



NEWS

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Contact: Gordon Anderson 512.475.4743
Jorge Reyes 512.475.4577

State rushes emergency disaster recovery funds to southeast Texas in wake of Humberto

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs awards \$25,000 to Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission to assist hurricane victims

(AUSTIN) — The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) today announced that it is awarding \$25,000 in special emergency disaster relief funds to the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC), a voluntary association of local governments serving Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties.

The funds will go toward helping area residents recover from the devastating effects resulting from Hurricane Humberto. The storm holds the distinction of being the quickest forming hurricane on record, dumping up to 9 inches of rain in a six-hour period in parts of the region.

“Many people in Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange counties are still struggling to recover from Hurricane Rita, and this fast moving storm has only made their recovery more difficult,” said Michael Gerber, TDHCA Executive Director. “As is often the case with natural disasters, low income households were among those hit the hardest. The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission will be able to use these funds to bring needed aid to some of the city’s most vulnerable residents.”

“Southeast Texas appreciates TDHCA’s pro-active approach to providing these much needed funds to our area,” said Shaun P. Davis, Executive Director, South East Texas Regional Planning Commission. “The day after the storm, they took the initiative to make us aware that these funds were available. We’ll be able to help some folks who really need it.”

SETRPC will use the grant, funded through TDHCA’s Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program, to provide area residents with food, clothing, cleaning supplies and appliances, emergency rent, utility assistance, and other essential emergency needs. Only organizations designated as a CSBG eligible entity are qualified to receive these federal funds.

The CSBG Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The program funds eligible organizations for the delivery of services to very low income Texas residents in all 254 counties.

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221 E. 11TH • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 • (800) 525-0657 • (512) 475-3800

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These funds support a variety of direct services in addition to helping maintain the core administrative elements of these local organizations. Funding is also provided to organizations serving Native American and migrant and seasonal farm workers, as well as for other innovative pilot projects.

About the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is Texas' lead agency responsible for affordable housing, community services, energy assistance, and colonia housing programs. The Department annually administers more than \$400 million through for-profit, non-profit, and local government partnerships to deliver local housing and community-based opportunities and assistance to Texans in need.