



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 17, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C.

Through: Tony Robinson
Regional Administrator
DHS/FEMA Region 6
800 North Loop 288
Denton, Texas 76209-3698

Subject: Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration – Major Disaster

Dear Mr. President,

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), as implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Texas because of the March 2025 Severe Weather and Flooding event.

Beginning March 26, 2025, I directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to prepare state emergency response resources ahead of threats of severe storms and flooding. TDEM alerted all Texas Emergency Management Council members to be prepared to support response and recovery operations across the state. On March 26, 2025, I directed TDEM to activate state emergency response resources ahead of increased threats of severe weather and flash flooding.

On March 29, 2025, I took appropriate action under state law with respect to the March 2025 Severe Weather and Flooding event by directing the execution of the state's emergency management plan and declaring a state of disaster for four (4) Texas counties: Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy. Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.36, I determined this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster.

As a result, the State of Texas is requesting a major disaster declaration, including all applicable Individual Assistance (IA) programs: Mass Care/Emergency Services (MC/EA), Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Disaster Case Management (DCM), Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, Disaster Legal Services (DLS), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Clean and Sanitize, and Voluntary Agency Coordination (VAL). Additionally, I am requesting Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) limited to Direct Federal Assistance (DFA); I request DFA for sheltering. Lastly, I am requesting the activation of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

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Disaster Loan Program for both physical and economic loss in all counties requesting Individual Assistance.

As we assess damages in the other affected counties, I reserve the right to request assistance for additional counties in Texas.

The ongoing response and recovery efforts for this disaster are in addition to several major disasters that occurred since 2023. These major disasters include:

- DR-4705—January 2023 Severe Winter Weather.
- March 2024 Wildfires—the largest in state history—that resulted in two federally declared Fire Management Assistance Grants ((FMAGs) 5487 and 5488).
- DR-4781--April 2024 Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding that impacted Texas over a three-month period.
- DR-4798—July 2024 Hurricane Beryl.
- March 2025 Wildfires resulted in six federally declared FMAGs (5552, 5553, 5555, 5570, 5571, and 5573).

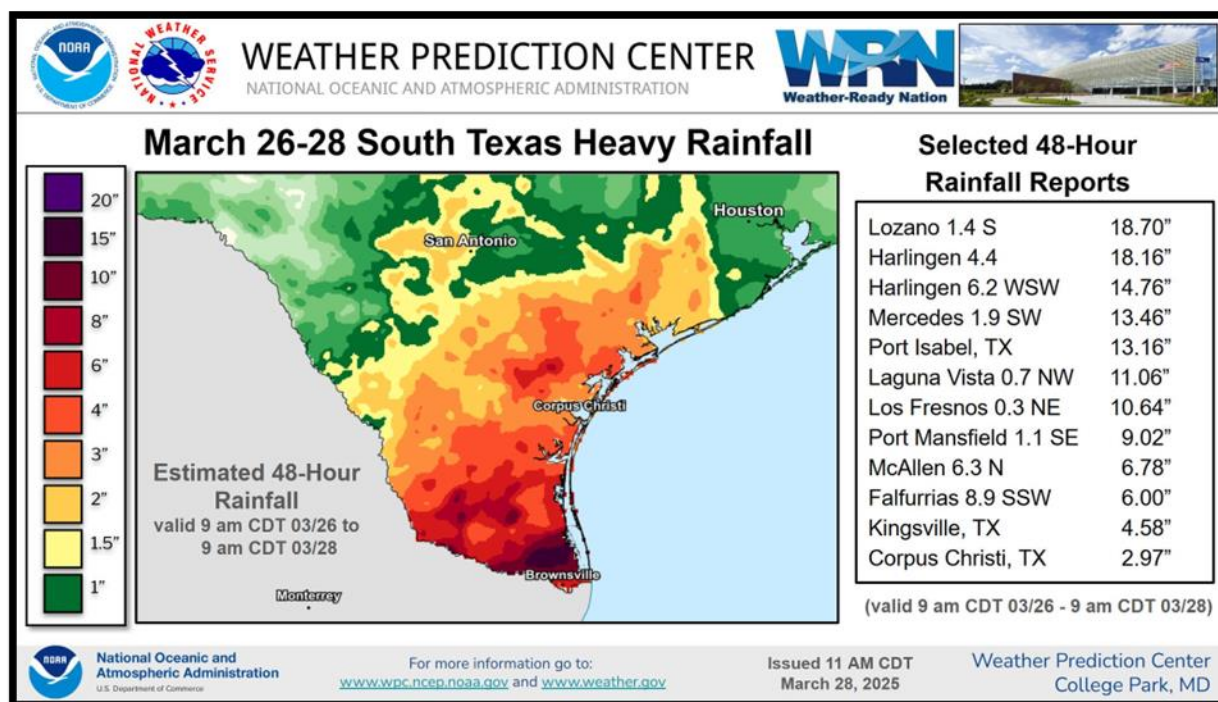
Texas has had more federal disaster declarations than almost any other state, not including the numerous state-declared disasters that did not meet federal thresholds. The burden these storms caused Texas has not been sustainable and federal assistance is required.

INCIDENT OVERVIEW



Source: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – Cameron County – March 29, 2025

From March 26–28, 2025, significant rainfall across South Texas led to destructive flooding throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Over the past month, multiple rounds of thunderstorms dropped extreme rainfall amounts, resulting in catastrophic flash flooding and river flooding across the state's northeastern, central, and southern regions.



Weather Event Summary:

An upper-level disturbance moved in from the west, bringing Pacific moisture, which interacted with Gulf moisture to produce several days of widespread rainfall across Texas. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) had issued a "Marginal" to "Moderate" risk of flash flooding for much of South Texas, with continued flooding along the Gulf Coast through March 28, 2025. Rainfall Totals:

- Widespread 2-4 inches of rain fell across the region.
- Isolated areas recorded 5-10 inches or more, leading to severe flash flooding in multiple locations.

The SPC had also placed South Texas under a "Marginal" risk of severe weather, with localized damaging winds and heavy downpours reported.

RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Beginning March 26, 2025, Texas was impacted by a severe weather system, leading to widespread flooding and significant storm damage throughout the state. Moderate to minor flooding was also reported across several impacted counties. Before this severe weather event, multiple counties across the state had already experienced wildfires and damaging storms.

The floods forced evacuations in many communities, with portions of Cameron County and parts of Hidalgo County under mandatory evacuation orders, in addition to voluntary evacuations in other areas. First responders and volunteers carried out hundreds of water rescues, and as of April 4, 2025, over 30 search and rescue missions had been conducted. High waters and severe storms caused widespread transportation issues, including dozens of road closures and the temporary closure of the Valley International Airport.

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Meanwhile, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TEEX's Texas A&M Task Force One (TX – TF1) swift water boat squads, the Texas Military Department's (TMD) Ground Transportation Platoons (GTP), and the Texas Department of Public Safety's (TXDPS) Tactical Marine Unit and Aviation Division supported rescue operations. These agencies used various means to reach stranded individuals and assess the overall impact of the floods.



The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife) focused on helping livestock owners meet disaster needs and assess agricultural damage. The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and its Public Works Response Team have focused on evaluating infrastructure damage and supporting the recovery of essential services, such as water systems, from the impacts of flooding and severe storms. The Texas Animal Health Commission played a crucial role in animal welfare efforts, locating lost livestock and sheltering stray animals.

Source: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension – Hidalgo County, TX – March 27, 2025

As floodwater gradually receded, the focus shifted to damage assessment and recovery. The state's transportation department has identified numerous road closures and has begun repairs on affected highways and farm-to-market roads.



Source: Texas A&M Task Force 1, McAllen TX – March 27, 2025

Responding State Agencies/Organization Summary Reports

The following information details state and local government resources used to alleviate the conditions of the disaster:

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM): In response to the severe flooding in South Texas, the State Operations Center (SOC) remained at Readiness Level II – Escalated Response Conditions in 24-hour operations to coordinate and support needs from local and state partners. TDEM's daily operations staff maintained comprehensive situational awareness, supported response and recovery efforts, and facilitated communication across state agencies and local partners. The SOC monitored and processed Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) and Public State of Texas Assessment Tool (pSTAT) submissions and managed State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs) to address immediate and emerging needs.

TDEM field staff worked closely with local emergency management officials to address unmet needs and deploy necessary resources. Field personnel provided on-the-ground support for evacuations, damage assessments, and resource distribution. SOC personnel continue to support ongoing recovery efforts to ensure a coordinated and effective statewide response. Recovery personnel remain engaged as local recovery efforts continue.



Source: Texas Division of Emergency Management – Hidalgo County, TX – March 31, 2025

TDEM Incident Support Task Force (ISTF) and Disaster Recovery Task Force: ISTF and DRTF Members were rostered and prepared to deploy in support of the incident as early as Monday, March 26, 2025. Efforts remained focused on aligning partner activities to meet identified needs and support the recovery of affected communities. The ISTF Regional VAL team supported community response and identified key recovery needs, such as food access, debris removal, and muck-outs. As of April 1, 2025, sheltering operations have decreased to one active site, currently housing 7 individuals. Mass Care Feeding had 10 mobile sites consisting of The Salvation Army (TSA), World Central Kitchen, and local communities that provided 8,850 meals.

TDEM Communications Coordination Group (CCG): Minor impacts affected cell sites in certain areas. The Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) contacted Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) supporting the South Texas region to offer assistance. Additionally, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Communications and the Statewide Interoperable Communication (SWIC) Office actively monitored the situation and remained on standby to provide support upon request. TDEM oversaw Alerts & Public Warning / IPAWS messages throughout the event, while National Weather Service (NWS) offices issued weather alerts and warnings via Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to cellphones in the affected areas.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Texas A&M Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) and Texas Task Force 3 (TX-TF3): Multiple water rescues were conducted during this incident, including on March 28, 2025, when a Water Squad from the Rio Grande Valley (WS-RGV) safely extracted two individuals from a vehicle that was taking on water, and coordinated their transport to a local shelter. On March 31, 2025, WS-RGV conducted multiple evacuations in the Green Valley area throughout the current and previous reporting periods. TX-TF teams conducted a total of 68 evacuations, rescued five individuals, and evacuated 41 pets/animals during the incident. A total of 21 TX-TF personnel supported this incident.



Source: Texas A&M Task Force 1 – March 28, 2025



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife): AgriLife actively supported severe weather response efforts. Two Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Area Chiefs and one DAR Specialist supported the Incident Management Team (IMT) in McAllen. Four DAR Specialists assisted with damage assessments in TDEM Region 5. Pet, livestock, and agricultural needs were evaluated.

Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – March 28, 2025



Source: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension – Hidalgo County, TX – March 27, 2025

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): Three Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) Strike Teams were assigned to respond to severe weather and flooding impacts in South Texas. Additionally, TAMFS monitored fire weather conditions and prepositioned heavy equipment, engines, personnel, 29 fixed-wing aircraft, and six rotor-wing aircraft across all TDEM Regions. The TAMFS and TIFMAS were ready to assist with additional requests as needed.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): DPS actively supported the state's response to the severe weather event across multiple DPS Districts, patrolling roadways, monitoring traffic, and assessing road conditions. A DPS Aircraft equipped with a hoist was deployed to aid in the rescue efforts. The DPS Aircraft Operations Division's Unmanned Aircraft System received a request from TDEM's Operations Technology Division to conduct aerial assessments for damage in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties.

Troopers from Weslaco provided traffic control around flooded areas, especially along US 83, and responded to an increased number of crashes. The Texas Highway Patrol (THP), Tactical Marine Unit moved two Zodiac boats from Port Lavaca to the Jim Wells County Fairgrounds in Alice to stage with TX-TF1. DPS Aviation had helicopters with hoist capabilities stationed in Austin, Dallas, Edinburg, and Houston, ready for deployment if needed. The THP Chief's office supported the State Operations Center by staffing the Emergency Support Function (ESF)-13 positions.



Source: Texas Division of Emergency Management - McAllen, TX – March 27, 2025

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): During this incident, TxDOT closed 11 state-maintained roads due to flooding, with over 40 locations still impacted by floodwaters. The Valley International Airport in Harlingen re-opened on March 31, 2025. Pharr Headquarters provided a staging area for the water pumps and emergency fuel contractors managing dewatering operations. TxDOT crews responded to debris and downed trees. Crews continue clearing debris, drainage, and potholes, managing road closures, and providing traffic control.

As of April 1, 2025, TxDOT had nine (9) state-maintained roads closed due to flooding and several other road locations are still impacted by floodwaters. TxDOT Communications actively messaged "Turn Around, Don't Drown" on social media. TxDOT staffed the State Operations Center and was ready to respond statewide.

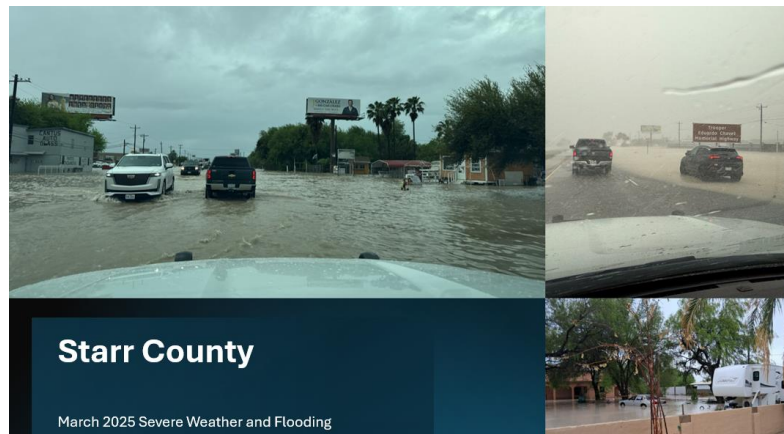


Source: Texas Emergency Medical Task Force – April 2, 2025

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): On March 31, 2025, TPWD Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) assisted with flood surveys. Personnel delivered medications and supplies to families and assisted with 17 evacuations, including pets. TPWD prepared department resources, including Texas Game Wardens and State Park Police Officers, to respond to the severe weather threat in southern Texas. TPWD

worked closely with TDEM and state and federal partners to ensure resources were available. Texas Game Wardens assisted a landowner who was stranded in Cameron County. Two Liaison Officers (LNO) were deployed to the State Operations Center (SOC). Two LNOs were assigned to DDEOC 21. One helicopter, Search and Rescue (SAR) boat teams, All-Terrain (4x4) Vehicles, and Swift Water and Shallow boats were ready to respond. One UAS was deployed to Hidalgo/Willacy Counties. The TPWD UAS Team assisted with flood assessments in Willacy and Hidalgo Counties.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF): Due to potential impacts from incoming severe weather, ESF-8 was activated, and LNOs were deployed to the SOC. DSHS monitored the situation and was prepared to deploy resources. As of March 29, 2025, one Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Severe Weather Package (SWX PKG) supported Cameron County, with a Lite Ambulance Strike Team in Harlingen supporting Hidalgo County. EMTF 6 had one SWX PKG on standby due to excessive rainfall. By April 1, EMTF maintained one SWX PKG in Cameron County, EMTF 7 remained on awareness, and EMTF 2 had a SWX PKG on standby. EMTF teams treated 29 individuals and transported 20 individuals during the incident.



Source: Texas Division of Emergency Management – Starr County, TX – March 27, 2025

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD activated two Ground Transportation Platoons (GTP) staged in Harlingen and one Ground Transportation Company Headquarters (GTCHQ) in Weslaco to support TDEM for severe weather and flooding in South Texas. TMD also deployed an LNO with the TDEM IMT in McAllen and a SOC Support Team in Austin to assist with the incident. TMD activated 31 personnel and 10 vehicles for this incident.



Source: Texas Military Department, Harlingen, TX – March 27, 2025

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD): State officials worked with volunteer organizations, including TSA, Texans on Mission, Mercy Chefs, World Kitchen, and ARC, to provide shelter, meals, and other essential services to those displaced by the floods. These organizations had projected feeding needs to reach 20,000 meals, snacks, and drinks to impacted survivors over multiple counties. Local and state mission-driven organizations, including VOAD member agencies and established Long Term Recovery Groups, had been engaged in response and recovery efforts. VOAD member agencies assessed the capacity to provide tarps, hygiene kits, cleaning kits, medicine, and medical supplies as requested. Organizations that have traditionally helped with muck-and-gut operations, tarping, debris management, and case management are in attendance on coordination calls, awaiting authorizations to enter the disaster area, due to safety concerns.

The Salvation Army (TSA:) As of April 6, 2025, TSA had distributed over 30,000 meals. TSA served those affected by the severe weather and flooding in the Rio Grande Valley. TSA had seven mobile feeding units located in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy counties. The Southern Baptist Texas Convention Kitchen is fully operational, with a capacity of 5,000 meals per day. Distribution of clean-up kits, hygiene kits, and other relief supplies began in the McAllen and Harlingen facilities. TSA had eight mobile feeding units in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. A TSA Divisional Incident Management Team deployed to Harlingen, preparing for Mass Feeding Kitchen Operations. Seven canteens were placed on alert for deployment. Supplies, including clean-up kits, hygiene kits, water, food for 15,000 meals, and two pallets of snacks, were delivered to the McAllen warehouse.

American Red Cross (ARC): ARC maintained resources on standby to respond to humanitarian needs arising from expected severe weather and other disasters in Texas. The ARC had as many as two shelters open, housing 20 individuals in Harlingen and six in Mercedes. The ARC continues operating one shelter, providing housing for impacted individuals.

Feeding Texas: Feeding Texas routed nine truckloads of food and water to affected areas, ensuring adequate coverage for affected counties.



Source: Texas Division of Emergency Management – Sebastian, TX – March 30, 2025

Sheltering: The shelter count stood at 13 locations throughout multiple counties and communities. Shelter populations fluctuated as evacuations were still underway, with a peak of 264 survivors. As of April 14, 2025, one (1) shelter remains open, assisting seven individuals.

Feeding: The Texas Feeding Task Force, comprised of multiple non-profit and private sector partners, engaged in the event, and evaluated needs across the affected areas. The two food banks within the region had requested additional supplies due to increased demand from disaster survivors.

The state agencies and VOAD described above worked tirelessly since the March 2025 Severe Weather and Flooding event began, but the residents and local governments in Texas are in desperate need of additional federal assistance to enable a quick and complete return to normalcy. Flood waters are yet to

recede in many affected areas, and VOADs and their staff are stretched as pre-existing and forecasted weather patterns impact current operations and the ability to move resources where needed.

Behavioral Health Impacts

Research indicates that children who have survived a disaster are particularly vulnerable. Their reactions and emotional recovery can be influenced by their age, developmental level, prior experiences, and personal circumstances. The length of recovery depends on how frightening the experience was for the individual and the extent of damage and loss.

Seniors are also particularly vulnerable due to physical or emotional disabilities, frailty, loss of or damage to property—often of sentimental or economic value—lack of reliable transportation, economic disadvantage, and isolation from family. These factors intensify vulnerabilities during disasters and the often-lengthy recovery process.



Sources: City of Pharr, Texas Division of Emergency Management – Hidalgo County, TX – March 27, 2025

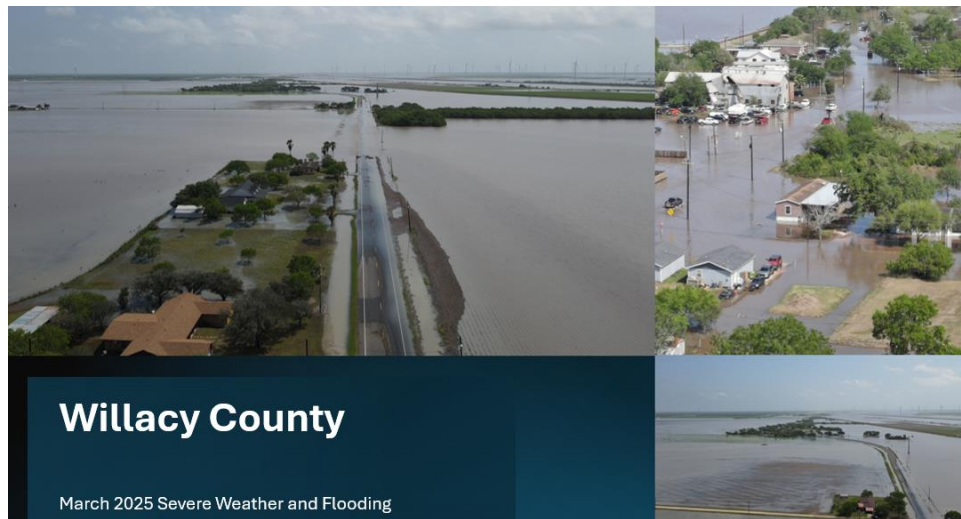
Both children and adults may need behavioral health support, as many may face housing and/or financial issues as they return to their homes or while displaced from their homes. These conditions can lead to feeling overwhelmed, affecting cognitive functioning, decision-making, and problem-solving abilities. Physiological and emotional changes are common reactions in both children and adults.

Emergency responders provide critical services to communities during disasters and throughout recovery efforts. Their routine exposure to traumatic incidents and chronic trauma-inducing situations puts them at high risk of experiencing a range of physical and behavioral health consequences. These situations can contribute to traumatic stress-related symptoms such as intrusive thoughts or memories of the incident, difficulty sleeping, fear, irritability, anger, anxiety, depression, social withdrawal, Acute Stress Disorder (ASD), and PTSD. Responders may also be at risk for burnout, compassion fatigue, and increased reliance on alcohol or substances as coping mechanisms. Previous disasters have demonstrated the increased need for behavioral health services as recovery efforts begin, especially given the high number of disasters over the past year, which left little reprieve for survivors and emergency responders.

LOCALIZED IMPACT

Recent Multiple Disasters

Texas has endured an overwhelming number of disasters in recent years. In the past three months alone, multiple counties have experienced severe weather events that caused devastating damage and destruction. However, these affected areas did not receive federal assistance for damaged public infrastructure and impacted community members. In addition to these federally declared disasters, the requested counties have faced other significant events that did not qualify for federal assistance.



Source: Texas Department of Public Safety – Willacy County, TX – March 27, 2025

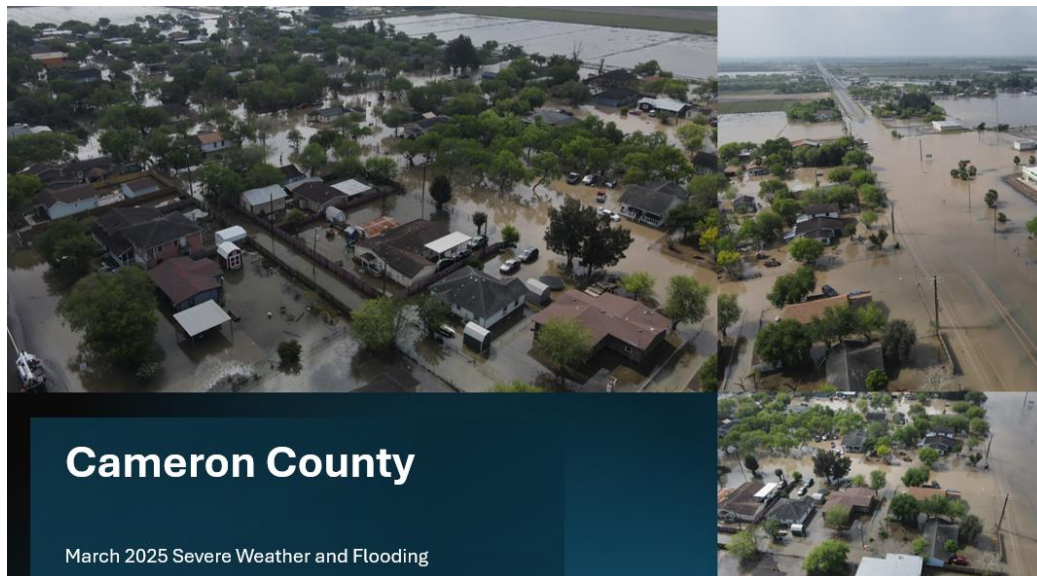
Given the scope of these disasters and the economic hardships caused by recent severe weather, Texans affected by the March 2025 Severe Weather and Flooding event are in dire need of federal assistance. The extensive damage to individual homes far exceeds the financial resources available to these communities. The requested counties have experienced multiple federally declared disasters since 2000, including Emergency and Major Disaster Declarations.

County	Hurricane Hanna (EM 3530 TX)	Tropical Storm Marco & Laura (EM 3540 TX)	Tropical Storm Alex (EM 3313 TX)	Hurricane Ike (EM 3234 TX)	Hurricane Dolly (EM 3277 TX)	Hurricane Rita (EM 3216 TX)	Severe Storms and Flooding (DR 4454 TX)	Severe Storms and Flooding (DR 4377 TX)	Severe Storms and Flooding (DR 4223 TX)	Severe Storms and Flooding (DR 4277 TX)	Hurricane Alex (DR 1491 TX)	Severe Storms and Flooding (DR 1709 TX)	Severe Storms and Flooding (DR 1697 TX)	Total
Cameron	B	B	B	B	B	I	I	A	A					10
Hidalgo	B	B	B	B	B	X	A	A	A	I				11
Starr	B	B	B	B	B					P	A	P		8
Willacy	B	B	B	B	B	I	A			P	A			9

P = Public Assistance (Including Categories A-G) **X** = Individual and Public Assistance (Category B) **B** = Public Assistance (Category B) **A** = Individual and Public Assistance (Including Categories A-G) **I** = Individual Assistance

Moreover, since 2023, the State of Texas has responded to and is currently recovering from several major disasters. These major disasters include:

- DR-4705—January 2023 Severe Winter Weather.
- March 2024 Wildfires—the largest in state history—that resulted in two federally declared Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs 5487 and 5488).
- DR-4781--April 2024 Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding that impacted Texas over a three-month period.
- DR-4798—July 2024 Hurricane Beryl.
- March 2025 Wildfires resulted in six federally declared FMAGs (5552, 5553, 5555, 5570, 5571, and 5573).



Source: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – Cameron County, TX – March 27, 2025

State Fiscal Capacity and Resource Availability

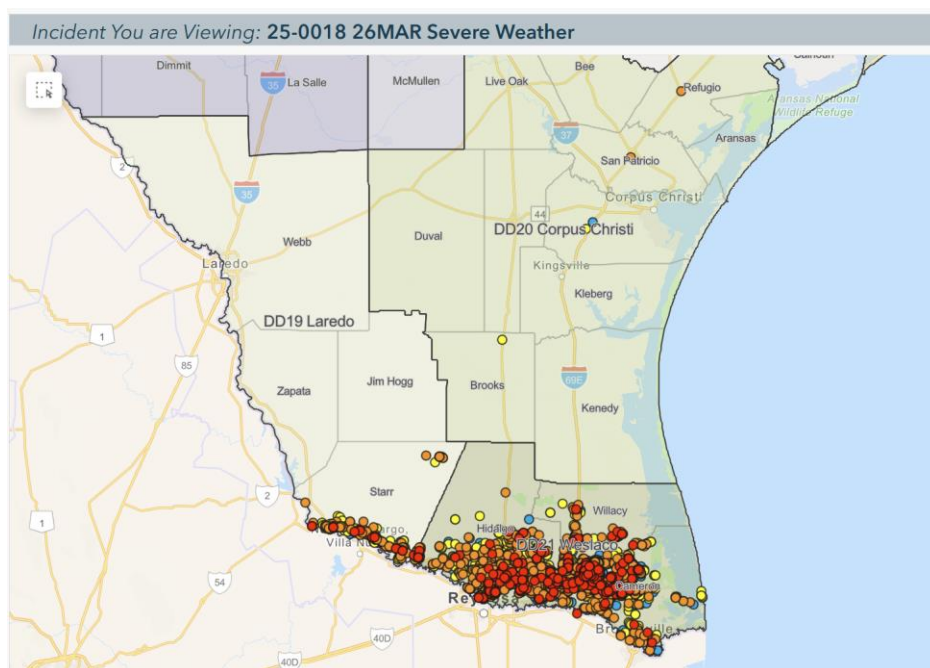
The State of Texas is using its already limited resources to respond to the March 2025 Severe Weather and Flooding event. As of April 14, 2025, the state alone spent \$3,104,148.26 on response and recovery related to this incident. Additionally, a significant amount of state resources are dedicated to supporting ongoing weather and wildfire threats across the entire state as well as border operations.

Volunteerism and Donations Impacts

Historically, Texas has had the good fortune of drawing upon the goodwill of the American people from non-impacted states during our natural disaster response and recovery operations. However, extreme incidents such as the 2024 Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding, Hurricane Beryl, 2025 March Wildfires have exhausted much of the state's resources. Currently, mission-driven organizations providing support for Texas communities impacted by the March 2025 Severe Weather and Flooding, including VOADs, are experiencing limited capacity in feeding, bulk distribution, emergency food boxes, clean-up kits, personal care/comfort kits, disaster cleanup services, and immediate home repairs. It is important to note that each capability is dependent upon the goodwill of volunteers and the individual agency's severe weather and flooding guidelines.

Damage Assessments

Immediately after the March 2025 Severe Weather and Flooding began, the State of Texas began coordinating damage assessments with local jurisdictions in affected areas. This involved coordinating and surveying damage to public infrastructure and residences across the state. The state also provided training and assistance facilitating usage of the damage self-reporting app, which allowed for preliminary damage assessments to be completed. Texas state agency partners and volunteer organizations partnered with local jurisdictions and participated in reporting damages and capturing imagery across the disaster-affected area for reports to be validated and transmitted to FEMA. On March 31, 2025, I [announced](#) that I directed TDEM to request joint preliminary damage assessments with local, state, and federal partners.



Source: State of Texas Assessment Tool – April 14, 2025

Damages to Homes

With the dangerous river crests, high windspeeds, and excessive rainfall, many homes across Texas were damaged. The damage ranges from homes with shingles missing and vegetative debris in yards to homes that were severely flooded. As of April 14, 2025, 8,393 self-reported damage surveys were submitted to TDEM, reflecting the following damage categories: 1,247 residences were affected, 3,703 had minor damage, 3,100 sustained major damage, and 34 were destroyed. To date, TDEM-validated surveys confirm the following damages: 787 affected, 2,886 minor, 1,455 major, and 26 destroyed. Please see the chart below:

Affected Homes	Minor Damage	Major Damage	Destroyed Homes
787	2,886	1,455	26

TDEM validated submissions by category of damage as of April 14, 2025.

FEMA staff have joined local and state partners in conducting Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments throughout the impacted counties virtually and in person. As of April 14, 2025, FEMA had confirmed the following damages: 842 affected, 2,618 minor, 1,911 major, and 235 destroyed. Please see the chart below.

Affected Homes	Minor Damage	Major Damage	Destroyed Homes
842	2,618	1,911	235

FEMA validated submissions by category of damage as of April 14, 2025.

Insurance Data

Many of the destroyed homes in previous federally declared disasters were in low- to medium-income neighborhoods where survivors struggled to rebuild, make mortgage payments, or pay rent in a market where there was a lack of affordable and available rental resources. The personal and economic impact on these communities means it will take them a significant amount of time and effort to recover. Long-term recovery from such devastation is the most difficult part of a disaster. Federal assistance will be key to a rapid and resilient recovery.

As of April 14, 2025, 8,393 self-reported damage surveys were submitted to TDEM from across Texas. 6,741 respondents indicated they were property owners, 837 indicated they were renters, and the remainder of the submitters did not indicate the status of ownership. Of this population, about 1,500 respondents indicated they were insured, about 3,700 indicated they were not insured, and the remainder of submitters were unsure of their insurance status. It should also be considered that even those who are insured may have losses not covered entirely by insurance.

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) report below details the number of policies in force, categorized by line of county, for residential property. The data reflects the most recent available quarter, covering the third quarter of 2024.

County	Policies in Force at End of QTR	Total Paid Loss	Total Paid Claims
Cameron	67,499	\$18,920,770	1,368
Hidalgo	124,707	\$68,685,602	3,122
Starr	5,199	\$2,042,628	81
Willacy	2,119	\$704,095	57

Source: Texas Department of Insurance

Disaster Impacted Population Profile

Those living in the affected area contribute to the recovering economies of Texas and the United States. The area includes counties that are home to petroleum refineries, one of the busier ports in the United States, manufacturing companies, and much more. Texans living in the affected area are no stranger to disasters, but many have reached their breaking point, given repeated incidents this year alone. These affected areas of the state are also home to many vulnerable population groups. In some of the affected counties, many households speak a language other than English. Despite the efforts of local and state partners, these language barriers can hinder Texans from accessing the emergency assistance they desperately need. Additionally, in many counties, the percentage of the population under 65 years of age and with a disability is higher than 8.9 percent, the national average. Also, people under the age of 18 and

people aged 65 and older make up a significant portion of the disaster area, as outlined in the sections below.

County	Median household income in dollars	Pre-disaster unemployment (Feb 2024)	Persons below poverty level	18 yrs and younger	elderly (age 65 and older)	Disabled (under the age of 65)	Without health insurance (under age 65)	Speak a language other than English
Cameron	\$47,435.00	4.90%	22.60%	28.60%	14.10%	8.00%	30.10%	71.00%
Hidalgo	\$49,731.00	5.20%	27.40%	30.80%	11.50%	7.90%	32.00%	81.80%
Starr	\$35,979.00	7.70%	32.80%	32.20%	11.20%	10.50%	29.00%	91.00%
Willacy	\$42,839.00	6.60%	29.00%	23.80%	14.60%	9.90%	23.10%	62.00%

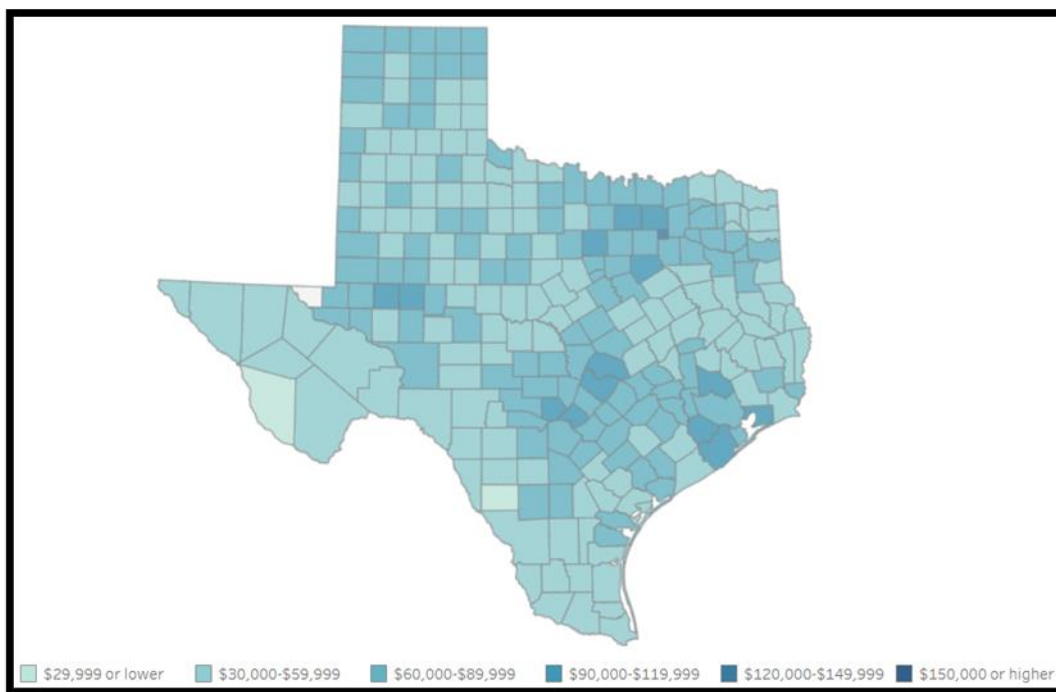
Data from U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Population Statistics

Among the (4) counties for which federal assistance is being requested, the population exceeds 1.4 million (2023 United States Census Bureau) and is home to Texans of varying demographics. The majority of affected counties have high populations of disabled individuals aged 65 and older and those without health insurance. Moreover, the majority of affected counties have higher than average national and state poverty rates.

Income and Poverty

In 2023, Texas's median household income was \$75,780, which is slightly lower than the national average of \$77,540. Compared to the median US household income, Texas households bring in about \$1,760 less than the national median.



Map showing household median income by county. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the (4) counties impacted by the March 2025 Severe Weather and Flooding event have median household incomes less than the national level of \$75,780. In addition, many residents in the affected area rely on nutrition assistance programs. Additionally, the population of citizens aged 65 or older receiving Social Security Income ranges from 13 to 43 percent (U.S. Social Security Administration, 2019).

Vulnerable Population Analysis – SNAP Recipient Data

According to data from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), individuals receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in the affected counties represent a significant portion of the population. As of February 2025, the following totals were reported:

- Cameron County – 97,291 recipients (22.6% of the population)
- Hidalgo County – 212,553 recipients (23.1% of the population)
- Starr County – 19,613 recipients (29.5% of the population)
- Willacy County – 4,656 recipients (23.8% of the population)

The high percentage of SNAP recipients suggests that a significant portion of the population faces financial hardship, making them particularly susceptible to the long-term impacts of the recent flooding event.

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.36, this incident is of such magnitude and severity that an effective response exceeds state and local capabilities, necessitating supplementary federal assistance to save lives, protect property, public health, and safety, and mitigate the threat of further disaster. As a result, the State of Texas is requesting a major disaster declaration for Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties. I am requesting all IA programs – Mass Care/Emergency Services (MC/EA), Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Disaster Case Management (DCM), Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, Disaster Legal Services (DLS), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Clean and Sanitize, and Voluntary Agency Coordination (VAL).

Additionally, I am requesting the activation of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loan Program for both physical and economic loss in all counties requesting Individual Assistance.

I have designated Chief Nim Kidd as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Paula Hanson and Warren Weidler as Alternate GARs for this request. Chief Kidd will serve as the State Coordinating Officer (SCO), and Paula Hanson will serve as the Deputy State Coordinating Officer (DSCO) for this request. Chief Kidd will coordinate with FEMA and provide additional information and justification on my behalf as needed.

Sincerely,



Greg Abbott
Governor

Enclosures: OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13