CDBG MITIGATION CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE 1
Virtual Committee Meeting
Thursday February 15, 2024
3 – 4 p.m.

Join by Video
Join by Phone: +1 972-301-8049
Phone Conference ID: 564 494 268#

Note: This meeting will be recorded

Attendance: Bridgette Baldwin, Vivian Ballou, John Cooper, Jr., Keith Downey, Sandra Edwards, Derek Katznelson (Secretary), Jaimie Masterson, Arjumund Mubarak, Cecilio Ortiz-Garcia (Chair), Tracy Stephens, and Amanda Torres.

Committee Purpose: Each committee shall adopt the following statement of purpose: "The purpose of this committee is to advise the Texas General Land Office (GLO) on the implementation of programs using first-of-its-kind Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding."

Meeting Objective: Introduce new officers, updates from GLO

Agenda

3:00-3:10 p.m. **Welcome & Introductions**
Derek opened the meeting and GLO took attendance. Introduced new Chair.

3:11-3:20 p.m. **Updates from GLO**

- Amendments
  - Amendment #2 was approved August 4, 2023
  - Amendment #3 acknowledged Sept. 8, 2023
- Program updates
  - Regional Mitigation Program – *Overview of the program, including reviewing the Allocation Form. Discussed where awarded project descriptions could be found.*
    - 182 applications received
    - **62 Awarded Projects**
      - Brazos Valley COG – 5 projects
      - Coastal Bend COG – 7 projects
      - Deep East Texas COG – 19 projects
      - Golden Crescent RPC – 1 project
      - Houston-Galveston Area Council – 27 projects

        - South East Texas Regional Planning Commission – 3 projects
    - Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Program
        - 90 applications received so far
        - 47 under contract
        - Average ask: $77,784
    - Resilient Communities Program
        - 110 applications received so far
        - 18 in contract; 10 pending contract
        - Average ask: $173,687
- Public comments – *no comments received.*
    - written comments
    - public comments

3:21-3:45 p.m. **Working Group Discussion**

- Explore prior state and local CDBG-MIT CAC committee work
- Present comparable agency processes & best practices
- Review Working Groups
- Confer with CAC members on future direction

3:46-3:56 p.m. **Questions**

3:56-4:00 p.m. **Next Steps**

Citizen Advisory Council Update

February 2024

Changes to the Action Plan in Amendment 3

- Harris County Flood Control District (HCFD) added as a subrecipient under the Harris County Method of Distribution (MOD)

CDBG-MIT Action Plan Amendment #3

HUD Acknowledged September 8, 2023

Texas General Land Office
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

Regional Mitigation Program (COG MOD)

- All Methods of Distribution complete
  - 182 applications received thus far
- 62 Awarded Projects
  - Brazos Valley COG – 5 projects
  - Coastal Bend COG – 7 projects
  - Deep East Texas COG – 19 projects
  - Golden Crescent RPC – 1 project
  - Houston-Galveston Area Council – 27 projects
  - South East Texas Regional Planning Commission – 3 projects

Program Updates:

Regional Mitigation Program

Texas General Land Office
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

Local Hazard Mitigation Program

- 90 applications received so far
  - 47 under contract
  - Average ask: $77,784

Resilient Communities Program

- 110 applications received so far
  - 18 in contract; 10 pending contract
  - Average ask: $173,687

Program Updates:

Local Hazard Mitigation Program & Resilient Communities Program

Texas General Land Office
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

Changes to the Action Plan in Amendment 2

- **Housing Oversubscription Supplemental Program**
  - expanded eligibility to waitlisted eligible HAP applications from the 2018 HAP program and the 2019 HAP program
  - Program end date is 6 years
- **Resilient Homes Program**
  - HAP applications from the 2018 HAP program and the 2019 HAP program
- **Resilient Communities Program**
  - Changed terms of the program to cover until contract term (*instead of within x months of grant award*)
- **Updated Appendices**
  - Updated program expenditures and outcomes
  - Added partial awards for the 2015 Floods & 2016 Floods Competitions
    - City of Austin (2015 HMID)
    - City of Taylor (2015 SMID)
    - City of Houston (2016 HMID)
  - Remove terminated contract for City of Iola (Harvey SMID)
- **Language updates**

CDBG-MIT Action Plan Amendment #2

HUD Approved August 4, 2023

Texas General Land Office
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

Changes to the Action Plan in Amendment 1

- **Added language about 2018 South Texas Floods**
  - Damage and Recovery Needs Assessment
  - Described the additional $4.652M in CDBG-MIT
  - Created 2018 State Mitigation Competition
- **Added language about 2019 disaster events**
  - Outlined damages caused by Tropical Storm Imelda and 2019 Lower Rio Grande Valley Floods
- **Updated Program Budget**
  - Increased LMI budget based on new funding
  - Increased 2016 Floods State Mitigation Competition budget
  - Reduced Hurricane Harvey State Competition budget
  - Crated Harris County MOD Budget ($750,000,000)
  - Adjusted budgets for Coastal Resiliency, HMGP Supplemental, LHMPP, RCP, and Planning)
- **Updated Regional Mitigation Program**
  - Added waiver
  - Increased eligible entities
  - Increased budget

CDBG-MIT Action Plan Amendment #1

HUD Approved March 18, 2022

Texas General Land Office
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

CAC CDBG-MIT Work Plan Direction

Shelly Stuart, Cecilio Ortiz-Garcia, & Derek Katznelson

GLO CDBG-MIT Citizen's Advisory Committee

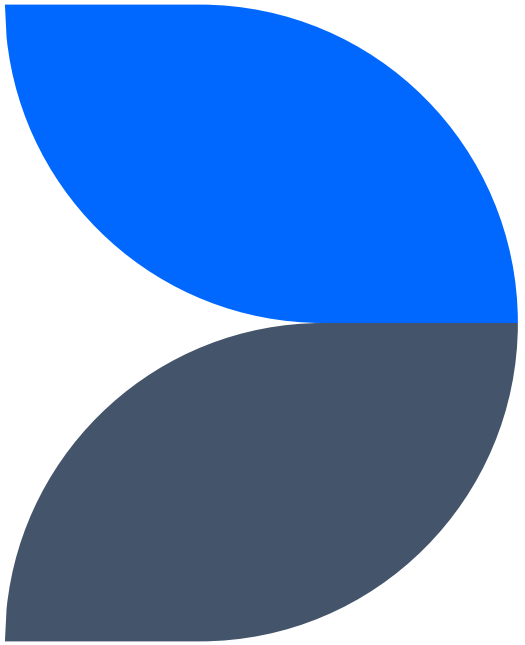
February 14, 2024

Texas – GLO CDBG-MIT Citizens' Advisory Committee

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: "The purpose of this committee is to provide increased transparency in the implementation of CDBG–MIT funds, to solicit and respond to public comment and input regarding the grantee's mitigation activities and to serve as an on-going public forum to continuously inform the grantee's CDBG–MIT projects and programs."

Exploring Comparable CAC's

What's Been Done



Sampled CDBG-MIT CAC Communities

Comparable State Committees:

1. State of North Carolina
2. State of Florida
3. State of Georgia

Comparable Local Committees:

1. City of San Marcos
2. U.S. Virgin Islands
3. Puerto Rico

Work Products – From Other CDBG-MIT Jurisdictions

- **Community Feedback**
- Citizen Meetings
- Member Network with Agency
- Process to have Community members submit comments for CAC review

Documents

- Committee Reports
- Minutes and Meeting Recordings
- Formal Questions and Recommendation Form to Agency

Action Plan Comments

- Minor or Substantial Amendment Comments
- New Programs, Implementation Procedures, or Budget

Presenting Agency Processes

How Others Provide Advice

Agencies are recognizing the need to transform community engagement…

Needs/Actions

a. Identify Local Vulnerabilities, Priorities and Decision Points
    a. Ask, Listen, Record, Consider, Incorporate, Be Accountable
b. Align Scales of Action, Information and Feedback
    a. Downscale, Lower Barriers, Adapt Practices, Feed Decision Points, Be relevant, Comprehensible, Actionable, Credible
c. Frame around shared/existing Vulnerabilities and Priorities
    a. Center on Community Priorities, Let go of Assumed Priorities, Avoid Conflicted Frames
d. Be an Honest Broker/Policy Entrepreneur, Span Boundaries, Build Bridges
    a. Never over/under state risk, Boundary Spanning Partners
e. Engage in Co-Production of Knowledge in Learning loops
    a. Establish trusted collaborative spaces for knowledge sharing, Build Strategies Together

Agencies are recognizing the need to transform community engagement…

Shared set of Values

Community Resilience Innovation and Advocacy Center, 2023

- Safety, Acceptance, Benefit of the Doubt Accountability
- Recognition, Understanding, accountability
- Humility, Deep relationship development, trust
- Inclusion, acknowledgement, recognition, independence /polycentricity
- Convergence, heterarchical interconnectedness

Texas CAC Workplan

What we've planned to do

TX CDBG-MIT CAC Working Groups

Engagement & Communications, Guidance & Impacts

Committee Terms:

- Committee began March 2021
- Co-Chairs will remain 4 years (to Spring 2025)
- Working Groups will complete their products within 2 years (by Fall 2024)
- Two-thirds of committee members may rotate off after Working Groups complete their work
- One-third of committee members requested to remain through Fall 2025, for continuity as new Co-Chairs and members join
- At least one committee member may be asked to continue serving as a new Co-Chair

Working Group 1: Linking to Local Communities

Output: Plan/guidance on communicating and engaging with communities

- Identify and connect with existing networks in local communities for two-way information exchange (e.g., faith-based, schools, libraries, civic organizations).
- Establish citizen communication channels for ensuring the equitable sharing of information on GLO programs.
- Develop consistent processes for updates from GLO to be distributed through communication networks, including in collaboration with the Committee.

Working Group 2: Application Guidance

Output: FAQs for *community and individual* applicants from end-user perspective

- Review existing Frequently Asked Questions to identify reoccurring questions and issues to create a standing guidance manual for applicants.
- Identify common application issues that delay review or lead to denials. Issues could include applicant errors or system improvements.
- Identify what kinds of information should be included by community or individual applicants to submit more competitive applications.

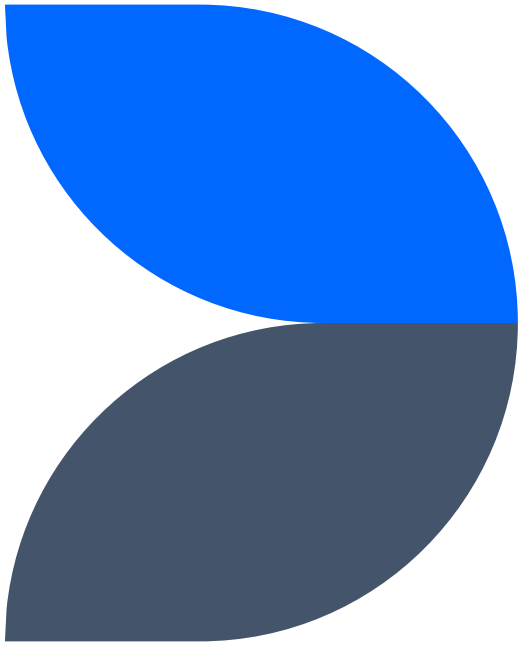
Cross-Cutting Activity: Understand Impacts of GLO Programs

Output: TBD – perhaps a database or adding to existing databases

- Review existing GLO data related to expenditures of CDBG-DR funds and stakeholder data to look for areas of opportunity for future programs. Issues to investigate include how to foster self-sufficiency for communities, identify local data that would better reflect vulnerability on the ground, and how to implement mitigation activities that serve more than one hazard.

The Future of Texas CAC

Where would we like to go?



Open Forum on CAC Direction