



Texas General Land Office

PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

2024 Disasters Public Hearing Script: Friday, May 23, 2025 (12:00 p.m.)

Slide 1 – Cover Slide

No speaking

Slide 2 – “Introductory Slide”

Slide stays up 15 minutes prior to starting meeting

Andrea: Good afternoon and thank you for attending the Texas General Land Office’s public hearing today, May 23, 2025, for the state’s 2024 Disasters Action Plan for five hundred fifty-five million six hundred eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$555,687,000) in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds.

This public hearing is intended to seek input on the state’s proposed action plan for funds allocated to the state from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for recovery from the Texas Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding (DR-4781) and Hurricane Beryl (DR-4798), collectively referred to as the 2024 Disasters.

Slide 3 – “Interpretation Channels”

Andrea: This public hearing has live audio translation available. In order to hear a live translation of this hearing’s audio in a different language, please click the “Translations” button at the bottom of the screen and select the appropriate audio channel.

Please note that, in accordance with our public notice, only language translations already requested in advance are available.

Slide 4 – “2024 Disasters Action Plan Public Hearing” (this stays up while people join)

Andrea: Before we begin, there are a few housekeeping items to address. We are using the Zoom videoconference platform today for this virtual hearing. You will notice that you are listed as a participant in the meeting.



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All participants have been muted to reduce background noise and video has been turned off to increase bandwidth for the presentation portion of this meeting.

Starting after my call to order, Heather Lagrone, the Senior Deputy Director for the Community Development and Revitalization Department of the GLO, will give a presentation on the proposed Action Plan for this disaster. When she concludes, we will transition to public comment from our attendees.

If you wish to provide public comment during today's public hearing, please complete Microsoft Forms link in the slide. The public hearing will end at 2 o'clock or fifteen minutes after the last public comment is received, whichever comes first. The link can also be found in the chat box of this event, as well as online on the GLO's website.

Additionally, you can scan the QR code on the top right of the slide with your phone camera to access the form. The QR code on the bottom right will take you to the GLO's Public Notice page where the Action Plan is posted. Each commenter has up to three minutes to provide their comment. If you have completed the Microsoft Form, we will call your name at the appropriate time and unmute you to provide public comment. You may also turn on your video at this time. If you need technical assistance, please call (512) 803-3475.

Please be aware that this hearing is being recorded and will be made available publicly. Anyone choosing to speak is consenting to audio and/or video publication of their comments. A summary of all comments will be responded to with the submission of this action plan to HUD. If you do not wish to comment at this hearing, we will also be accepting written comments that are submitted to our email account, cdr@recovery.texas.gov. Written comments need to be submitted by 5pm central time on June 16, 2025.

Now I would like to introduce Senior Deputy Director for the Community Development and Revitalization, Heather Lagrone.

Slide 5 – “Public Comments”



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Heather: Good afternoon, everybody. You'll see on your screen some of the housekeeping items that Andrea just went through with you. When we get to the public comment period of this hearing, we ask that you keep your comments as brief and succinct as possible.

Again, if you would like to speak during the public hearing, we're asking that you sign up via the Microsoft Forms link that is on your screen as well as in the chat. If you do not wish to publicly speak, you still have the opportunity for written comment through 5pm on June 16, 2025.

Slide 6 – “Public Hearing Agenda”

Heather: Our agenda for today includes a summary of the CDBG-DR allocation Texas received for recovery from the 2024 Disasters, an overview of the proposed state Action Plan for the use of these funds, and a period for public comments.

The GLO has designed different programs to help Texas recover from the impacts of the 2024 Disasters. Before we get into the public comment portion, we will give a summary of the allocation the state of Texas received from HUD as well as an overview of these programs.

Slide 7 – “2024 Disasters CDBG-DR Allocation Overview”

Heather: Texas endured the 2024 Texas Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding (DR-4781) from April 26 to June 5, 2024, and Hurricane Beryl (DR-4798) from July 5 to July 9, 2024. Eighty-one (81) counties received a Presidential disaster declaration for the Texas severe storms and thirty (30) counties received a Presidential disaster declaration for Hurricane Beryl.

On January 16, 2025, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated five hundred fifty-five million six hundred eighty-seven thousand dollars \$555,687,000 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds to Texas to address the unmet need remaining from the 2024 Disasters.

Slide 8 – “2024 Disasters CDBG-DR Eligible Areas”



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Heather: There are 92 total counties eligible under the proposed 2024 Disasters Action Plan. Twenty-seven counties are HUD MID, or GLO-designated HUD MID counties, shown in green on the map on the left side of the slide. Sixty-five counties are Secondary MID, shown as grey on the map.

HUD directly allocated sixty-seven million three hundred twenty-six thousand dollars (\$67,326,000) to Harris County and three hundred fourteen million six hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$314,645,000) to the city of Houston. Harris County and the city of Houston will write and administer their own Action Plans. They are not eligible to receive state funding in this proposed Action Plan.

Slide 9 – “Unmet Needs Assessment”

Heather: As a part of the Action Plan creation process, the GLO conducted an unmet needs assessment to determine recovery needs in the MID counties. The analysis shows the largest remaining unmet needs from the 2024 Disasters is owner-occupied housing, followed by rental housing, infrastructure, and then economic revitalization. These unmet needs were used as the basis for program and budget creation in the action plan.

Slide 10 – “2024 Disasters CDBG-DR Allocation Overview”

Heather: CDBG-DR funds are allocated in order to address the remaining unmet need after all other forms of assistance have been exhausted. Eighty percent of these funds must be spent in the areas HUD deems most impacted and distressed, which are in green on the map on the left. The remaining twenty percent of funds will be spent in the Secondary Most Impacted and Distressed (Secondary MID) areas, the grey counties on the map.

Seventy percent of these funds must be used to benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Additionally, seventy-two million four hundred eight-one thousand dollars (\$72,481,000) of the funds must be used for activities that mitigate the impacts of future disasters.



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After the public comment period ends on June 16th the Texas General Land Office will submit the 2024 Disasters Action Plan to HUD for approval with substantive responses to public comments. HUD's review and approval period may take up to 45 days, with potential for a 45-day deficiency period where the state can respond to any revisions required by HUD.

Slide 11 – “2024 Disasters CDBG-DR Allocation Overview”

Heather: Here is the budget for the 2024 Disasters allocations. You'll see a breakdown of our programs by MID designation, LMI amounts.

Slide 12 – “2024 Disasters CDBG-DR Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP)”

Heather: The Homeowner Assistance Program will rehabilitate and reconstruct owner-occupied homes damaged by the 2024 Disasters in HUD MID counties. Homeowners may submit for a rehabilitation project of up to \$90,000, a historic rehabilitation project of up to \$175,000, or for reconstruction project for a total based on the local composite builder bid. The GLO will directly administer this program.

Slide 13 – “2024 Disasters CDBG-DR Homeowner Reimbursement Program (HRP)”

Heather: The Homeowner Reimbursement Program will reimburse homeowners in HUD MID counties for repair expenses for owner-occupied homes between \$3,000 and \$75,000 tied to damages associated with the 2024 Disasters. The program will be exclusively available to LMI households for the first 60 days it is run. The GLO will directly administer this program.

Slide 14 – “2024 Disasters CDBG-DR Affordable Rental Program (ARP)”

Heather: The Affordable Rental Program will provide funding for rehabilitation, reconstruction and new construction of affordable multifamily housing projects between \$500,000 and \$7,500,000 in HUD MID counties. The eligible applicants for ARP will be:

- Community Housing Development Organizations;



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- 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) Not-For-Profit Organizations;
- Local Public Housing Authorities;
- Units of local government;
- Private for-profit property owners; and
- Federally recognized Indian Tribes.

The program will be administered through subrecipients and developers and projects will be selected based on the criteria in the Action Plan.

Slide 15 – “2024 Disasters CDBG-DR Local Communities Program (LCP) Overview”

Heather: The Local Communities Program will provide funding for long-term disaster recovery, and restoration of infrastructure or economic revitalization for local communities in both HUD and Secondary MID counties. Units of local government and Federally recognized Indian Tribes may submit up to two projects between \$500,000 and \$5,000,000. Projects will be selected based on the criteria in the Action Plan.

Slide 16 – “Public Comment Portion” (this stays up the whole Public Comment portion)

Heather: At this point in time, we would like to move towards our verbal comments from the entities and individuals who have submitted their names. Again, we will have a three-minute limit for each of you. We ask that you state your name and affiliation, if applicable.

If you do not wish to speak, you may submit written comments by 5:00 p.m. on June 16th either via email at cdr@recovery.texas.gov or by mail at P.O. Box 12873, Austin, Texas, 78711. You may also fax them to (512) 475-5150.

Alex G: This begins the public comments portion of our meeting. If you have completed the Microsoft Form, we will call your name and unmute you to provide public comment. Once we call on you, you will receive a notice to unmute. To speak, you must click on that invitation to unmute. You may also turn on your camera at this time.



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As a reminder, each commenter has up to three minutes to provide their comment. Those requiring interpretations have up to six minutes. If you need technical assistance, please call (512) 803-3475. The hearing will conclude at two o'clock or 15 minutes after all those wishing to speak have given their public comment. The first public commenter is ...

Public Comment Period

Slide 17 – “Written Comments”

Alex G: That concludes all the speakers who have signed up via the Microsoft Form link. If you have not already made a comment and wish to do so, you may indicate that by raising your hand using the “raise hand” feature in the Zoom toolbar.

If you are on a computer this will be on the bottom of your screen in the “reactions” icon. If you click on that icon, you will have the option to raise your hand. If you are on a phone, you may raise your hand by pressing *9.

This will notify us, and we will send you an invitation to unmute. In order to be unmuted, you must accept that invitation to unmute.

Alex G: Looks like no one raised their hand. As a reminder, any public comments submitted to the GLO by 5pm on June 16 will be considered. Thank you and have a good evening.

Slide 18 – “Thank You”