



# NEWS

---

## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

---

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*August 3, 2009*

*Contact: Gordon Anderson 512.475.4743*  
*Jill McFarren 512.475.2844*

### **State housing agency providing \$1.5 million lift to Fort Bend County's Hurricane Ike recovery efforts**

(AUSTIN) — Aiming to rapidly rebuild housing stock in the wake of Hurricane Ike and bolster the region's economy, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has announced a major award of federal disaster recovery funds to Fort Bend County. 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 officials with Fort Bend County \$1.5 million in disaster recovery funds, \$1.3 million of which the county will use to demolish and replace 38 substandard homes owned and lived in by low to moderate income residents who did not have adequate insurance to cover the cost of repairs. The balance of funds will help the county cover program administration, planning, and delivery costs.

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

"Ike was one of the most destructive hurricanes on record, and Texas unfortunately took a direct hit," 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 county. By working through officials at the local level, TDHCA is ensuring the funds are directed to where they will have the greatest impact."

Hurricane Ike made landfall near Galveston on September 13, 2008, with a significant storm surge and winds topping out at 110 miles per hour. Damages have been estimated to run as high as \$29 billion.

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 Fort Bend County 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.

- more -

Under HUD regulations, 50 percent of federal disaster recovery funds targeting the rebuilding of homes damaged by Hurricane Ike 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.*