



Houston-Galveston Area Council Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program Method of Distribution Reallocation Amendment

Four years ago, in 2018, the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors approved a Method of Distribution for \$129 Million in Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery funds for local infrastructure projects in the H-GAC region.

The Board-approved 2018 Hurricane Harvey Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Method of Distribution of Funds included a reallocation process for any of the allocated funds that were declined or de-obligated.

Ten entities have unused/unspent funds totaling \$2,305,505.00 available to reallocate, as noted in the table below. H-GAC is seeking public comment on the amended Method of Distribution.

The reallocation process entails:

1. Any declined or de-obligated funds are first offered to the county in which the initial recipient was located.
2. If the counties do not accept the funds, they would then be offered to a set of specific local governments established by the Board.

1. Any declined or de-obligated funds are first offered to the county in which the initial recipient was located		
Entity Declining Funds	Declined Funds	County to Receive Funds
Town of San Felipe	\$182,360.00	Austin
Bailey's Prairie Village	\$210,679.00	Brazoria
Manvel	\$322,714.00	Brazoria
Arcola City	\$171,400.00	Fort Bend
Richmond City	\$219,160.00	Fort Bend
Stafford City	\$132,567.00	Fort Bend
SugarLand	\$417,341.00	Fort Bend
Weston Lakes	\$246,834.00	Fort Bend
Riverside	\$106,901.00	Walker
Waller	\$295,549.00	Waller

2. If the counties do not accept the funds, they would then be offered to a set of specific local governments established by the H-GAC Board	
Reallocating Rank	Jurisdiction
1	Dickinson city
2	Wharton county
3	Chambers county
4	La Marque city
5	Liberty county
6	Galveston county
7	Matagorda county
8	Brazoria county
9	Colorado county
10	Waller county
11	Fort Bend county
12	Austin county
13	Montgomery county
14	Walker county



H-GAC hosted a public planning meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, November 9, to provide information, answer questions and take feedback. Minutes from that meeting follow on pages 3 and 4 of this document.

H-GAC is seeking public comment on the reallocation amendment as detailed in the draft summary form beginning on page 5 of this document. This summary form will be updated to reflect any additions or changes from the public hearing and public comment period ending December 15, 2022.

More details on the approved 2018 Method of Distribution process for reference are available at <https://www.h-gac.com/hurricane-harvey-recovery/cdbg-disaster-funds>.

Formal comments on this amendment will be accepted at a public hearing from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 6, on Zoom and at H-GAC, 3555 Timmons Lane, Houston. [Registration is required to attend online](#), and [registration is requested to attend in person](#).

The public comment period will remain open until December 15, 2022, at 5 p.m. To submit a comment, you may:

- Make public comments using a form available online at www.h-gac.com/go/cdbg
- Email public comments to harveyMODcomments@h-gac.com
- Make public comments by phone at 1-877-442-2777
- Mail public comments to Houston-Galveston Area Council, Attn: Cheryl Mergo, P.O. Box 22777, Houston, TX 77227-2777
- Deliver written public comments to the Houston-Galveston Area Council, 3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 100, Houston, Texas 77027

Two key points to keep in mind:

- This MOD and amendment process are separate from the 2022 Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) MOD approved by the Texas General Land Office in August.
- The Texas General Land Office did not include Harris County and the City of Houston in the 2018 MOD or reallocation process as they each received separate direct allocations.



Informational Public Planning Meeting for the Houston-Galveston Area Council Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program Method of Distribution Reallocation Amendment

November 9, 2022 | 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Virtual

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting convened at 5:30 pm with Justin Bower as main speaker and co-host, Andrea Tantillo as host, Cheryl Mergo as co-host, Pramod Sambidi as co-host and Sara Hart as co-host.
2. Participants: The meeting a total of 53 participants, including staff and interpreters, attended.
3. Introduced by Justin Bower, Andrea Tantillo proceeded to go over housekeeping rules and introduced the following available interpreters:
ASL Sign Language Interpreters:
Whitney Corbett
Heather Moore
Spanish Interpreter:
Gonzalo Lagos
Chinese, Mandarin Interpreter:
Mindy Lee
Vietnamese Interpreter:
Rose Thuy Doan
4. Agenda items were presented by Justin Bower. His presentation was 25 minutes long and touched on the following items:
 - a. Item 1: Overview of Method of Distribution Reallocation Amendment Process
 - i. Sub-Item 1: History and Background
 - ii. Sub-Item 2: Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program
 - iii. Sub-Item 3: Method of Distribution and Reallocation Process
 - b. Item 2: Discussion of the Houston-Galveston Region’s Proposed Reallocation Methodology
5. Questions and Answers: Justin opened the meeting to Questions and Answers at 5:55 pm, Andrea Tantillo opened the chat. Justin Bower introduced Sara Hart who read the questions to in the chat and invited participants with raised hands to unmute and ask their questions. There were no additional questions as of 6:27 p.m., however, Justin summarized the presentation for participants who missed the beginning of the meeting. H-GAC staff and interpreters remained online until the posted end time for the meeting at 7:30 p.m.



Summary of questions and comments:

Kristi Hadnot – Are there any other factors being used besides structure damage for the reallocation?
(Damage to housing units was measured and categorized to support the original Method of Distribution. This formula is available on our website.)

Kristi Hadnot – Can these funds be used for planning activities associated with infrastructure improvements?
(Justin will confirm and get back to her with an answer either during this meeting or offline later)

Barbara McIntyre – Liberty County Long Term Recovery Group – Is this something we can apply for to repair housing.
(This would have to go through your county or local government. These specific funds are specifically aimed at local infrastructure.)

Sylvester Reeder – Had his question answered as part of the previous question

Peggy Zahler – When do you envision this going to the board, and what would be an anticipated time for entities to begin discussions with GLO?
(We will take it to board in January, then resubmit to GLO for review and approval. The timing will depend on GLO's review process, and then will work directly with local governments.)

Peggy Zahler – Are there any specific costs that won't be allowed that you know of?
(Justin offered to have a conversation offline. Peggy said she'd review the MOD online.)

Gwenyth Teves – If counties in the damage hierarchy decline funds, will it roll back to the cities in that county?
(That's some feedback we can take through this process.)

Jimmy Henry – Can this be spent on infrastructure
(This reallocation is specifically for local infrastructure.)

Titilayo Smith – Has already contacted the Texas City Public Works Director, Mayor and Emergency Manager to consider whether the City has any projects that may qualify for these types of funds and may have comments after reviewing the website.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm



**Council of Governments (COG) Method of Distribution
Amendment 1
Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster Recovery
Local Infrastructure Program**

Contact Information

Council of Governments: Houston-Galveston Area Council

Principal Contact Name, Title: Cheryl Mergo, Senior Manager, Community and Environmental Planning

Principal Contact Telephone: _____

Local Infrastructure Program COG MOD Amount:

\$129,751,767

Reallocation Amount: \$2,305,505

HUD MID Total	\$1,720,646
State MID Total	\$584,809
Total Reallocation Amount	\$2,305,505

Local Infrastructure Program Method of Distribution Amendment Detail

The COG is required to prepare a method of distribution amendment 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. The distribution should be based on, but not limited to, unmet need tied back to Hurricane Harvey damages.

Reallocation Summary

The following is a summary of the reallocation process of funds, including entities that have declined funds, entities that are receiving reallocated funds, and eligible activities.

Should a city be unable to utilize the funding allocated under this Method of Distribution, H-GAC proposes the funds be reallocated to the county where the city is located.

Ten entities have unused/unspent funds totaling \$2,305,505.00 available to reallocate.

Entity Declining Funds	Declined/Deobligated Funds	County to Receive Funds
Town of San Felipe	\$182,360.00	Austin
Bailey's Prairie Village	\$210,679.00	Brazoria
Manvel	\$322,714.00	Brazoria
Arcola City	\$171,400.00	Fort Bend
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Weston Lakes	\$246,834.00	Fort Bend
Riverside	\$106,901.00	Walker
Waller	\$295,549.00	Waller

Should the county be unable to utilize the funds, H-GAC proposes they be reallocated in the order listed below:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Dickinson city | 8. Brazoria county |
| 2. Wharton county | 9. Colorado county |
| 3. Chambers county | 10. Waller county |
| 4. La Marque city | 11. Fort Bend county |
| 5. Liberty county | 12. Austin county |
| 6. Galveston county | 13. Montgomery county |
| 7. Matagorda county | 14. Walker county |

Reallocation Changes Table:

Attached is a table showing all jurisdictions that have had a change in allocation, including jurisdictions that have declined funds and the jurisdictions that have been reallocated those funds. All allocations must meet or exceed a floor of \$100,000 to help ensure sufficient funds for at least one eligible project.

Rellocation Table Page Number:	13-14	
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Distribution Factors

Have the distribution factors been amended?

Yes No

The COG has selected the following distribution factors:

Distribution Factor*	Weight	Documentation Source	Explanation of Factor Selection and Weighting
FEMA Individual Assistance Housing Registrants Large Disasters-V1	See below	FEMA https://www.fema.gov/openfema-data-page/individual-assistance-housing-registrants-large-disasters-v1	FEMA disaster data is the best data available to access personal and real property damages caused by Hurricane Harvey.
<p>FEMA Disaster Data is categorized based on Owner's Real Property Damage and Renter's Personal Property Damage. A similar method was used by HUD in categorizing damages for CDBG allocation.</p> <p>Minor Low: Owner Real Property Damage less than \$3,000 (or) Renter Personal Property Damage less than \$1,000 Minor High: Owner Real Property Damage between \$3,001 and \$7,999 (or) Renter Personal Property Damage between \$1,001 and \$1,999 Major Low: Owner Real Property Damage between \$8,000 and \$14,999 (or) Renter Personal Property Damage between \$2,000 and \$3,499 Major High: Owner Real Property Damage between \$15,000 and \$28,800 (or) Renter Personal Property Damage between \$3,500 and \$7,499 Severe: Owner Real Property Damage more than \$28,800 (or) Renter Personal Property Damage more than \$7,499</p> <p>Weights are assigned to the damage levels Minor Low: 0.5 Minor High: 1 Major Low: 2 Major High: 4 Severe: 5 For example: 10 Minor Low damage claims are equal to 1 Severe claim</p>			

*Add more rows if needed

Threshold Factors

(New Added Section)

If any, please describe threshold factors that were used to allocate funds.

Distribution Factor	Documentation Source	Explanation of Factor Selection

Eligible Activities

Have the eligible activities been amended?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
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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 as amended.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The COG has chosen not to limit Subrecipients in the region to projects meeting regional priority activities.		
-OR-			
<input type="checkbox"/>	The COG has limited Subrecipients in the region to selecting projects meeting the following regional priority activities:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specially Authorized Public Facilities & Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sewer Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Public Utilities (gas, et al)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clearance & Demolition Activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Street Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Code Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flood and Drainage Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior Centers
<input 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 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 Disaster Recovery: Hurricane Harvey and should be referenced accordingly.

Low- and Moderate-Income Requirement

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

Per requirements of the State of Texas Plan for Disaster Recovery: Hurricane Harvey June 25, 2018, submitted to the United States Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by the Texas General Land Office (GLO), at least 70% of the program funds will benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons. All entities will be required to follow established rules and regulations related to the funding received.

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:

Beyond the minimum requirements that the GLO has outlined in the contract, H-GAC implemented the additional tactics listed below to increase overall public participation:

- Distributed electronic flyers and asked community organizations to share information with their audiences
 - H-GAC sent a one-page flyer that contains all the information about the meetings to identified stakeholders so they could either forward the information to their membership or print off the material to post on a bulletin board or high-traffic area at their location.
- Purchased legal ads in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin newspapers across the region. •
- Sent direct emails to identified stakeholders (i.e., elected officials and staff, fair housing groups, long term recovery groups etc.)
 - In addition to direct emails to elected officials and staff representing jurisdictions across the 13-county region, H-GAC also invited the following groups to attend the public planning meeting on November 9 to provide feedback and ask questions, to attend the public hearing on December 6, and to provide comment in writing or verbally. State and Federal Elected Officials, Office of Emergency Management Staff, Regional Flood Management Committee Members, and Soil and Water Conservation staff.
 - To gain additional perspective on fair housing and civil rights issues in the region, H-GAC also invited the following groups to attend the public planning meeting on November 9 to provide feedback and ask questions, to attend the public hearing on December 6, and to provide comment in writing or verbally. Community Development Directors and Staff, Faith-based Organizations, Neighborhood and Community Improvement Organizations. Long-Term Recovery Groups, Housing Authorities, Housing Advocacy Groups, Homeless Services Organizations, Food Banks, County Health Districts, and other non-profit organizations, including MMHR, NAACP, United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Area Agency on Aging, Meals on Wheels, and LULAC.
- Promoted the public planning meeting, public hearing, and comment period through H-GAC’s external newsletters, the Community and Environmental Planning Update and the Regional Focus.
- Promoted the public planning meeting, public hearing, and comment period by posting to community calendars and newsletters.
- Promoted the public planning meeting, public hearing, and comment period via social media posts (i.e., Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter).

Public Hearing Information

Meeting Type	Public Planning Meeting	MOD Public Hearing
Date(s):	11/9/22	12/6/22
Location(s):	Virtual on Zoom	Virtual on Zoom and at H-GAC Offices
Total Attendance:	53	

Direct Notice. As required, direct 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	Public Planning Meeting	MOD Public Hearing
	Date(s) Sent	Date(s) Sent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email	11/3/22	
<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:

Website Notice	Public Planning Meeting	MOD Public Hearing
Date(s)	10/26/22	

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

Newspaper Name	Public Planning Meeting	MOD Public Hearing
	Date Published	Date Published
The Sealy News	11/3/22	
The Facts	10/28/22	
The Anahuac Progress	11/2/22	
The Citizen	11/2/22	
Fort Bend Herald	10/30/22	
The Daily News	10/27/22	
Houston Chronicle	10/27/22	
The Vindicator Liberty County	10/27/22	
Bay City Tribune	10/30/22	
The Courier of Montgomery County	11/3/22	
The Huntsville Item	10/27/22	
The Waller Times	11/2/22	
The Wharton Journal-Spectator	10/29/22	
Forward Times	11/2/22	
La Informacion	11/2/22	
La Voz De Houston		11/16/22
The Vietnam Post	11/4/22	
Southern News Group (Chinese)	10/31/22	

Public Comment Period

Provide the dates of the public comment period for the COG MOD Amendment.

Start Date:	11/15/22	End Date:	12/15/22	No. of Days:	30
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Accommodations. Describe any efforts to notify and accommodate those with modified communication needs, such as posting information and providing interpretive services for persons with Limited English Proficiency and for people with hearing impairments or other access and functional needs (ADA compliance).

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) stipulates that meetings involving the public must be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Meetings must comply with all applicable ADA accessibility requirements and should also be conducted in such a way that all participants can participate in an equal and meaningful way. H-GAC fully complies with these requirements through its internal policies and procedures. H-GAC facilitates public participation for individuals with disabilities using the following guidelines:

Meetings, public hearings, and formal events are held in facilities accessible by persons with disabilities.

American Sign Language interpreters are provided.

All slides and images used throughout presentations are compliant for those with visual impairments.

Public notices of meetings and events include a notice of accommodations for individuals who are disabled. Such accommodations will be provided by request with a minimum 24-hour notice.

The public planning meeting was held online and the public hearing will held online and in person so participants can safely and easily participate. H-GAC hosted the public planning meeting on the Zoom platform and will host hosted the public hearing at its offices in Houston and via the Zoom platform to allow participants to participate in person or to join via desktop, mobile phone, or dial-in should they have limited internet connectivity.

All public outreach efforts attempt to solicit as much feedback as possible by making meeting times and locations accessible and by working with organizations that provide public-focused services.

Additionally, H-GAC is providing multiple methods in which stakeholders can provide feedback including not only verbally and in chat at public meetings, but also via email, voicemail, and web portal until 5 p.m. December 15, 2022.

Recognizing that the 13-county region is diverse, and using current census data, H-GAC provided or will provide Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin interpreters at all public meetings and hearings so participants can actively listen, ask questions, or engage in dialogue with H-GAC staff. American Sign Language interpreters were also present throughout an public planning meeting on November 9 and will be present at the public hearing on December 6. The availability of interpreters was advertised in all outreach materials. Any additional languages could be requested 48 hours in advance by calling Sara Hart at 713-993-4560 or Sara.Hart@h-gac.com.

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.

Approval and Signatory Authority

Attached is a Resolution from the COG 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

Printed Name

Title

Email Address

Telephone Number

DRAFT

Houston-Galveston Area Council - 2018 Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery Funds Reallocation Method

Reallocation Procedure

Should a city be unable to utilize the funding allocated under Hurricane Harvey Method of Distribution, H-GAC proposes the funds be reallocated to the county where the city is located. Should the county be unable to utilize the funds, H-GAC proposes they be reallocated in the order listed in the table below.

Hurricane Harvey- Community Development Block Grant Reallocation Hierarchy

Reallocation	Jurisdiction
1	Dickinson city
2	Wharton county
3	Chambers county
4	La Marque city
5	Liberty county
6	Galveston county
7	Matagorda county
8	Brazoria county
9	Colorado county
10	Waller county
11	Fort Bend county
12	Austin county
13	Montgomery county
14	Walker county

Hurricane Harvey- Community Development Block Grant

(* Includes Cities with minimum 5,000 total housing units in damaged area. Cities with less than 5,000 units are counted towards County Totals)

Reallocation Ranks	Jurisdiction*	Total Damage Claims	Total Housing Units in Damaged Area	Percent Damaged
1	Dickinson city	3,850	7,250	53.10%
2	Wharton county	2,210	7,799	28.34%
3	Chambers county	3,140	12,628	24.87%
4	La Marque city	1,311	6,257	20.95%
5	Liberty county	5,064	24,309	20.83%
6	Galveston county	4,700	23,024	20.41%
7	Matagorda county	1,128	6,359	17.74%
8	Brazoria county	8,923	54,907	16.25%
NA	Friendswood city	1,053	6,628	15.89%
NA	League City city	3,909	27,458	14.24%
NA	Texas City city	2,085	14,824	14.07%
9	Colorado county	387	3,032	12.76%
NA	Alvin city	749	6,623	11.31%
10	Waller county	973	9,292	10.47%
11	Fort Bend county	10,781	108,204	9.96%
NA	Bay City city	494	5,223	9.46%
12	Austin county	255	3,380	7.54%
13	Montgomery county	6,463	87,744	7.37%
NA	Missouri City city	1,451	20,506	7.08%
NA	Pearland city	1,784	25,828	6.91%
NA	Galveston city	1,091	16,572	6.58%
14	Walker county	443	7,397	5.99%
NA	Rosenberg city	351	6,656	5.27%
NA	Sugar Land city	564	16,434	3.43%
NA	Huntsville city	201	5,865	3.43%
NA	Conroe city	340	14,264	2.38%

Houston-Galveston Area Council - 2018 Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery Funds Reallocation Summary

Jurisdiction	Unused Local Infrastructure Funds	County
San Felipe	\$182,360	Austin
Bailey's Prairie	\$210,679	Brazoria
Arcola	\$171,400	Fort Bend
Richmond	\$219,160	Fort Bend
Stafford	\$132,567	Fort Bend
Sugar Land	\$417,341	Fort Bend
Weston Lakes	\$246,834	Fort Bend
Riverside	\$106,901	Walker
Waller (City)	\$295,549	Waller
Manvel	\$322,714	Brazoria
TOTAL	\$2,305,505	

County*	Local Infrastructure Initial Allocation	Local Infrastructure Reallocation Amount	Local Infrastructure Total Allocation	70% Low-to-Moderate Income Benefit Requirement
Austin	\$4,301,175	\$182,360	\$4,483,535	\$3,138,474.42
Brazoria	\$10,916,934	\$533,393	\$11,450,327	\$8,015,228.95
Fort Bend	\$17,417,192	\$1,187,302	\$18,604,494	\$13,023,145.87
Walker	\$4,445,805	\$106,901	\$4,552,706	\$3,186,894.23
Waller	\$4,036,599	\$295,549	\$4,332,148	\$3,032,503.33
Total	\$41,117,705	\$2,305,505	\$43,423,210	\$30,396,247
Note- * includes Counties expected to receive reallocation amount, only.				