



August 17, 2022

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL OFFICIAL STATEMENT

H-GAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION FOR \$488,762,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR RESILIENCY PROJECTS IN THE REGION

Yesterday, the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors approved a Method of Distribution for nearly a half billion dollars in federal investment to make our region more economically and structurally resilient. The allocation of \$488,762,000 in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds will help support much-needed resiliency improvement projects across the 13-county region to help protect communities from future floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

Our region has long suffered the devastating impacts of flooding and major storms, prompting the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Texas General Land Office to allocate \$1.2 billion in mitigation funds to our region, with \$750 million dedicated to Harris County and \$488,762,000 for the balance of the region. In addition to supporting resiliency improvement projects, the Method of Distribution approved yesterday by the H-GAC board now includes an option to consider planning-only resiliency projects. This amendment will allow communities the flexibility to propose a wider variety of mitigation projects with which to use their allocated funds.

The process for developing H-GAC's Method of Distribution received significant participation from a region-wide, diverse collective of local government leaders, state and national representatives, advocacy organizations, community leaders, and, most importantly, members of the public. This feedback was critical in ensuring that this Method of Distribution allocates these funds in a manner that is equitable, meets local needs, and makes the most impact in increasing our region's resiliency. Thanks to the frank conversations and hard work of the 37 elected representatives on the H-GAC board, the board-approved Method of Distribution now heads to the Texas General Land Office for final review before local governments can begin putting the funds to work for their residents, including more than \$10 million allocated for the City of Houston.



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The Houston-Galveston Area Council will continue its work to foster conversation and cooperation so that together we can ensure our region is steadfast and ready to overcome the next natural disaster and any future challenges that come our way.

You can find more information about the development of the Method of Distribution on our website at: www.h-gac.com/community-development-block-grant-mitigation-funds