



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 26, 2018

Dear County Judge:

Thank you for all you are doing to help our communities rebuild after Hurricane Harvey. Texas has now been awarded more than \$10 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to help your communities. Additionally, Congress directly funded billions of dollars of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer projects that will help your communities.

While you are working on your CDBG project lists to rebuild your communities, I want to remind you of additional money available right now.

In February, I announced the availability of **\$500 million of funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Those funds are available now.** In four months, approximately \$600 million of hazard mitigation funds will become available.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is on standby to process these grant applications as soon as received. In fact, TDEM has already reviewed some projects even without an application being submitted. But even for those tentatively approved projects, the funds cannot be released until we receive the completed application and FEMA approves the project.

As of today, TDEM has received only seven complete applications from the entire region impacted by Hurricane Harvey. **That means hundreds of millions of dollars that are available to Texas communities today are not being put to use.**

TDEM has received "Notices of Intent" to apply for hazard mitigation funds, but as you know, those notices must be followed by an actual application before TDEM can approve the project.

Congress wanted to ensure that local governments will not be obligated to pay the typical 25 percent local cost share for hazard mitigation grants. Instead, Congress provided that the cost share will be paid through CDBG, and that is now part of the State CDBG Plan.

The hazard mitigation funds available today can provide immediate relief and resiliency to your community. These funds can be used for many purposes, including: buyouts and elevations of

County Judge
April 26, 2018
Page 2

flood prone properties; drainage and reservoir projects that reduce future flooding; other projects that lessen the frequency or severity of flooding; flood risk reduction projects like dams, retention basins, levees, floodwalls, seawalls, jetties, sand dunes, and large-scale channeling of waterways; and countless other projects.

I encourage you to quickly take advantage of these hazard mitigation funds. TDEM and FEMA stand ready to assist you. Please contact TDEM at TDEM-Mitigation@dps.texas.gov or find more information on HMGP for Hurricane Harvey at dps.texas.gov/dem/ThreatAwareness/hurricaneHarveyInfo.htm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:mhd