



Gulf Coast Economic Development District Quarterly Progress Report to the EDA

Project Title	Gulf Coast Regional Disaster Recovery Program
Award No.	08-79-05237
Performance Period	04/01/2018 – 03/31/2021
Reporting Period	07/01/2020 - 09/30/2020

Background

In response to the severe flooding that took place in the Houston-Galveston region during Hurricane Harvey, District received funding from the Economic Development Administration's Austin Regional Office to provide planning and technical assistance to impacted communities. This project has continued to analyze the region's response to recovery and provide data and technical tools to pivot from disaster recovery into a more resilient, economically competitive region that is empowered through long-term proactive planning. To-date, the GCEDD has helped district members win 16 grants and a total of \$37 million for Harvey recovery in the region.

Activities Undertaken this Quarter

Technical assistance has continued in support of EDA eligible projects that connect a recovery project to long-term resilience through more resilient infrastructure. We worked closely with the City of Dickinson on next steps in submitting a \$3 million grant application including assisting on scoping, attaining letters of support for job generation, and capital investment structure for the project. We have continued to make frequent long-term recovery calls inquiring after any new flooding and hurricane-related recovery projects across the region in order provide technical assistance in support of their applications and implementation.

Accomplishments this Quarter

The GCEDD has continued to coordinate and communicate with response and recovery partners including the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in support of their new workshop series highlighting communities leading efforts in planning for dual disasters. We have also been engaged in inter-regional coordination efforts in joining the FEMA/EDA Region 6 Inter-Regional Coordination (IRC) workgroup with peer economic development districts to boost inter-regional awareness, communications and disaster recovery planning through peer-to-peer sharing and collaboration. Although initially focused on Covid-19, the arrival of the 2020 hurricane season has led to shifting IRC discussions toward how coastal districts are continuing to plan for long-term economic recovery and mitigating future impacts of hurricanes and historic flood events. On September 30 GCEDD presented to the Region 6 IRC work group on hurricane-related economic resiliency planning efforts focusing on planning for economic impacts of category 1-5 hurricanes on vulnerable populations in storm surge zones across the 13-county region. These efforts informed recent county- and local-level emergency preparedness actions with the approach of Hurricane Laura.



Anticipated Developments Next Quarter

As the project draws to a close in its final two quarters, we will engage economic development leaders and District board members on the successes, challenges and continued relevance of the current Regional Economic Resilience Plan, and potential for updating and refining it. Discussions will cover progress reporting on any existing goals; refining or updating goals, as well as; revisiting the county-level economic data indicators and releasing updates on those monitors to understand how recovery efforts are connecting to long-term outcomes.