



Council of Government (COG) Method of Distribution for 2017 Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster Recovery Allocation

Summary Information

Contact Information

Council of Government (COG): **Capital Area Council of Governments**

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City, State, Zip: **Austin, Texas 78744**

Allocation Summary

COG Allocation for All Programs: **\$ 17,234,948**

Local Buyout and Acquisition Program Total: **\$ 12,929,474**

Local Infrastructure Program Total: **\$ 4,305,474**

Citizen Participation

Below is a description addressing how the COG complied with their Citizen Participation Plan regarding citizen and non-governmental organization outreach, and any additional efforts exceeding GLO minimum public participation requirements:

CAPCOG utilized several methods for encouraging citizen participation. CAPCOG engaged in outreach efforts to citizens and non-governmental entities representing the protected classes and low-to-moderate citizens to discuss unmet needs within the four (4) impacted counties related to CDBG-DR funds. Outreach efforts included newspaper advertisements in regional newspapers, conducting two (2) formal public hearings in Bastrop County, conducting a town hall meeting in Lee County at the request of citizens and public officials, and conducting community surveys to ascertain the public interest and unmet needs.

First Public Hearing Information

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. Location: Bastrop County Courthouse Annex
 Attendance: 15 Public Planning Meeting:

Personal Notice. As required, personal notice was sent to eligible entities at least five (5) days in advance of the public hearing using the following method(s) (at least one must be selected):

	Method	Date Sent	Documentation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Electronic Mail	Tuesday, May 22, 2018	See the attached list of individuals receiving notification in this manner, with a copy of the email.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivery		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certified Mail		

Internet Notice. As required, public notice was distributed on the Internet at least five (5) days in advance using the following method:

	Method	Date Published	Documentation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COG Website	Friday, May 25, 2018	See attached an electronic verification of the hearing notice as posted on the CAPCOG website with notification of the same routed to cdr@glo.texas.gov

Published Notice. As required, notice of the public hearing was published in at least one regional newspaper at least three (3) days in advance. Notice of public hearing was published in the following regional newspaper(s):

	Newspaper Name	Date Published	Documentation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smithville Times	5/24/2018	See attached copy of the hearing notice and a publisher's affidavit.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bastrop Advertiser	5/24/2018	See attached copy of the hearing notice and a publisher's affidavit.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Austin American-Statesman	5/24/2018	See attached copy of the hearing notice and a publisher's affidavit.

Citizen Comment Documentation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The required copy of a sign-in sheet from the public hearing is attached.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A summary of the citizen comments, responses, meeting discussion is attached.	
	Describe any efforts to notify and accommodate those with modified communication needs, such as posting information and providing interpretive services for other languages (persons with Limited English Proficiency).	To keep in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, CAPCOG provided reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities attending CAPCOG functions, which included consideration of access to handicap-accessible parking and meeting venue. The public hearing location was centrally located and most accessible to the residents of the 4 county impacted area. CAPCOG purchased and advertised the public hearing notices in English and Spanish in regional newspapers that reached the 4 impacted counties. CAPCOG also provided handouts to hearing attendees and provided aid to participants completing questionnaires in English and Spanish during the meeting. CAPCOG also had a Spanish-speaking representative present to assist in translating information to participants who had Limited English Proficiency.

Second Public Hearing Information

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

Location: Bastrop County Courthouse Annex – Commissioners Courtroom

Attendance: 27

Public Planning Meeting:

Personal Notice. As required, personal notice was sent to eligible entities at least five (5) days in advance of the public hearing using the following method(s) (at least one must be selected):

	Method	Date Sent	Documentation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Electronic Mail	Tuesday, May 22, 2018	See the attached list of individuals receiving notification in this manner, with a copy of the email.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivery		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certified Mail		

Internet Notice. As required, public notice was distributed on the Internet at least five (5) days in advance using the following method:

	Method	Date Published	Documentation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COG Website	Monday, June 11, 2018	See attached notification of public hearing notice on CAPCOG website in the "In the News" section, along with email notification to cdr@glo.texas.gov

Published Notice. As required, notice of the public hearing was published in at least one regional newspaper at least three (3) days in advance. Notice of public hearing was published in the following regional newspaper(s):

	Newspaper Name	Date Published	Documentation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Austin American-Statesman</i>	Thursday, June 14, 2018	See attached copy of the hearing notice and a publisher's affidavit.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bastrop Advertiser</i>	Thursday, June 14, 2018	See attached copy of the hearing notice and a publisher's affidavit.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Smithville Times</i>	Thursday, June 14, 2018	See attached copy of the hearing notice and a publisher's affidavit.

Citizen Comment Documentation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The required copy of a sign-in sheet from the public hearing is attached.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A summary of the citizen comments, responses, and meeting discussion is attached.	
	Describe any efforts to notify and accommodate those with modified communication needs, such as posting information and providing interpretive services for other languages.	To keep in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, CAPCOG provided reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities attending CAPCOG functions, which included consideration of access to handicap-accessible parking and meeting venue. The public hearing location was centrally located and most accessible to the residents of the 4 county impacted area. CAPCOG purchased and advertised the public hearing notices in English and Spanish in regional newspapers that reached the 4 impacted counties. CAPCOG also provided handouts to hearing attendees and provided aid to participants completing questionnaires in English and Spanish during the meeting. A CAPCOG representative was also present at this hearing to accommodate the Spanish speaking people present at this meeting.

Town Hall Meeting – Request for Information¹

Date/Time: Monday, June 25, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

Location: Lee County Courthouse, Giddings, TX

Attendance: 33

Public Planning Meeting:

Personal Notice. As required, personal notice was sent to eligible entities at least five (5) days in advance of the public hearing using the following method(s) (at least one must be selected):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Method	Date Sent	Documentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic Mail		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivery	Wednesday, June 20, 2018	See email notification from Lee County verifying submission of hand delivery.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regular Mail	Wednesday, June 20, 2018	See email notification from Lee County verifying submission of regular mail delivery.

Internet Notice. As required, public notice was distributed on the Internet at least five (5) days in advance using the following method:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Method	Date Published	Documentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	COG Website		

Published Notice. As required, notice of the public hearing was published in at least one regional newspaper at least three (3) days in advance. Notice of public hearing was published in the following regional newspaper(s):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Newspaper Name	Date Published	Documentation
<input type="checkbox"/>			

Citizen Comment Documentation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The required copy of a sign-in sheet from the public hearing is attached.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A summary of the citizen comments, responses, and meeting discussion is attached.		
	Describe any efforts to notify and accommodate those with modified communication needs, such as posting information and providing interpretive services for other languages.	This was a requested, coordinated, and scheduled meeting to be held in Lee County with CAPCOG's presence to answer citizen questions on the Method of Distribution. Lee County took the role of accommodating and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities attending this meeting. The meeting was requested to accommodate residents who had the inability to travel to Bastrop County to attend the 2 previous public hearings. Lee County advertised this meeting by public bulletin board posting at the County courthouse, in addition to conducting regular mail and hand delivery of an English and Spanish version of the notice to impacted county residents who demonstrated interest in the MOD process. At this meeting, CAPCOG also provided handouts to meeting attendees and provided aid to participants completing questionnaires in English and Spanish during the meeting. A CAPCOG representative was also present at this hearing to accommodate the Spanish speaking people present at this meeting.	

¹ At the request of various Lee County residents in attendance from the June 19, 2018 public hearing, a town hall meeting was coordinated by county officials, scheduled, and held on June 25, 2019 at the Lee County Courthouse by CAPCOG representatives.

Long-Term Planning and Recovery

Below is an explanation of how the COG's method of distribution fosters long-term community recovery that is forward-looking and focused on permanent restoration of infrastructure, housing and the local economy and primarily, how these activities will contribute to the long-term recovery and restoration of housing in the HUD-identified most impacted and distressed areas and/or other impacted areas.

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) has reviewed and received feedback from the public on the Hurricane Harvey related issues which impacted Bastrop, Caldwell, Fayette, and Lee Counties. The Method of Distribution for the CAPCOG region initiates the long-term community recovery effort by allocating needed funds to these impacted areas that have an identified unmet need to restore housing stock and sufficient infrastructure that was damaged in their communities. In an effort to foster long-term recovery and to expand the restoration of infrastructure, housing, and the local economy, CAPCOG has extended their knowledge resources to assist impacted and distressed areas with efficient planning and project administration to rebuild and rehabilitate damaged homes, dilapidated infrastructure, and spur growth and restoration of a stable economic base. With recovery funds being made available to these distressed areas, new opportunities will be established with the long-term effect of potentially creating local partnerships, job training, small business growth, and a residential population increase. The long term goal for the impacted areas is to rehabilitate and establish resilient communities that can withstand future disasters and continue to grow.

Unmet Housing Needs

Below is an explanation of how unmet housing needs will be addressed or how economic revitalization or infrastructure activities will contribute to long-term recovery and restoration of housing in the HUD-identified most impacted and distressed areas and/or other impacted areas.

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) will work in cooperation with the allocated counties to address the financial shortfall and unmet housing needs of their impacted areas. CAPCOG will utilize their extended knowledge base to assist impacted and distressed areas with efficient planning and project administration to rebuild and rehabilitate damaged homes, dilapidated infrastructure, and spur growth and restoration of a stable economic base. With recovery funds being made available to these distressed areas, new opportunities will be established with the long-term effect of potentially creating local partnerships, job training, small business growth, and a residential population increase. The long term goal for the impacted areas is to rehabilitate and establish resilient communities that can withstand future disasters and continue to grow.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Statement

All subrecipients will certify that they will affirmatively further fair housing ("AFFH") in their grant agreements, and will receive GLO training and technical assistance in meeting their AFFH obligations. Additionally, all project applications will undergo AFFH review by GLO before approval of projects. Such review will include assessment of a proposed project's area demography, socioeconomic characteristics, housing configuration and needs, educational, transportation, and health care opportunities, environmental hazards or concerns, and all other factors material to the AFFH determination. Applications should show that projects are likely to lessen area racial, ethnic, and low-income concentrations, and/or promote affordable housing in low-poverty, nonminority areas in response to natural hazard related impacts.

Low-to Moderate Income Requirement

Below is an explanation of how the method of distribution meet the 70 percent low-to moderate income (LMI) requirement for each program. This means that 70 percent of the funds must benefit areas that are 51% or more LMI households or benefit households with incomes below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) has conformed with the program guidelines received from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Texas General Land Office (GLO) that at least 70% of all program funds allocated must benefit low and moderate income (LMI) persons. To further our efforts to ensure that these program guidelines are met, CAPCOG formulated the Method of Distribution by utilizing quantifiable data provided from FEMA, HUD, and GLO to best assess and validate allocations to be made to the most distressed and impacted areas within the CAPCOG region.

Local Buyout and Acquisition Program Method of Distribution Detail

The COG is required to prepare a method of distribution for the local buyout and acquisition program funds between the eligible cities, counties, and entities with eminent domain authority. The GLO has directed the COG to use a direct allocation technique based on objective and verifiable data.

Distribution Factors

The COG has selected the following distribution factors:

Distribution Factor*	Weight	Documentation Source	Explanation of Factor Selection and Weighting
Regional Share of Individual Housing Assistance Claims Reported	0.20	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Criteria selected is quantifiable and reports the actual individual housing assistance claims received by FEMA for DR-4332. It further supports the number of damaged structures reported within an impacted area.
Regional Share of Individual Housing Damage Amounts Assessed and Reported	0.40	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Criteria selected is quantifiable and reports the actual individual housing damage amounts and assessments made by FEMA for DR-4332. It further supports the damage assessed amounts reported for damaged structures within an impacted area.
Regional Share of Low-to-Moderate Income Persons	0.40	Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	HUD and GLO requires that LMI be considered during allocation. CDBG-DR funds must be expended to benefit 70% of the LMI population identified.

*Add more rows if needed

All allocations must meet or exceed a floor of \$1,000,000 to help ensure sufficient funds for the Local Buyout and Acquisition program.

Eligible Activities

Activities must be specifically related to Hurricane Harvey, and must meet the following criteria as outlined in the State of Texas Plan for Disastery Recovery: Hurricane Harvey (Section IV.F.2.d).

The COG has addressed prioritization of eligible activities as follows:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The COG has chosen not to limit Grantees in the region to projects meeting regional priority activities.	
-OR-	
<input type="checkbox"/> The COG has limited Grantees in the region to selecting projects meeting the following regional priority activities:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Buyout	<input type="checkbox"/> Activities designed to relocate families outside of floodplains
<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/> Public service within the 15 percent cap (e.g. housing counseling, legal counseling, job training, mental health, and general health services)
<input type="checkbox"/> Relocation Assistance with buyout or acquisition activities	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) cost share
<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition only	

Ineligible Activities

Incentive payments to households that move to disaster-impacted floodplains. Activities located within the city limits of Houston and/or within Harris County are ineligible to participate in the program.

Local Infrastructure Program Method of Distribution Detail

The COG is required to prepare a method of distribution for the local infrastructure program funds between the eligible cities and counties. The GLO has directed the COG to use a direct allocation technique based on objective and verifiable data.

Distribution Factors

The COG has selected the following distribution factors:

Distribution Factor*	Weight	Documentation Source	Explanation of Factor Selection and Weighting
Regional Share of Individual Assistance Claims Reported to FEMA	0.40	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Criteria selected is quantifiable and reports the individual assistance claims received by FEMA for DR-4332.
Regional Share of Individual Assistance Damage Amounts Assessed and Reported to FEMA	0.40	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Criteria selected is quantifiable and reports the actual infrastructure damage amounts and assessments made by FEMA for DR-4332.
Regional Share of Low-to-Moderate Income Persons	0.20	Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	HUD and GLO requires that LMI be considered during allocation. CDBG-DR funds must be expended to benefit 70% of the LMI population identified.

*Add more rows if needed

All allocations must meet or exceed a floor of \$100,000 to help ensure sufficient funds for at least one eligible project.

Eligible Activities

Activities must be specifically related to Hurricane Harvey, and must meet the following criteria as outlined in the State of Texas Plan for Disaster Recovery: Hurricane Harvey (Section IV.F.7.d).

Each infrastructure activity must demonstrate how it will contribute to the long-term recovery and restoration of housing.

The COG has addressed prioritization of eligible activities as follows:

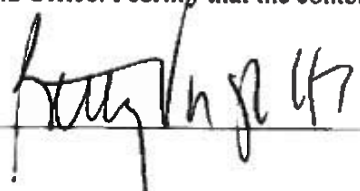
<input type="checkbox"/> The COG has chosen not to limit Grantees in the region to projects meeting regional priority activities.	
-OR-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The COG has limited Grantees in the region to selecting projects meeting the following regional priority activities:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specially Authorized Public Facilities & Improvements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sewer Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Public Utilities (gas, et al)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clearance & Demolition Activities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Street Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood and Drainage Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Centers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debris Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Centers & Emergency Shelters (Existing)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks, Playgrounds and other Recreational Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Protection Facilities and Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other CDBG-DR eligible activities related to infrastructure

Ineligible Activities

Ineligible activities for the local infrastructure program are outlined in the State of Texas Plan for Disastery Recovery: Hurricane Harvey (Section IV.F.7.e) and should be referenced accordingly.

Approval and Signatory Authority

A Resolution of the COG is attached approving the method of distribution and authorizing its submittal to the Texas General Land Office. I certify that the contents of this document and all related attachments are complete and accurate.

Signature 

Date 7/13/14

Betty A. Voights
Printed Name

Executive Director
Title

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Telephone Number