

State of Texas

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Stage 3 DRSF Application

Question #2.1 (continued)

Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission will continue expending the Stage 1 and Stage 2 CSBG DRSF funds to assist households that continue to have unaddressed needs related to the eligible disaster. That will include, but not be limited to, case management, referrals, assistance with repairs to homes, replacement of appliances and furnishings damaged by the disaster, and providing assistance to address long-term needs.

Hidalgo County CSA, who has requested to be considered for Stage 3 CSBG DRSF funds submitted an updated Disaster Needs Assessment in 2021 which indicated the following:

The disaster flooding on June 24-25, 2019 (DR-4454), mostly impacted two particular zip codes: 79538 in Monte Alto, TX and 78562 in La Villa, TX with a total of 1,960 homes impacted per FEMA. Hidalgo County CSA obtained data that 136 homes were destroyed, 980 had major damage, 177 had minor damage and five were affected by the flooding. The homes that were damaged were mostly frame homes and trailers. Two trailers were completely destroyed. Most of the storm damage was to single-family dwellings.

One of the findings of the needs assessment was the inability of FEMA to provide assistance to individuals and households whose homes were not properly maintained prior to the disaster. These individuals are low-income and lack the financial means to maintain their homes, which contributed to FEMA's determination that the households were not eligible for FEMA assistance.

ONGOING IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES AND LONGER TERM RECOVERY NEEDS:

Hidalgo Community Services Agency (CSA) is the eligible entity serving Hidalgo County which was one of the counties impacted by Texas Severe Storm and Flooding (DR-4454). FEMA information for February 5, 2020, recorded 5,908 Valid Registrants for the impacted areas. The incident period was June 24-25, 2019, and the Major Disaster Declaration was made on July 17, 2019. FEMA Program Dollars Approved from data available on FEMA website totals \$12,739,236. As of February 5, 2020, Hidalgo County had 2,085 FEMA registrants and as of December 6, 2019, reported 1,960 homes damaged.

Information provided by Hidalgo County CSA identified that the needs for families impacted by the disaster included assistance with building materials to do minor repairs to their homes (e.g., sheetrock, shingles, wood). Another major ongoing need is for appliances and furnishings. Many of the appliances and home furnishings were damaged or destroyed due to the majority of these low-income homes having limited space in their living quarters resulting in families having to resort to placing their washing machine, dryer, and/or water heaters directly outside of the home or in an outdoor shed. Additionally, some individuals affected by the disaster have a need for mental health services. These families experienced and continue to experience depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related to the disaster. Many families were devastated after this disaster which flooded trailers, homes and cars.