



# NEWS

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## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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### **State housing agency providing \$1.6 million lift to Brownsville's Hurricane Dolly recovery efforts**

(AUSTIN) — Aiming to rapidly rebuild housing stock in the wake of Hurricane Dolly and bolster the region's economy, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) today announced a major award of federal disaster recovery funds to the City of Brownsville. In addition to helping replace damaged or destroyed housing units, the award will also provide a wide array of financial benefits to the region.

TDHCA awarded city officials \$1.6 million in disaster recovery funds to repair or replace 20 single family homes damaged or destroyed by the 2008 storm. Activities will include emergency repairs to roofs, windows, and other elements of the home needing immediate assistance. Reconstruction will include demolition and rebuilding a home on the existing lot.

The award represents a portion of the \$1.3 billion in federal disaster recovery funds allocated to the state just over five months ago.

"Dolly was the most destructive hurricane to hit the Rio Grande Valley in nearly 30 years, and area residents really took a punch," said Michael Gerber, TDHCA Executive Director. "The state's mission now is to restore the region's housing stock in as rapid a manner as possible, which will help stabilize lives, create construction jobs, and generate taxes and fees for the city. By working through officials at the local level, TDHCA is ensuring the funds are directed to where they will have the greatest impact."

Hurricane Dolly made landfall near South Padre Island on July 23, 2008, with a significant amount of rainfall and 85 mph winds. The storm dropped up to 16 inches of rain in certain areas, resulting in extensive flooding throughout the Valley and causing an estimated \$1 billion in damage.

On March 31, 2009, the Office of Rural and Community Affairs executed a grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), accepting the \$1.3 billion in disaster recovery funds for the State of Texas. This allocation to the City of Brownsville is among the portion of funds appropriated for hurricanes Ike and Dolly; of this amount, approximately \$620 million will be made available to TDHCA to administer housing programs related to the state's recovery efforts.

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Under HUD regulations, 50 percent of federal disaster recovery funds targeting the rebuilding of homes damaged by Hurricane Dolly must benefit low to moderate income households.

**About The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs**

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