



NEWS

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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State housing agency providing \$11 million lift to Houston area's Hurricane Ike recovery efforts

(AUSTIN) — Aiming to rapidly rebuild the housing stock in the wake of Hurricane Ike and bolster the region's economy, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) today announced an award of federal disaster recovery funds to a regional planning commission serving a 13-county area of the Gulf Coast. 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 the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) \$11 million in disaster recovery funds to repair or rebuild 108 single family homes and five rental properties damaged or destroyed by the 2008 storm. The organization expects the majority of these homeowners to be of low income, persons with disabilities, elderly individuals, or single-parent/guardians.

"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 local governments. By working through officials at the local level, TDHCA is ensuring the funds are directed to where they will have the greatest impact."

H-GAC is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school and other special districts assisting local leaders in planning and coordinating regional development activities. The organization serves Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties.

Hurricane Ike made landfall at 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.

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This allocation to H-GAC is among the first portions 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.

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.