

Regional Flood Management Committee

Quarterly Meeting, 4/16/25
Hybrid, Via Zoom & In-person at H-GAC



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

- 1:30 PM** **Welcome**
Roll Call
Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)
- 1:40 PM** **Update: CDBG-DR Announcement**
Melissa Washington, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, GLO
- 1:50 PM** **Update: MATCH Tool**
Will Parker, Mitigation Outreach Specialist, H2O Partners
- 2:00 PM** **Speaker Presentation: Buyer's Aware and M3FR Tools**
The Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT)
- 2:45 PM** **Speaker Presentation: Texas Citizen Planner**
Dana Raborn, Resilience Planner, TCWP
- 3:00 PM** **Speaker Presentation: Higher Standards Survey**
Christopher Steubing, PE, CFM, Deputy Executive Director, TFMA
- Legislative Updates
Other Announcements or Business
Member Roundtable
Next Meeting Reminder
- 3:30 PM** **Adjourn**



Roll Call



Primary and Alternate Board Members

Please unmute your microphone and voice that you are present at the meeting when you hear your name called



Public Comment

3 Minutes Per Speaker

click **Reactions** , then click **Raise Hand** 

If you would like to make a public comment, please use the raise hand button. When you are called on you may unmute, announce your name and affiliation/organization, and proceed with your comment.

We will inform you when your 3 minutes are over



Update:

Melissa Washington
Intergovernmental Relations Manager, GLO





2024 Disasters

SUMMARY ONE-PAGER

(Published March 31, 2025)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the State of Texas will be receiving \$555,687,000 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to support eligible events in declared areas from the Texas Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding (DR-4781), which have an incident period from April 26 to June 5, 2024 and Hurricane Beryl (DR-4798), which has an incident period from July 5 to July 9, 2024.

HUD granted allocations to Harris County (\$67,326,000) and the City of Houston (\$314,645,000) for the 2024 Disasters and each entity will be responsible for developing an action plan and administering the funding directly.

Proposed Programs

- Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP)
- Homeowner Reimbursement Program (HRP)
- Affordable Rental Program (ARP)
- Local Infrastructure Recovery Program (LIRP)

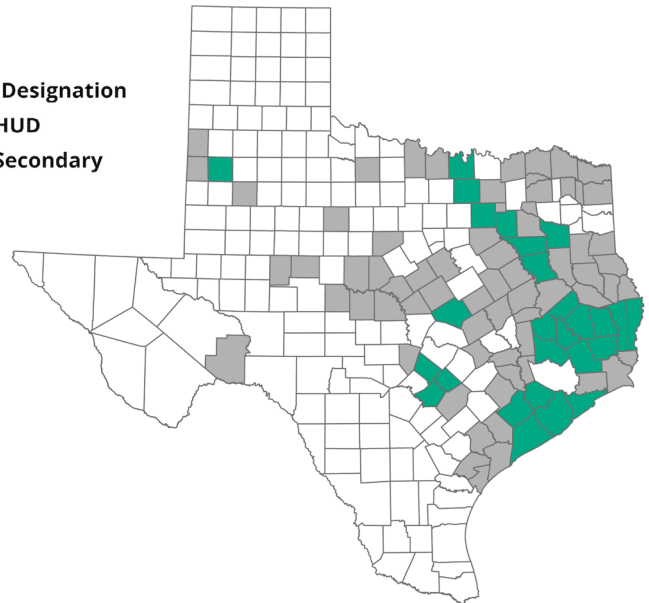
HUD MID Counties (27):

Anderson	Fort Bend	Jasper	San Jacinto
Bell	Galveston	Kaufman	Smith
Brazoria	Guadalupe	Liberty	Trinity
Caldwell	Hardin	Matagorda	Tyler
Cooke	Hays	Montgomery	Walker
Dallas	Henderson	Newton	Wharton
Denton	Hockley	Polk	

MID Designation

■ HUD

■ Secondary



Secondary MID Counties (68):

Angelina	Cass	Coryell	Hopkins	Lynn	Panola	Shelby
Aransas	Chambers	Delta	Houston	Madison	Rains	Sterling
Austin	Cherokee	Eastland	Jackson	McCulloch	Red River	Terrell
Bailey	Clay	Ellis	Jefferson	Milam	Refugio	Titus
Baylor	Cochran	Falls	Jones	Mills	Robertson	Van Zandt
Blanco	Coke	Fannin	Lamar	Montague	Rockwall	Victoria
Bosque	Coleman	Freestone	Lampasas	Morris	Rusk	Waller
Bowie	Collin	Gonzales	Lee	Nacogdoches	Sabine	Washington
Brown	Colorado	Grimes	Leon	Navarro	San Augustine	
Calhoun	Concho	Hamilton	Limestone	Orange	San Saba	



Texas General Land Office

2024 Disasters

UNMET RECOVERY NEEDS SURVEY

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the State of Texas will be receiving \$555,687,000 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to support eligible events in declared areas from the Texas Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding (DR-4781), which have an incident period from April 26 to June 5, 2024 and Hurricane Beryl (DR-4798), which has an incident period from July 5 to July 9, 2024.

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is the designated agency for administering CDBG-DR funding for the State of Texas. HUD granted allocations to Harris County (\$67,326,000) and the City of Houston (\$314,645,000) for the 2024 Disasters and each entity will be responsible for developing an action plan and administering the funding directly.

The GLO is seeking information about damages that will assist with the development of the 2024 Disasters Action Plan. Please take our brief **2024 Disasters Unmet Recovery Needs survey** to help the GLO better understand the remaining unmet needs in your community.

Scan the QR code below with your smartphone's camera or visit the 2024 Disasters webpage (<https://www.glo.texas.gov/disaster-recovery/2024-disasters>) to access the 2024 Disasters Unmet Recovery Needs survey, which should take roughly ten minutes to complete.

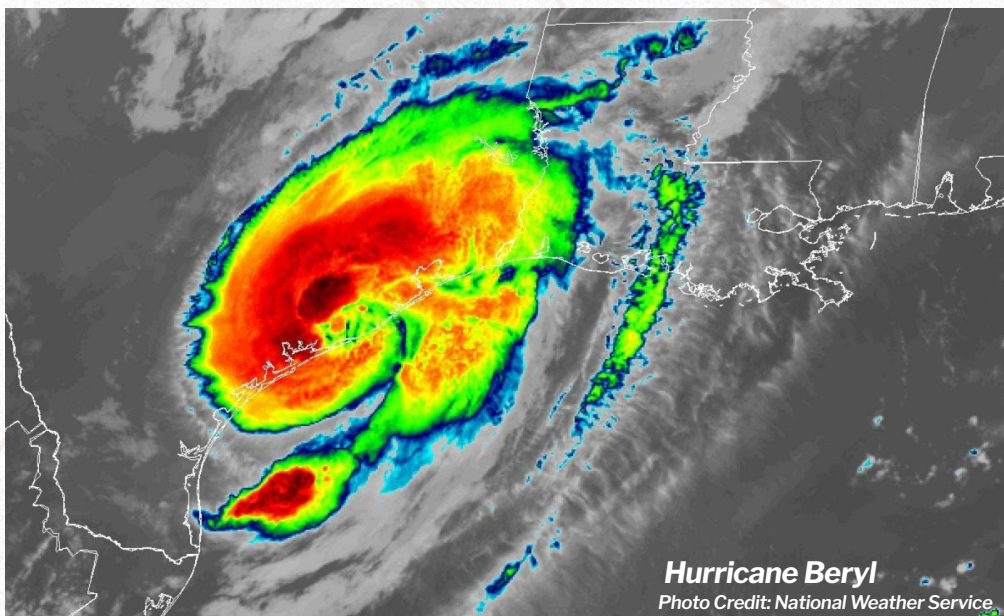
If you have any questions, please reach out to: cdr@recovery.texas.gov

The survey closing date is Friday, April 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

2024 Disasters Unmet Recovery Needs Survey QR Code



<https://arcg.is/LaKCO>



Hurricane Beryl

Photo Credit: National Weather Service

Update: MATCH Tool

Will Parker
Mitigation Outreach Specialist, H2O Partners





Texas General Land Office

Mitigation Assistance for Tailoring Choices (MATCH) Tool

Program Background

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is leading the Combined River Basin Flood Studies (CRBFS) program across 49 counties impacted by Hurricane Harvey as well as four counties in the Lower Rio Grande Valley impacted by severe flooding in 2015. The study will increase resilience by collecting, analyzing, and communicating flood risk information to help communities prioritize effective mitigation strategies and pursue additional grant funds.

Barriers to Accessing Funding

Despite the influx of available federal and state funding programs to support flood mitigation and resilience, there are significant barriers to accessing financing. These barriers can generally be categorized as one or more of the following listed below.

Common Funding Barriers



Administrative

Challenges associated with policies and procedures to track and apply for grants.



Technical

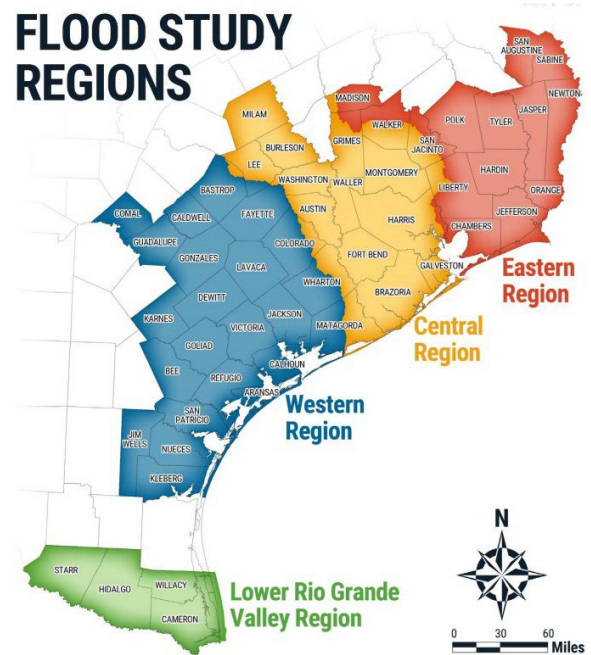
Challenges include a lack of community project data and insufficient technical knowledge to support applications.



Financial

Challenges accessing resources to develop grant applications and meet local cost-share or match requirements.

FLOOD STUDY REGIONS



Existing Funding Sources

Federal and state agencies have made historic commitments in recent years to support flood mitigation and resilience.

\$ 3.46B	through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
\$ 660M	for Texas alone through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
\$ 3.5B	through Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
\$ 2.3B	for the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program in 2022
\$ 500M	through Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Act of 2020 for FY2022-FY2026



MATCH Tool Overview

In conjunction with the CRBFS, the GLO is developing a tool to help connect communities with potential funding sources to implement flood mitigation and resilience projects. The GLO's Mitigation Assistance for Tailoring Choices (MATCH) Tool will be a publicly accessible, web-based platform to support communities and their planning efforts.

How Can MATCH Help You?

The MATCH tool is designed to support community leaders, floodplain and emergency managers, and planners who are building flood resilience one flood mitigation project at a time. It helps users to identify and compare funding sources, strengthen their applications, and learn from successful funding strategies. Additionally, through a mitigation project map that displays existing and planned projects, users can identify where projects are still needed to support resilience efforts.

The tool will feature:

- **Funding opportunities:** view and compare available sources of funding for flood mitigation projects
- **Projects:** discover funded and planned flood mitigation projects across Texas
- **Application Insights:** generate insights on how your project compares to a funding opportunity's eligibility criteria
- **Resources:** explore resources to support application development and answer frequently asked questions

MATCH Tool Goals

- 1 Empower communities by reducing barriers to accessing mitigation funding through simplified guidance and resources;
- 2 Connect unfunded community flood mitigation projects and funding sources;
- 3 Assist state partners in aligning mitigation investments with areas in need;
- 4 Increase the number of successful, competitive community mitigation and resilience project applications in Texas,
- 5 Provide opportunities for communities to explore projects that were successfully funded and effective flood resilience practices.

Get Involved

The GLO is seeking feedback from local leaders and communities working on implementing flood mitigation projects to improve the MATCH tool and enhance the user experience. We also invite you to share your community's flood mitigation and resilience funding efforts. For more information or to share your thoughts, please email us:

 glofloodstudies.central@recovery.texas.gov

Speaker Presentation: Buyer's Aware and M3FR Tools

The Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT)





About Us

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey reminded us all that floods are one of the most common and costliest natural disasters, and they can pose a significant risk to human life and property. Identifying your flood risk is an important first step to determining if any actions are necessary to reduce your flood risk, assess insurance needs, and plan for potential impacts. Buyers Aware is the result of a partnership between researchers and faculty members at Texas A&M University, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), and FEMA to make this information more widely available by creating a one-stop shop analytical tool to assess the flood and wildfire risk to individual residential structures in Hurricane Harvey-impacted counties in Texas.

Why Buyers Aware?

Our goal is to provide accurate and timely flood and wildfire risk information to home buyers, renters, and residents. Our property-specific analysis includes data from federal regulatory maps as well as advanced statistical models in an easily interpretable and transparent format. We have listened to Texas residents throughout the design process to ensure Buyers Aware is simple to use and easy to understand.

Buyers Aware is funded by the Texas Division of Emergency Management through funds allocated by FEMA to fund flood mitigation planning and communication. This generous support enables us to provide Buyers Aware as a free tool, available widely to the public, grounded in advanced research.

About IDRT

The Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT) is an applied research institute located within Texas A&M University and one of the largest flood risk research institutes in the nation. Our vision is a Texas that is well-prepared for disasters and more resilient when they do occur, as a direct result of decision-making tools, data, and research that IDRT and our partners provide. Through a collaborative process and multi-disciplinary approach, the Institute's mission is to deliver critical research on disaster risk reduction through data analytics and decision-making tools and generate evidence-based solutions that help Texas communities become more resilient.



Measuring, Mapping, and Managing Flood Risk

SPONSOR:

The Texas General Land Office

PI:

Federico Antolini

CO - PI:

Samuel Brody

Wesley Highfield

Andrew Juan

In 2018, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) partnered with IDRT to conduct the Measuring, Mapping, and Managing Flood Risk in Texas, Part 1 ("M3FR1") comprehensive planning study. M3FR, Part 1, developed The Damage Plain, a new flood risk visualization, to better map and communicate the reality of flood risk beyond the traditionally used FEMA 100-year floodplain.

In September 2023, GLO and IDRT launched M3FR, Part 2. This 3-year project will improve flood risk communication by integrating multiple types of flood risk and hazard models. As part of this project, researchers at IDRT will develop a flood risk communication tool that results in actionable insights via improved risk perception. The completed M3FR2 will consist of the following:

- (1) A synthesis of existing flood risk and hazard models and the information that they can produce;
- (2) an understanding of the types of messaging and visualizations that will stimulate more resilient policies and behaviors;
- (3) the development of a flood risk communication tool that can be implemented at the local or regional level to help decision makers reduce the adverse impact of floods; and
- (4) an analysis for scaling the developed tool for broad implementation.

Speaker Presentation: Texas Citizen Planner

Dana Raborn, Resilience Planner
The Texas Community Watershed Partners (TCWP)



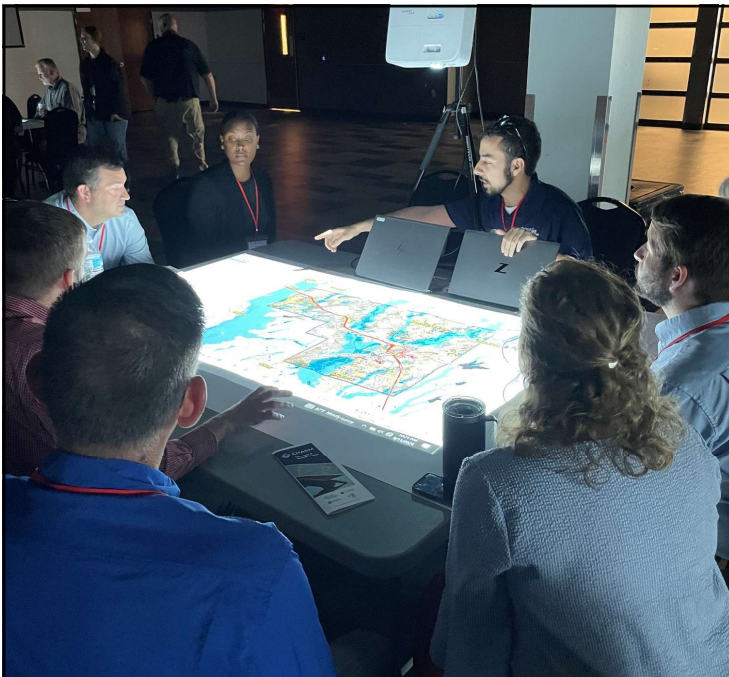
TEXAS CITIZEN PLANNER

For elected and appointed officials

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS COMMUNITY
WATERSHED PARTNERS

1



CHARM Workshops

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COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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TEXAS COMMUNITY
WATERSHED PARTNERS

2



For Elected and Appointed Officials

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COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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WATERSHED PARTNERS

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Texas Citizen Planner

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COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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TEXAS COMMUNITY
WATERSHED PARTNERS

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**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

For Local and Appointed Officials



2025 SESSIONS

April 23: Introduction to City Planning

- Dr. Sheri L. Smith, Ph.D., AICP, Texas Southern University
- Jen Reiner, AICP, CNU-A, University of Texas Arlington

April 30: Implementing Green Infrastructure

- Kimberly Mickelson, JD, FAICP, City of Houston
- Chariss York, Texas Community Watershed Partners

May 7: Sustainability & Affordable Housing

- Fernando Costa, FAICP, Costa Consulting
- Ann Zadeh, AICP, Community Design Fort Worth

May 14: Resilience & Disaster Preparedness

- Ataul Hannan, P.E., CFM, Harris County Flood Control District
- Chance Sparks, FAICP, Freese and Nichols

May 21: Legal Foundations of City Planning

- Matt Festa, JD, South Texas College of Law, Houston
- Kimberly Mickelson, JD, FAICP, City of Houston

May 28: Scenario Planning & CHARM Exercise

- Felix Landry, AICP, CHARM
- Dana Raborn, CHARM

LOCATION/TIME

H-GAC Building
3555 Timmons Dr, Suite 100
Wed, 6 - 8pm

AICP CREDITS

1.5 CM from the American
Planning Association for
each session

CFM CREDITS

1.5 CEUs from ASFPM for the
May 14 session



Elevate Your Leadership: Planning for the Future.

<https://citizenplanner.tamu.edu>



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April 23: Introduction to City Planning, I and II



Jen Reiner, AICP, CNU-A
UT-Arlington



Dr. Sheri Smith, AICP
Texas Southern University

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April 30: Implementing Green Infrastructure



Charriss York
Texas Community Watershed Partners



Kim Mickelson, JC, FAICP
Attorney for the City of Houston

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May 7: Keynote Address and Contemporary Issues



Ann Zadeh, AICP
Executive Director
Community Design Fort Worth



Fernando Costa, FAICP
Costa Consulting

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May 14: Resilience and Plan Implementation



Ataul Hannan, P.E., CFM
Planning Division Director,
Harris County Flood Control District



Chance Sparks, FAICP, CNU-A, ENV-SP
Principal, Freese and Nichols

May 21: Legal Foundations of Planning



Matt Festa, JD
South Texas College of Law, Houston



Kim Mickelson, FAICP
Attorney for City of Houston Planning

May 28: Scenario Planning and CHARM Exercise



Dana Raborn
Texas Community Watershed Partners



Felix Landry, AICP
Texas Community Watershed Partners

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For More Information:

<https://citizenplanner.tamu.edu>

Dana Raborn

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(202) 538-2740



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Speaker Presentation: Higher Standards Survey

Christopher Steubing, PE, CFM
Deputy Executive Director
Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA)





1

Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA):

- Who is TFMA:
 - Made up of ~3,500 members across the state
 - Incorporated in 2006 (501c3)
 - Promote public awareness of proper floodplain management
 - Promote the professional status of floodplain management
 - Enhance cooperation with private organizations, individuals, and local, state and federal agencies
 - Provide education and seminars to individuals and floodplain managers
 - Monitor and inform of pending floodplain legislation and other matters
 - Study and support legislation pertinent to effective floodplain management regulations
 - State chapter for the Association of State Floodplain Managers
 - Manage the Certified Floodplain Manager credentialing process



2

Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA):

- Who is TFMA:
 - Board of Directors – Elected by our members
 - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President
 - Executive Director – Wes Birdwell, CPE, CFM
 - Deputy Executive Director – Chris Steubing, PE, CFM
 - Office Administrator – Selina Mirza
- 2023 – 2027 Strategic Plan - <https://www.tfma.org/page/strategic-plan>
 - Vision – Working together to build resiliency for Texas
 - Mission – Save life and property from flooding and other hazards
 - Goals and Objectives:
 - Excellence
 - Integrity
 - Stewardship



3

Texas Floodplain Management Association

- Regional Training Resources
 - Offered through our ten Regional Directors
 - Region 8 Director – Jamilla Johnson, PE, CFM
- Texas Quick Guide: A resource guide to floodplain management (Tx Water Development Board and partners)
- Floodplain Administrator's Check List
- National Flood Insurance Program – About building flood resilience into your community



4

Texas Floodplain Management Association

- Coordination with entities such as:
 - TWDB - Regional Flood Planning Groups / Flood Infrastructure Fund
 - Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM)
 - General Land Office – Combined River Basin Flood Studies
 - Metropolitan Planning Organizations around the state
 - TCEQ – Dam Safety Program
- We work to build connections across the region and the state
- Share what other entities might be doing
 - HCFCF MAAPnext
 - Sugar Land Integrated Storm Water Management Model (ISWMM)
- Assist with staff support and connecting to our membership on floodplain management and related topics



5

Texas Floodplain Management Association

- FloodEd Day
 - Day at the Capitol
 - Over 50 members attended
 - Visited all 181 legislative offices
 - ED and DED work with lege staff members

TEXANS FIGHT FLOODS TOGETHER
FOR A SAFE AND SECURE FUTURE

WHAT'S AT RISK?
- 1 in 6 Texans live or work in flood-prone areas
- 1.7M buildings and more than 64K roadways are at risk of flooding
- 6K+ treatment and power plants, hospitals, schools, law enforcement and justice facilities in flood-prone areas (e.g., critical infrastructure)

WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE?
- The State Flood Plan identifies 6,000 actions to reduce flood risk, totaling \$16B
- Including state investment to date, \$53.1B gap remaining to ensure the safety of Texans from flooding
- The Flood Infrastructure Fund is 5 times over subscribed, with \$2B in applications

HOW TO ACT
- Implement the 2024 State Flood Plan
- Adopt Texas' legislative recommendations for funding, community flood risk reduction, water safety, flood early warning systems and enhanced state and local emergency response
- Dedicate a permanent Texas Flood Fund to address flooding (government), other water and drinking water

WE ARE TFMA
The Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1985, comprising of 120+ professional floodplain management professionals from across the state, working to protect lives and property from flooding through policy, research, education, training, and advocacy.

WHAT WE DO
This infographic is one of many resources through our annual programs such as the 50th Annual Drought (50D) program and other professional development programs, including training and webinars. Our membership and non-member resources are available for free through our website, www.texasfloodplain.org, and our Floodplain Management (FPM) program. Please see the most Office of any state in the US.

But history, Texans have endured ...

Devastating Flooding

1957 Texas Floods: 17 lives lost / hundreds of homes lost
1961 Hurricane Carla: 43 lives lost / \$2.4B in losses
1970-81 Tropical Storms: 4 lives lost / \$3.2B in losses
2005 Hurricane Rita: 113 lives lost / \$29.2B in losses
2005 Hurricane Rita and Dolly: 12 lives lost / \$4.8B in losses
2015 Memorial Day Weekend Flood: 14 lives lost / \$12M in losses
2015 Memorial Day Flood: 8 lives lost / \$3.2B in losses
2017 Hurricane Harvey: 81 lives lost / \$143.8B in losses
650 flood-related deaths since Hurricane Harvey and over \$60B in damages
2025 & Beyond

It and flood must be considered together when combating the "Land of Opportunity." As the population continues to grow, moves to age, and the economy continues to thrive, the floodplain program continues to be impacted by intense drought and devastating flooding.



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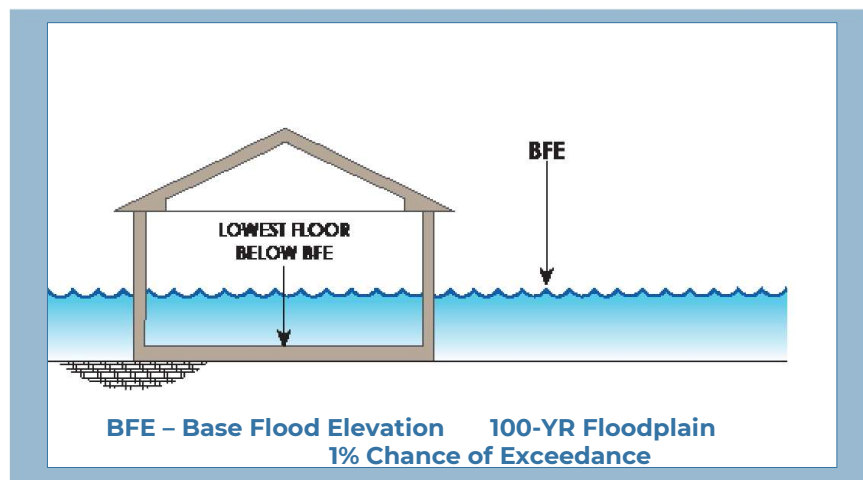
TFMA Why Higher Standards

- People don't want to get flooded!
- Higher Finished Floors = Increased Resiliency
 - Higher Finished Floors = Reduced Risk
- Building to FEMA's Published Elevation is the minimum requirement
- Identifying and using the best available information can reduce overall risk



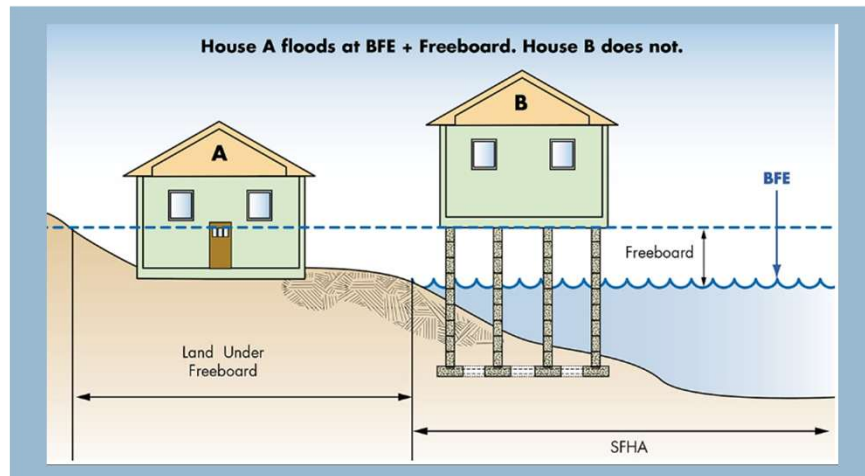
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TFMA Why Higher Standards



8

TFMA Why Higher Standards



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TFMA Higher Standards Survey: HISTORY

- Originally called “Freeboard Survey”
- Started in 2004 by Roy Sedwick and Charlie Hastings
 - Formatted as a single question to a few cities
 - “Door to Door” individual requests
- Intended to show variation of standards across the state



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Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA):

How much freeboard is in your Minimum
Finished Floor Elevation requirement?



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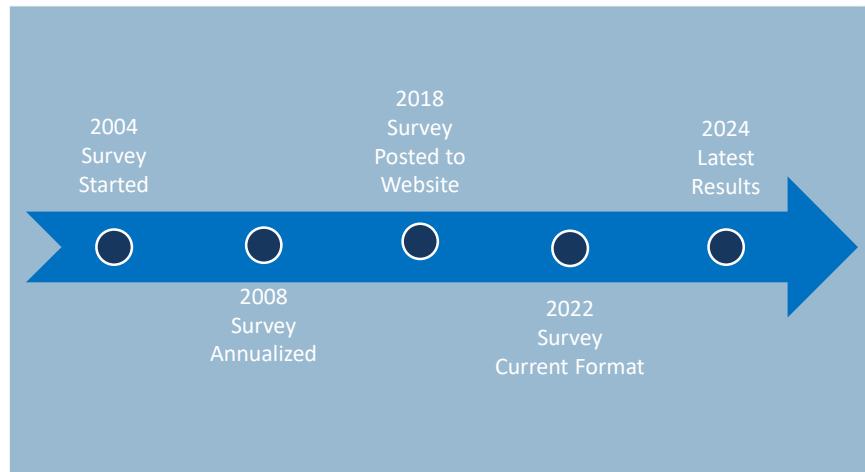
TFMA Higher Standards Survey: Legislative Standards

- Higher Standards exceed NFIP Requirements
- Texas Communities responsible for their own standards
 - Survey encourages Regional Conformity
- Regional Flood Planning Groups use the Data



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Higher Standards: A Timeline



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TFMA Higher Standards Survey: Survey Schedule

- Updated Annually by Audrey Geisler Klump
 - Starts at TFMA Annual Conference
 - **2025 Due Date: June 1**
- Results delivered at TFMA Technical Summit
 - After Summit, Posted to TFMA Website



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TFMA Higher Standards Survey: Survey Specifics

- Email to all TFMA Membership
- Data Needed for Municipalities and Counties
 - Rely heavily on FPA Responses
 - No Validation of Responses
- Anonymous: Only Community Name Published



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TFMA Higher Standards Survey: Survey Specifics

- 10 Question Survey
- Expands on NFIP Requirements
- Asks about FFE Requirements, Study Requirements, and Substantial Damage Requirements



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Higher Standards: 2024 Results

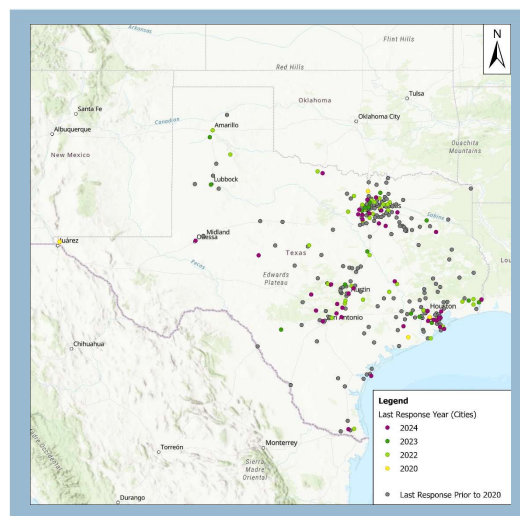
[TFMA website](#)

Survey Data			Community Adopted Freeboard	
Total Communities	Cities	Counties	New Construction 1' or More Above BFE	New Construction 1' or More Above Natural Grade or Street
365	286	79	283	117



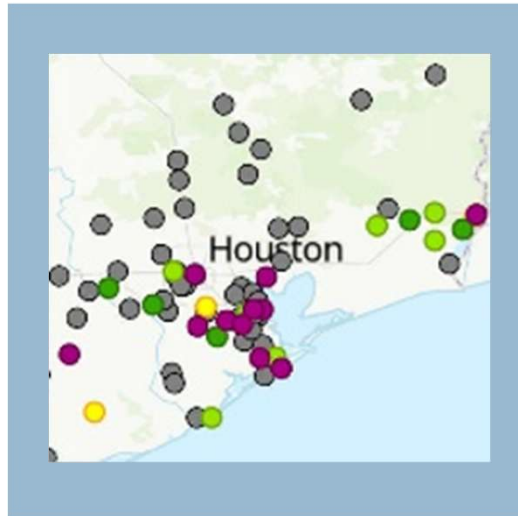
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TFMA Higher Standards Survey: Municipal Results



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TFMA Higher Standards Survey: HGAC Area Results



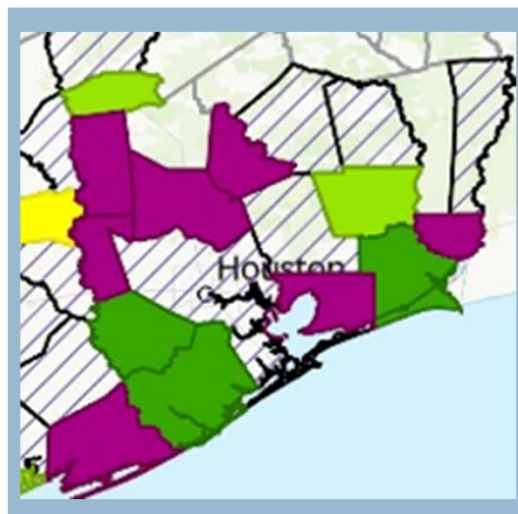
Legend
Last Response Year (Cities)

- 2024
- 2023
- 2022
- 2020
- Last Response Prior to 2020



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TFMA Higher Standards Survey: County Results



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TFMA 2025 Fall Technical Summit:

- August 26 – 29, 2025
- Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort
- Abstract Deadline April 11, 2025



Other Announcements or Business



Member Roundtable



2025 Meeting Dates

July 16th- Virtual, via Zoom

October 15th- In-person, at H-GAC



We are adjourned, thank
you for attending!

Contact

*Amanda Ashcroft, AICP
Planner, H-GAC*

713-993-4545

Amanda.Ashcroft@h-gac.com

