayor  
 Chris Bennett  
 Skip Blackston, City of Ivanhoe  
 Jacques Blanchette, Tyler County Judge  
 Tammy Burfine  
 Judy Cochran, City of Livingston Mayor  
 Stephanie Dela, Assistant Auditor at Polk County  
 Larry Dawson, Jail Administrator at Polk County Sheriff's Office  
 Mark Durand, Executive Director of WorkForce Solutions  
 Kevin Dutton, Attorney at Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP  
 Glenn Edwards, Deputy at Polk County Sheriff's Office  
 Sue Glover, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP  
 James Guest, Partner at Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP  
 Stanley Jacks, Sabine County Commissioner  
 Risa King, Information Specialist at Lower Neches Valley Authority  
 Amber Leloux, Human Resources Secretary at Polk County  
 Roxie Long, Legal Assistant at Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP  
 Amanda Mills, Director of Social Services at Polk County  
 Jennifer Moffett, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP  
 Lewis Ploth, Polk County Auditor  
 Roland Poncho, Alabama Coushatta Tribe of TX Tribal Council Member  
 Yolando Poncho, Alabama Coushatta Tribe of TX Tribal Council Secretary  
 Milton Purvis, Polk County Commissioner  
 Tommy Overstreet, Polk County Commissioner  
 Pooja Salhotra, Reporter at The Texas Tribune  
 Dave Sottosanti, Polk County Sheriff's Office  
 Angela Stutts, City Administrator of Onalaska  
 Meme Thomas, Attorney at Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP  
 Tiger Worsham, Partner at Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP  
 Terri Williams, Polk County Treasurer  
 Nancy Windham, President & CEO of Texas Forest Country Partnership

Proxies Roy Boldon for Kathleen Belanger Roy Boldon for Chad Huckaby  
 Roy Boldon for Jimmy Mize Allison Harbison for Leigh Porterfield

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the October 27, 2022, meeting were distributed for review. President Harbison asked for any questions or corrections to the minutes – there were none. Leroy Hughes made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Dr. Patricia McKenzie. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**3. Report on actions taken by Executive Committee since last Board Meeting**

The Executive Committee has not met since our last Board Meeting. No action to report and no action necessary.

**4. Public Hearing on Amendment of the Method of Distribution for Hurricane Harvey CDBG – Disaster Recovery Local Infrastructure Program funds (MOD Amendment)**

President Allison Harbison opened a Public Hearing to receive comments on the Method of Distribution Amendment for the Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster Recovery Local Infrastructure program funds at 1:10 pm. The MOD Amendment will reallocate declined and/or de-obligated funds totaling \$101,103.00. These are Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds related to Presidential Disaster Declaration 4332-DR. Copies of the proposed MOD Amendment were distributed. Executive Director Lonnie Hunt stated that it is posted on the DETCOG website and available to view in person at the DETCOG office and that the public comment period would continue until December 9th. Using PowerPoint slides (attached), he reviewed the elements of the MOD Amendment and provided more information. President Harbison called for any comments from the audience. No comments were made. The public hearing was closed at 1:20 pm.

**5. Consider approval of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Combined Bylaws and Policy & Procedures**

Copies of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Combined Bylaws and Policy & Procedures & Application Guidelines were distributed to Board Members. Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt reviewed the bylaws, policy, procedures and application guidelines. Sydney Murphy made a motion to approve the CJAC Bylaws, Policies and Procedures as presented, seconded by David Brandon. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**6. Consider approval of 2022-2026 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan**

Copies of the Criminal Justice Strategic Plan were distributed to Board Members. Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt, reviewed the plan. Sydney Murphy made a motion to approve the Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for 2022 through 2026 as presented, seconded by David Brandon. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**7. Consider approval of Homeland Security Advisory Committee Bylaws**

Copies of the Homeland Security Advisory Committee Bylaws were distributed to Board Members. Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt, reviewed the bylaws. Sydney Murphy made a motion to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee Bylaws as presented, seconded by David Brandon. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**8. Consider approval of Risk Informed Methodology (RIM) and Procedures**

Copies of the Risk Informed Methodology and Procedures were distributed to Board Members. Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt, reviewed the risk informed methodology and procedures. Sydney Murphy made a motion to approve the Risk Informed Methodology and Procedures as presented, seconded by David Brandon. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**9. Consider Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommendations on funding of 2023 Regional Solid Waste Grants**

Mark Nettuno, San Jacinto County Commissioner and Committee Chair, presented the recommendations from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Mark Nettuno made a motion to approve the recommendations for scoring and funding of the Regional Solid Waste Grants as presented, seconded by Paula Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**10. Executive Director’s Update on DETCOG programs, operations, and facilities**

Executive Director, Lonnie Hunt, gave an update on the re-build of the DETCOG building from the September 2021 fire. The project was delayed because of issues with the roof. A new contractor is addressing those issues as recommended by the structural engineer, and it will likely be next summer before the re-build is complete. Mr. Lonnie Hunt reported on the Deep East Texas Legislative Reception which will be held January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Austin. He also reported that he won the Broadband Hero Award.

**11. Consider 2023 Board Meeting Schedule**

Copies of the proposed meeting calendar were distributed to Board Members. Our regular meeting date in February conflicts with V.G. Young School for Judges and Commissioners, so the question is whether to hold our meeting on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> instead of Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our regular meeting date for November always falls on Thanksgiving. With five Thursdays in the month of November next year, we have the option of meeting on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving or waiting and holding our meeting the following Thursday, which would be November 30<sup>th</sup>. Paula Jones made a motion to adopt the Board Meeting Schedule as presented, with the February meeting being Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and the November meeting on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, seconded by Sydney Murphy. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**12. Announcements from Members of the Board (for informational purposes only)**

Nita Battise, Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas, presented that Millie Thompson Williams will be officially inaugurated on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. She is the first woman to serve as a chief in the history of the Tribe. It was also presented that Alabama-Coushatta Day is at the state capitol on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**13. Review of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

It was announced that next month’s Board Christmas Luncheon will be held December 15<sup>th</sup> at Manhattan Fine Dining Restaurant in Lufkin.

**14. Adjourn**

President Harbison adjourned the December board meeting at 1:49 pm.




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Commissioner Mark Nettuno, Secretary

## **Comments from Public Meetings**

### **Public Planning Meeting on 10-28-22:**

No comments were received from the meeting.

### **Public Hearing on 11-22-22:**

No comments were received from the meeting.

## **Public Comments and Responses**

DETCOG received two public comments – both submitted by email – during the MOD Amendment Public Comment Period.

- Email from Joe Ceasar of Legacy Institute for Financial Education on 11-15-2022.
- Email from Connie Hughes of the Jasper-Newton County Long Term Recovery Committee on 11-22-2022.

The following pages show the email communications with the comments received and the responses provided by DETCOG.



Lonnie Hunt <lhunt@detcog.org>

**RE: DETCOG - Distribution Plan for Harvey Recovery Funds**

1 message

Joseph Ceasar <jceasar@legacy-institute.org>  
 To: Lonnie Hunt <lhunt@detcog.gov>  
 Cc: Bob Bashaw <bob.bashaw@detcog.gov>

Wed, Nov 16, 2022 at 9:34 AM

Mr. Hunt,

Thank you for the response, and it all does make sense. I am not as familiar with those counties as I am with Angelina and Nacogdoches counties, so my perspective is limited. I pray the members of those communities can come up with some ideas that make sense. Thank you for allowing us all an opportunity to contribute to the conversation.

Respectfully,

Joseph J. Ceasar  
 Founder and Executive Director  
 Legacy Institute for Financial Education  
 504 W. Frank Ave.  
 Lufkin, TX 75904  
 Direct - (936)209-8099  
 Cell - (281)827-1991  
[jceasar@legacy-institute.org](mailto:jceasar@legacy-institute.org)  
[www.legacy-institute.org](http://www.legacy-institute.org)



**From:** Lonnie Hunt <lhunt@detcog.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:04 AM  
**To:** Joseph Ceasar <jceasar@legacy-institute.org>  
**Cc:** Bob Bashaw <bob.bashaw@detcog.gov>  
**Subject:** DETCOG - Distribution Plan for Harvey Recovery Funds

You don't often get email from lhunt@detcog.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning Joe,

Bob Bashaw forwarded your comments to me on the MOD Amendment for response. We appreciate your comments.

Here's a quick overview of what we have to work with in the MOD Amendment:

- \$101,113 available in funding and the minimum project is \$100,000, which means there is only enough funding to allocate to one entity for one project.
- Eligible entities are cities and counties within the Hurricane Harvey disaster area. For our purposes, this is the area including Jasper, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, and Tyler Counties.
- The rules specify that some percentage of the funds must go to an area designated by HUD as Most Impacted (HUD-MID). This eliminates San Augustine and Sabine Counties -- so the funding must go to one of the other five counties or a qualifying city within those counties.
- These funds are designated for Local Infrastructure Projects that must be based on unmet need tied back to damages from Hurricane Harvey.

The entity that receives the funding will be required to use it in one of the following categories. It will be up to the local entity to decide which category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Specially Authorized Public Facilities & Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Public Utilities (gas, et al)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleanance & Demolition Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Street Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Flood and Drainage Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Centers
<input type="checkbox"/> Debris Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Centers & Emergency Shelters (Existing)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks, Playgrounds and other Recreational Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Protection Facilities and Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other CDBG-DR eligible activities related to infrastructure

While your ideas would certainly benefit citizens in our region, they do not fit within the above guidelines. These are not DETCOG rules -- they are program requirements handed down to us that we must adhere to.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If there are any additional questions we can answer, please let us know.

Sincerely,  
 Lonnie Hunt

*Lonnie Hunt, Executive Director*  
 Deep East Texas Council of Governments & Economic Development District  
 1405 Kurth Drive - Lufkin, Texas 75904 - (936) 634-2247 ext 5264

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joseph Ceasar** <[jceasar@legacy-institute.org](mailto:jceasar@legacy-institute.org)>  
 Date: Tue, Nov 15, 2022 at 5:43 PM  
 Subject: RE: DETCOG - Distribution Plan for Harvey Recovery Funds  
 To: Bob Bashaw <[bob.bashaw@detcog.gov](mailto:bob.bashaw@detcog.gov)>

Mr. Bashaw,

Below, I have provided several suggestions for the MOD Amendment.

1. Given the need for individuals within the DETCOG region to reenter the workforce in a post-COVID environment, I suggest the money be divided on a pro-rata basis by population for scholarships to individuals who are below 150% of AMI for their county. This plan could cover costs up to a dollar amount (e.g. \$2,500) to cover the cost of a course leading to the attainment of an industry-recognized certification.
  - a. An alternative would be for the equal distribution of the money between the counties.
2. An alternative plan could be to establish a technology grant for those who wish to enter the workforce, complete school, etc. This grant could provide up to \$500 of equipment per household for the acquisition of a computer and/or broadband internet. Recipients of the grant may choose to work from home or use the hardware to gain employment with a local employer.
  - a. Work from home opportunities will be vetted and would qualify for the higher end of the grant given the additional requirements the remote employer may impose.
  - b. Like the first suggestion, the counties could be allocated an amount based on their population or equally.

I'd love to hear your thoughts about these recommendations, but in my opinion, this could stretch these dollars and create tangible impact with the communities DETCOG serves.

Respectfully,

Joseph J. Ceasar  
 Founder and Executive Director  
 Legacy Institute for Financial Education  
[504 W. Frank Ave.](http://504.W.FrankAve.com)  
 Lufkin, TX 75904  
 Direct - (936)209-8099  
 Cell - (281)827-1991  
[jceasar@legacy-institute.org](mailto:jceasar@legacy-institute.org)  
[www.legacy-institute.org](http://www.legacy-institute.org)



From: Bob Bashaw <[bob.bashaw@detcog.gov](mailto:bob.bashaw@detcog.gov)>  
 Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 2:10 PM  
 To: Joseph Ceasar <[jceasar@legacy-institute.org](mailto:jceasar@legacy-institute.org)>  
 Subject: DETCOG - Distribution Plan for Harvey Recovery Funds

Mr. Ceasar:

Deep East Texas Council of Governments is soliciting public comments on a proposed Method of Distribution for redistribution of unused Community Disaster Recovery Development Block Grant fund. These funds are related to the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Harvey.

We welcome your comments related to our division of Local Infrastructure funds among our seven counties included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration – Jasper, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto and Tyler. See the attached Solicitation for Public Comments for information about the public meetings and hearings and the process for submitting written comments or questions.

To facilitate letting people know about their opportunity to contribute to this process, we would appreciate your posting the "Solicitation for Public Comment" attached on your public billboard or some other public place at your facility.

Thanks for your help!

Bob Bashaw,  
 DETCOG Regional Planner  
[1405 Kurth Drive](http://1405KurthDrive.com)

Lufkin, Texas 75904  
936-634-2247 ext 5302

*"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." – Will Rogers*

--

Bob Bashaw,  
DETCOG Regional Planner  
1405 Kurth Drive  
Lufkin, Texas 75904  
936-634-2247 ext 5302

*"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." – Will Rogers*



Lonnie Hunt <lhunt@detcog.org>

**Re: Solicitation for Public Comment**

1 message

Lonnie Hunt <lhunt@detcog.gov>

Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 5:12 PM

To: Connie Hughes <connie.hughes@reg5ecp.org>

Cc: Bob Bashaw <bob.bashaw@detcog.gov>

Good afternoon Connie,

Bob Bashaw forwarded me your email comments (shown below) concerning the Harvey Infrastructure MOD Amendment. First of all, thanks for taking the time to submit comments. They are appreciated.

I know from personal observation that the Jasper-Newton Long Term Recovery Group has done great work for victims of Harvey and other disasters in Jasper and Newton County. However, the organization is not an eligible entity to receive this funding under the rules of this program. These are not DETCOG rules -- they are program requirements handed down to us that we must adhere to.

Here's a quick overview of what we have to work with in the MOD Amendment:

- \$101,113 available in funding and the minimum project is \$100,000, which means there is only enough funding to allocate to one entity for one project.
- Eligible entities are cities and counties within the Hurricane Harvey disaster area. For our purposes, this is the area including Jasper, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, and Tyler Counties.
- The rules specify that some percentage of the funds must go to an area designated by HUD as Most Impacted (HUD-MID). This eliminates San Augustine and Sabine Counties -- so the funding must go to one of the other five counties or a qualifying city within those counties.
- These funds are designated for Local Infrastructure Projects that must be based on unmet need tied back to damages from Hurricane Harvey.

The entity that receives the funding will be required to use it in one of the following categories. It will be up to the local entity to decide which category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Specially Authorized Public Facilities & Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Public Utilities (gas, et al)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearance & Demolition Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Street Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Flood and Drainage Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Centers
<input type="checkbox"/> Debris Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Centers & Emergency Shelters (Existing)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks, Playgrounds and other Recreational Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Protection Facilities and Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other CDBG-DR eligible activities related to infrastructure

I hope this information is helpful to you. If there are any additional questions we can answer, please let us know.

Thank you again,  
Lonnie Hunt

*Lonnie Hunt, Executive Director  
Deep East Texas Council of Governments & Economic Development District  
1405 Kurth Drive - Lufkin, Texas 75904 - (936) 634-2247 ext 5264*

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Connie Hughes** <connie.hughes@reg5ecp.org>

Date: Tue, Nov 22, 2022 at 12:54 PM

Subject: Solicitation for Public Comment

To: <Bob.Bashaw@detcog.gov>

Mr. Bashaw,

Thank you for contacting us in regards to the solicitation of public comment in regard to the amendment of the MOD for Hurricane Harvey monies.

As you are completely aware I am sure, most of the mentioned counties fall in to the painfully deprived category. Any monies are difficult to secure. When our non- profit first began, we served 50 homeowners with approximately \$10,000. Thanks to volunteer workers and stretching these monies, we helped those families damaged by Harvey to reclaim a safe, sanitary and secure home, in some cases better than what they had.

We have serviced members of our community with other donated monies, supplies and help from organizations since that humble beginning. At this time we have over 500 families in Jasper and Newton Counties who have benefitted from the efforts of the Jasper Newton Long Term Recovery Group.

If redistribution involving monies is a possibility, we could greatly benefit from a share of those funds.

Thank you for your attention to our comments.

Sincerely,

Connie Hughes

Intake Manager

Jasper Newton Long Term Recovery Group

# DETCOG RESOLUTION

## Deep East Texas Council of Governments

### **ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION FOR HURRICANE HARVEY CDBG-DISASTER RECOVERY LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FUNDS (MOD AMENDMENT)**

WHEREAS, the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) has entered into a Subrecipient agreement with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) whereby DETCOG is responsible for developing an Amendment to the Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster Recovery Local Infrastructure Method of Distribution (MOD Amendment) to reallocate \$101,103 in declined or de-obligated funds from the original Method of Distribution; and

WHEREAS, a Citizens Participation Plan was developed by DETCOG, approved by GLO, and followed to ensure a public and open process which included two public hearings, solicitation of written comments, public postings of information on the DETCOG website and social media pages, direct notices to stakeholders and eligible entities within the region, and other outreach activities; and

WHEREAS, all comments received from the public have been reviewed and responded to; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with guidance provided to DETCOG by GLO, the proposed MOD Amendment (1) uses objective criteria for the reallocation of funds to eligible entities, (2) facilitates local prioritization of eligible activities, (3) allocates a minimum of \$100,000.00 in CDGB-DR funds to each local entity receiving funding and ensures allocation of at least a minimum percentage of funds to HUD Most-Impacted areas, and (4) meets the seventy percent (70%) low-and moderate-income persons benefit requirement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Deep East Texas Council of Governments approves and adopts the Amendment to the Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster Recovery Local Infrastructure Method of Distribution (MOD Amendment) as presented on this date, and authorizes its submittal to the Texas General Land Office for final review and approval. The DETCOG Executive Director is designated and authorized to act on DETCOG's behalf as signatory authority for any and all documents and forms which may be required related to this MOD Amendment.

ADOPTED by the Executive Committee of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments and Economic District on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

  
Allison Harbison, President

  
Mark Nettuno, Secretary



December 10, 2022

The Honorable Fritz Faulkner  
San Jacinto County Judge  
1 State Highway 150, Room 23  
Coldspring, TX 77331

RE: Funding Notification - Harvey Infrastructure MOD Amendment

Dear Judge Faulkner:

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) reallocated \$101,103 in declined and/or de-obligated funds to DETCOG to develop an Amendment to the Method of Distribution for the Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster Recovery Local Infrastructure Program funds (MOD Amendment). Through the DETCOG MOD Amendment posted for public comment, **San Jacinto County** is the potential recipient of this funding in the amount of **\$101,103**. This funding does not require a local match. This amount is subject to change as the public participation process is completed and until final approval of the MOD Amendment by the GLO. The MOD Amendment is currently posted on the DETCOG website and available here at DETCOG for review.

Please note these conditions of funding:

- Activities must be specifically related to Hurricane Harvey.
- All activities as outlined in the State of Texas Plan for Disaster Recovery: Hurricane Harvey as amended are eligible.
- At least 70 percent of the funds must benefit areas that include 51 percent or more Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) persons with incomes below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

To accept or decline the funds allocated through the MOD Amendment, please sign and return the attached form to DETCOG as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lonnie Hunt".

Lonnie Hunt, Executive Director

## Accept (or Decline) Funding

I, Fritz Faulkner, the designated official of  
*Print Name*

San Jacinto County  
*Print Name of Entity*

Acknowledge and **accept funding** through the Harvey Infrastructure MOD Amendment.

Acknowledge and **decline funding** through the Harvey Infrastructure MOD Amendment.

Fritz Faulkner  
*Designated Official Signature*

12-15-2022  
*Date*

YOU MAY SCAN AND EMAIL THIS FORM TO LONNIE HUNT AT [LHUNT@DETCOG.GOV](mailto:LHUNT@DETCOG.GOV) OR HAND DELIVER IT TO DETCOG, 1405 KURTH DRIVE, LUFKIN TEXAS 75904. FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT LONNIE HUNT AT [LHUNT@DETCOG.GOV](mailto:LHUNT@DETCOG.GOV) OR 936-544-6963.

H-GAC 2018 Infrastructure Method of Distribution Amendment Public Comments

Date Received	Method of Communications	Name	Role/Title	County	City	Comment	Response	Associated changes to the MOD
12/15/2022	Email	Shaneka Smith	Chief of Staff, Fort Bend County	Fort Bend		To Whom It May Concern: Fort Bend County would like to keep the available reallocated funds. We welcome the chance to have the City of Rosenberg be sub-recipient partners to the County for local infrastructure improvements as an LMI Community that was affected by Hurricane Harvey. The City of Rosenberg has multiple needs and is in a position readily to utilize all available funding should the opportunity arise.	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO).	None
12/13/2022	Email	Melissa Peña	Project Director   Capital Projects, Rosenberg	Fort Bend	Rosenberg	The City of Rosenberg is in support of Fort Bend County keeping the available reallocated funds. We welcome the chance to become a sub-recipient partner to the County for local infrastructure improvements as an LMI Community that was affected by Hurricane Harvey. The City of Rosenberg has multiple needs and is in a position readily to utilize all available funding should the opportunity arise.	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO).	None
12/5/2022	Web Portal	Morad Kabiri	City Manager, Friendswood	Galveston	Friendswood	Reallocated funds should be offered to jurisdictions with active projects that are currently underfunded due to inflation and property price increases.	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Director for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO).	None

H-GAC 2018 Infrastructure Method of Distribution Amendment Public Comments

Date Received	Method of Communications	Name	Role/Title	County	City	Comment	Response	Associated changes to the MOD
12/1/2022	Email	Rick Sallier	Public Works Director	Galveston	La Marque	The original MIT-MOD Program allowed multiple projects, including waterline replacement; the specific language in the Reallocation Funding seems to relate to specific infrastructure ‘damage’ caused by Harvey. Is the project scope more restrictive with the Reallocation Funds than the original MIT-MOD Funding options?	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board’s approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). In addition, staff have provided a direct answer to your question: "Good morning, Rick. Yes, in comparison to the CDBG-Mitigation program, the scope of projects under this 2018 CDBG Disaster Recovery Local Infrastructure Program reallocation is more limited, and generally is tied to impacts from Hurricane Harvey. That’s primarily due to the inherently different focuses of the MIT and DR programs themselves at the federal level. GLO’s Action Plan for the funding can be found here: <a href="https://recovery.texas.gov/action-plans/2017-hurricane-harvey/index.html">https://recovery.texas.gov/action-plans/2017-hurricane-harvey/index.html</a> , and the description of the Local Infrastructure Program starts on p. 166. The list of eligible activities is on p. 168. That being said, GLO is the final word on project eligibility and can probably answer any questions that get into the nuance of what they will and won’t allow.	None

H-GAC 2018 Infrastructure Method of Distribution Amendment Public Comments

Date Received	Method of Communications	Name	Role/Title	County	City	Comment	Response	Associated changes to the MOD
11/30/2022	Web Portal	Mayor Jon Keeney	Mayor, Taylor Lake Village	Harris	City of Taylor Lake Village	The GLO/HGAC are both practicing discrimination against small cities that happen to have incomes above poverty levels. I highly recommend that small cities be included for funding as our ability to fund and correct drainage issues is very limited by our budget restrictions. Small cities are under constant attack by our Legislature as they keep removing our ability to fund our budget needs. It adds insult to injury when we are precluded from funding by arbitrary decisions that are not well thought out. Water seeks it own level and impacts people of all income levels. In addition, the cities by the gulf coast are at the end of a massive drainage system that ultimately dumps water on our cities.	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). The low-to-moderate income requirements stem from the federal source of funds. Community Development Block Grant funding programs are specifically focused on low-to-moderate income populations.	None
12/6/2022	Email	Nate McDonald	County Judge, Matagorda County	Matagorda		To Whom It May Concern, With regards to the 2018 Method of Distribution for Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds for local infrastructure projects in the H-GAC region I believe the MOD has been properly discussed, vetted and approved by the majority of the H-GAC Board in the past and I see no reason to change it in any way. Thank you for this opportunity to comment today.	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO).	None

H-GAC 2018 Infrastructure Method of Distribution Amendment Public Comments

Date Received	Method of Communications	Name	Role/Title	County	City	Comment	Response	Associated changes to the MOD
12/9/2022	Email	Meg Duffy	Policy Analyst, Texas Appleseed	Travis	Austin	Good morning, I am reaching out with a question about the reallocation of the 2018 CDBG-DR funds. Is the damage hierarchy the same as what was applied in 2018? What data are used to determine the damage hierarchy and from which year? Many thanks	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). In addition, H-GAC staff provided this direct answer to your question: "Good morning Ms. Duffy, Thank you for your question. We used this Methodology to develop the Method of Distribution in 2018 - MOD-Draft-Methodology-6-19-18.pdf (h-gac.com). The damage hierarchy for the reallocation is the same as the 2018 Method of Distribution. With respect to the data, we used Hurricane Harvey damage data from FEMA's Individual Assistance Housing Registrants Large Disasters-V1 data. The data is specific to Hurricane Harvey.	None

H-GAC 2018 Infrastructure Method of Distribution Amendment Public Comments

Date Received	Method of Communications	Name	Role/Title	County	City	Comment	Response	Associated changes to the MOD
12/15/2022	Email	Madison Sloan	Director, Disaster Recovery and Fair Housing Project, Texas Appleseed	Travis	Austin	<p>See Correspondence 2 - Tomaskovic-Mccloud-Sloan-Duffy</p> <p>Coalition for Equity, Environment, and Resilience (CEER) Comments on 2018 Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery Funds Reallocation Funds</p> <p>Dear Mr. Taebel: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the H-GAC method of distribution for the remaining \$2,305,505 of the 2018 CDBG-DR allocation. The Coalition for Equity, Environment, and Resilience is a group of 28 nonprofits that work to raise awareness of the connections between pollution, place, and the public's health. Since our inception in 2018, we have advocated for the equitable distribution of disaster recovery funding and flood infrastructure investments.</p> <p>To be effective, this method of distribution must ensure that the remaining CDBG-DR funds are reallocated to the areas with the greatest remaining unmet infrastructure needs. It is possible that the current damage hierarchy would reach that objective but H-GAC has not provided enough information about the data used to create the damage hierarchy to fully assess its potential effectiveness, including whether the damage hierarchy remains the same five years after Hurricane Harvey. The material conditions on the ground have changed dramatically since the initial disbursement of post-Harvey CDBG-DR funds, so it is crucial that H-GAC use current data to calculate the damage hierarchy. During the November 9th, 2022 Method of Distribution Public Planning Meeting, H-GAC staff made it clear that this funding could only be used on infrastructure, including drainage and flood infrastructure. Thus, the applied damage hierarchy should include data on remaining unmet infrastructure need and not solely data on housing damage. We strongly urge H-GAC to make sure that the damage hierarchy uses up-to-date data that reflects a current assessment of remaining unmet infrastructure needs.</p> <p>Finally, we support H-GAC's decision not to pursue a waiver of the 70% LMI requirement. Structural inequality not only makes low-income communities and</p>	<p>Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). To develop the damage hierarchy list, which is used only if one or more of the counties of origin for each community declines the reallocated funds, H-GAC used Hurricane Harvey damage data from FEMA's Individual Assistance Housing Registrants Large Disasters-V1 data. The list was ranked by the number of impacted housing units for entities with at least 5,000 impacted units. The 2018 MOD allocated Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds, whose primary focus was local infrastructure impacts from Hurricane Harvey. Recipients of reallocated funds will need to apply to the Texas General Land Office for approval to use reallocated funds for eligible projects under the intended uses and restrictions of that funding source.</p>	None

H-GAC 2018 Infrastructure Method of Distribution Amendment Public Comments

					<p>communities of color more vulnerable to disasters in the first place but also slows down the recovery process, making them more likely to have remaining unmet recovery needs years after a disaster. It is vital that low- and moderate-income communities are the primary beneficiaries of this funding.</p> <p>In conclusion, we encourage H-GAC to include an assessment of unmet flood and drainage infrastructure needs in the reallocation formula for 2018 CDBG-DR funds and stronger</p> <p>guidelines for subgrantees as they engage in land acquisition and home buyouts. Please let us know if we can provide further information.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Sefania Tomaskovic, Executive Director CEER</p> <p>Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud, Executive Director Bayou City Waterkeeper</p> <p>Maddie Sloan Meg Duffy Texas Appleseed</p>		
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H-GAC 2018 Infrastructure Method of Distribution Amendment Public Comments

Date Received	Method of Communications	Name	Role/Title	County	City	Comment	Response	Associated changes to the MOD
12/6/2022	Email	Rev. Dave Smith	Executive Director, GS Mission	Walker	Huntsville	Cheryl, I need a transcript or recording. I had a major conflict, got in late & technology did not work immediately. So sorry.	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). H-GAC staff provided this direct answer to your question: "The agenda, hearing presentation, and hearing recording are available on our webpage here 2018 Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery Funds Planning   Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Scroll down to "Public Hearing." You can also access the agenda, presentation and recording directly using the links below: Agenda - <a href="https://www.h-gac.com/getmedia/cc8b9c97-2591-41bd-aae2-7b9425734869/12-6-22-Agenda_2018MODAmendment">https://www.h-gac.com/getmedia/cc8b9c97-2591-41bd-aae2-7b9425734869/12-6-22-Agenda_2018MODAmendment</a> Presentation – <a href="https://www.h-gac.com/getmedia/6192588b-952b-48e4-8ab6-4ee7d9eba07b/12-6-22-Presentation_2018MODAmendment">https://www.h-gac.com/getmedia/6192588b-952b-48e4-8ab6-4ee7d9eba07b/12-6-22-Presentation_2018MODAmendment</a> Recording - <a href="https://youtu.be/aiDQdVEHfM8">https://youtu.be/aiDQdVEHfM8</a> .	None
11/8/2022	Email	Carolyn James	Resident	Wharton	Eagle Lake	See Correspondence-1-Carolyn James (attached)	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). H-GAC staff forwarded your question and concerns regarding other GLO program resources unrelated to the funding referenced in this amendment to additional H-GAC staff who contacted you to help you find resources.	None

H-GAC 2018 Infrastructure Method of Distribution Amendment Public Comments

Date Received	Method of Communications	Name	Role/Title	County	City	Comment	Response	Associated changes to the MOD
11/7/2022	Email	Janet Kinght				Note: This email was sent without content	Thank you. We provided all comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO).	None
11/14/2022	Phone	Godfrey Hubert	Founder Hope Disaster Recovery			Hi, this is Godfrey Hubert with Hope disaster recovery and I had received some communication from someone probably not in your office but it had been forwarded to me about a disaster fund, residual funds and about a work group and then a public hearing. Following up but the work group meeting I think was in November 9th and then the other December 3rd. I just wanted more information about that. Could you give me a call at 281-433-1412? Thank you.	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). H-GAC staff contacted you directly to inform you that this funding is only for municipalities, but anyone is welcome to review information on our website or attend the public hearing and provide feedback on this process.	None

H-GAC 2018 Infrastructure Method of Distribution Amendment Public Comments

Date Received	Method of Communications	Name	Role/Title	County	City	Comment	Response	Associated changes to the MOD
11/7/2022	Phone	Shirley Moore				Yes Shirley Moore e-mail address is shirleymoore106@yahoo.com and that's spelled SHIRLEymoore and my phone number is 979-253-2614 and my comment is relocation After Harvey thank you.	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). H-GAC staff returned your call to inform you about the uses of this funding source, which is not applicable to individual housing.	None
11/2/2022	Phone	Timothy Taylor				Yes, good morning. My name is Timothy Taylor. I'm trying to find someone to help me get some help on some relief on getting work done on my house. Uh, I've never gotten, uh, work done. My house is a myth. I've never gotten work done on my house from the ice storm or Hurricane Harvey. My phone number is 979-202-5224. My e-mail. It's Mr. Tim Taylor at 509. And MrTimTaylor509@gmail.com please give me a call back at 979-302-5624. I'm trying to get some help getting my house fixed from the ice storm and Hurricane Harvey. I have cracks in the. House and I. I'm getting air coming in here. Please give me a call back at your earliest convenience. I'm in desperate need of some help getting work done on my house. Thank you and have a blessed day goodbye.	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). H-GAC staff returned your call to inform you about the uses of this funding source, which is not applicable to individual housing.	None
11/15/2022	Phone	Jim Herrinton				What due diligence is being done on the CDBG infrastructure applications. [Environmental consultant looking for information about what entities received allocations]	Thank you for providing feedback. We provided your comments to the H-GAC Board of Directors for their consideration prior to the Board's approval of the amendment on January 17, 2023, of an amended Method of Distribution (MOD) for submittal to the Texas General Land Office (GLO). Environmental review subject to the type of each project is completed by applicants prior to approval to use funds. For more information, we recommend contacting GLO directly.	None

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [HarveyMODComments@h-gac.com](mailto:HarveyMODComments@h-gac.com)  
**Subject:** Harvey-H-GAC Public Comment - by December 15 2022  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 8, 2022 11:07:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[Well Pictures with documentation 10-21-22.pdf](#)  
[James, Carolyn 2nd Level Complaint Response Letter 06.08.2022\(1\).pdf](#)

**CAUTION:** This message originated outside of H-GAC. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source and know the content is safe. Report any suspicious email using the Phish Alert button.

Carolyn James – [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## 1. WATER WELL

Texas General Land Office “reconfigured” my water well and made it worse. **This is my only source of drinking water.** This is not a submersible pump (flood pump) as stated in the papers I signed for Texas Glo to build my home.

The “WATER” and the “WATER WELL” is not safe. **My pets will not drink the water and neither can I.**

Texas GLO also installed a water filter outside by the water well and I was told I had to find a way to protect it from the elements/weather. (Pictures below and attached)

The utilities go out often in this area and I have to prime this well with at least 20 gallons of water. I have had to go days without water. Please help to replace my pump.

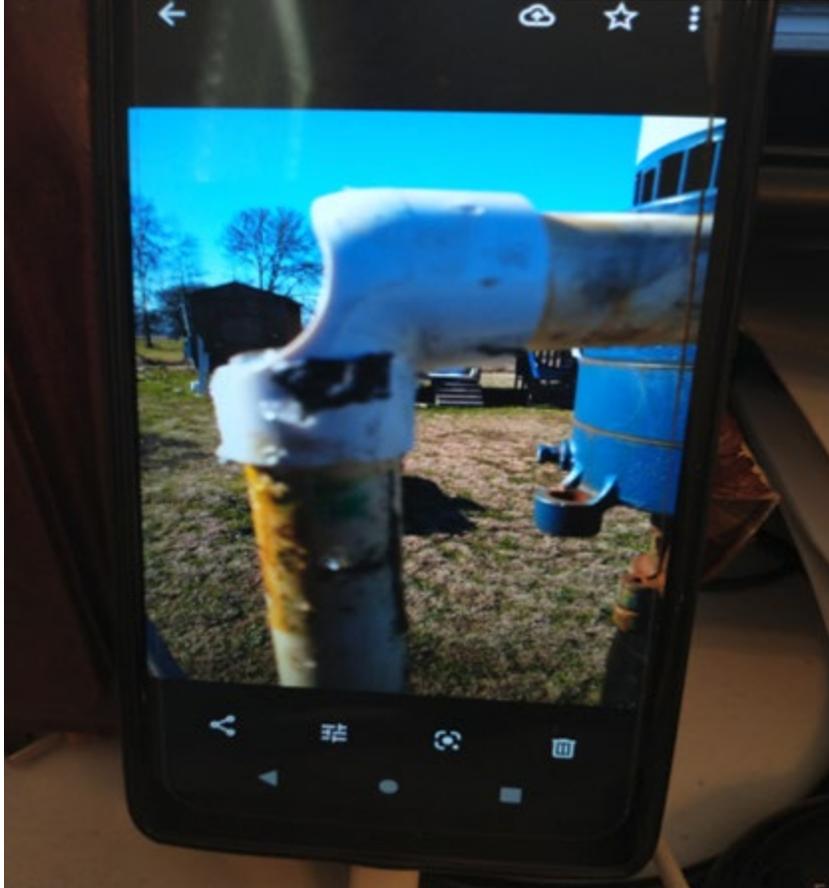
This well is ruining my appliances. When it’s cold weather pipes freeze and burst because it’s too high in the air. My neighbors do not have this problem.

**2. EXIT – Rear of Home** - My house is 7-ft 6 inches high. My husband has come down ill with cancer and has lost the use of his legs. The stove exploded, and that is when I realized that I could not get out if there was a fire. My husband is 85 and I am 66 years old.

**Please HELP! NOTE:** I have requested help and submitted appeals to Texas GLO and have been denied several times, last letter of denial enclosed which, in the way it’s worded, I only had problems with the water. It is the Water and The Water Well.

Please advise, I have been complaining about my water and the water well since I moved in my home in June 2020. I have been a victim of 2015, 2016 and Harvey 2017 declared floods...when I ask for help I have been told by Wharton County Officials that funding is only available for the "City" of Wharton.







1. Texas General Land Office “reconfigured” my water well and made it worse. This is not a submersible pump (flood pump) as stated in the papers I signed for the state to build my home. **. The “WATER” and the “WATER WELL” is not safe. My pets will not drink the water and neither can I.** They also installed a water filter that should be protected from the weather elements. The utilities go out often in this area and I have to prime this well with at least 20 gallons of water. **Please help to replace my pump.** This well is ruining my appliances. When it’s cold weather pipes freeze and burst because it’s too high in the air. My neighbors do not have this problem.
2. I need help to get a grant to have exits added to the back of my home. My house is 7-ft 6 inches high. My husband has come down ill with cancer and has lost the use of his legs. The stove exploded, and that is when I realized that I could not get out if there was a fire. **My husband is 85 and I am 66 years old and not working. Please HELP!**

**NOTE:** I have requested help from Texas GLO and have been denied several times, last letter of denial enclosed.



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
GEORGE P. BUSH, COMMISSIONER

June 08, 2022

Certified Mail: [REDACTED]

Carolyn James  
[REDACTED]

RE: Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) Complaint

Dear Ms. James:

Thank you for contacting our Community Development and Revitalization Division at the Texas General Land Office (GLO). We appreciate your feedback and take all complaints seriously. We log and review all complaints to ensure compliance, so we can build back stronger and more resilient communities.

Lemoine Disaster Recovery tested the quality of your water well on April 29, 2022 and confirmed that it is free of contaminants. Any pending issues are likely the result of a low water table. Any further resolution to these issues is considered general homeowner maintenance. The GLO will not take any additional action regarding this item. Your complaint is now considered closed.

Please note that your one-year warranty expired on June 23, 2021. Non-structural warranty claims submitted after June 23, 2021 will not be addressed by Lemoine Disaster Recovery.

If you have further questions, then please contact me at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Ashley Hurst  
Community & Quality Assurance  
Community Development and Revitalization  
Texas General Land Office

Cc: GLO Program Staff, Vendor

December 15, 2022

Jeff Taebel  
Director, Community and Environmental Planning  
Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)  
via email to [harveyMODcomments@h-gac.com](mailto:harveyMODcomments@h-gac.com)

Coalition for Equity, Environment, and Resilience (CEER) Comments on 2018 Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery Funds Reallocation Funds

Dear Mr. Taebel:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the H-GAC method of distribution for the remaining \$2,305,505 of the 2018 CDBG-DR allocation. The Coalition for Equity, Environment, and Resilience is a group of 28 nonprofits that work to raise awareness of the connections between pollution, place, and the public's health. Since our inception in 2018, we have advocated for the equitable distribution of disaster recovery funding and flood infrastructure investments.

To be effective, this method of distribution must ensure that the remaining CDBG-DR funds are reallocated to the areas with the greatest remaining unmet infrastructure needs. It is possible that the current damage hierarchy would reach that objective but H-GAC has not provided enough information about the data used to create the damage hierarchy to fully assess its potential effectiveness, including whether the damage hierarchy remains the same five years after Hurricane Harvey. The material conditions on the ground have changed dramatically since the initial disbursement of post-Harvey CDBG-DR funds, so it is crucial that H-GAC use current data to calculate the damage hierarchy. During the November 9th, 2022 Method of Distribution Public Planning Meeting, H-GAC staff made it clear that this funding could only be used on infrastructure, including drainage and flood infrastructure. Thus, the applied damage hierarchy should include data on remaining unmet infrastructure need and not solely data on housing damage. **We strongly urge H-GAC to make sure that the damage hierarchy uses up-to-date data that reflects a current assessment of remaining unmet infrastructure needs.**

Finally, we support H-GAC's decision not to pursue a waiver of the 70% LMI requirement. Structural inequality not only makes low-income communities and communities of color more vulnerable to disasters in the first place but also slows down the recovery process, making them more likely to have remaining unmet recovery needs years after a disaster. It is vital that low- and moderate-income communities are the primary beneficiaries of this funding.

In conclusion, we encourage H-GAC to include an assessment of unmet flood and drainage infrastructure needs in the reallocation formula for 2018 CDBG-DR funds and stronger

guidelines for subgrantees as they engage in land acquisition and home buyouts. Please let us know if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Sefania Tomaskovic, Executive Director  
CEER

[REDACTED]

Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud, Executive Director  
Bayou City Waterkeeper

Maddie Sloan  
Meg Duffy  
Texas Appleseed

[REDACTED]



## Houston-Galveston Area Council Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program Method of Distribution Reallocation Amendment

In 2018, the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors approved a Method of Distribution for \$129 million in Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery funds for local infrastructure projects in the H-GAC region.

The Board-approved 2018 Hurricane Harvey Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Method of Distribution of Funds included a reallocation process for any of the allocated funds that were declined or de-obligated.

Ten entities have unused/unspent funds totaling \$2,305,505.00 available to reallocate, as noted in the table below. H-GAC sought public comment on the amended Method of Distribution.

The reallocation process entails:

1. Any declined or de-obligated funds are offered to the county in which the initial recipient was located.
2. If the counties do not accept the funds, they would then be offered to a set of specific local governments established by the Board.

1. Any declined or de-obligated funds are first offered to the county in which the initial recipient was located		
Entity Declining Funds	Declined Funds	County to Receive Funds
Town of San Felipe	\$182,360.00	Austin
Bailey's Prairie Village	\$210,679.00	Brazoria
Manvel	\$322,714.00	Brazoria
Arcola City	\$171,400.00	Fort Bend
Richmond City	\$219,160.00	Fort Bend
Stafford City	\$132,567.00	Fort Bend
Sugar Land	\$417,341.00	Fort Bend
Weston Lakes	\$246,834.00	Fort Bend
Riverside	\$106,901.00	Walker
Waller	\$295,549.00	Waller

2. If the counties do not accept the funds, they would then be offered to a set of specific local governments established by the H-GAC Board	
Reallocating Rank	Jurisdiction
1	Dickinson city
2	Wharton county
3	Chambers county
4	La Marque city
5	Liberty county
6	Galveston county
7	Matagorda county
8	Brazoria county
9	Colorado county
10	Waller county
11	Fort Bend county
12	Austin county
13	Montgomery county
14	Walker county



H-GAC hosted a public planning meeting November 9, 2022, to provide information, answer questions, and take feedback. H-GAC sought public comment on the reallocation amendment. Public comment was accepted by email, phone, postal mail, through an online portal, and at a public hearing on December 6, 2022. No changes were made following the public comment period ending December 15, 2022.

More details on the approved 2018 Method of Distribution process and 2022 Amendment process for reference are available at <https://www.h-gac.com/hurricane-harvey-recovery/cdbg-disaster-funds>.

At their regularly scheduled meeting on January 17, 2023, the H-GAC Board of Directors approved the amendment for submittal to the Texas General Land Office for approval. This meeting was open to the public.

Subsequent to the Board approval, H-GAC confirmed that the counties of origin indicated in step 1 of the reallocation process would all accept the reallocated funds, eliminating the need for step 2. The final reallocation of funds is represented by the amounts and recipients indicated in the table for Step 1.