

# Hurricane Harvey Private Sector

eBrief



Sept 24, 2017



## In this issue:

- [Texas, FEMA announce disaster assistance housing options](#)
- [Help us connect with more Harvey survivors](#)
- [IRS providing info for taxpayers affected by Harvey](#)
- [Transitional Sheltering Assistance Extended 14 Days](#)

## Texas, FEMA announce disaster assistance housing options

Today the Texas General Land Office (GLO) announced the [signing of an agreement](#) with FEMA for the immediate disaster assistance housing needs for the state's initial Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts. The GLO, in partnership with the Councils of Government (COGs), will work with local officials from affected regions to determine which program options will best address the needs of individual communities.

These programs will provide multiple options designed to allow residents to shelter in their own houses or nearby in their home communities while continuing the long-term rebuilding process. The new agreement provides flexibility and options so housing efforts will be locally led, state supported, and federally funded.



The GLO has launched an informational [website](#) with housing options available through FEMA. The website includes information about the disaster assistance housing options as well as links to register with FEMA, how to contact the FEMA hotline, and more. Under the new program, local government immediate disaster assistance housing options include:

### *Multi-Family Lease and Repair:*

- Direct assistance to repair or improve existing multi-family housing such as apartments in order to provide more housing for survivors.
- Properties must be three or more units, with each unit providing complete living facilities for cooking, eating, and sanitation. Hotels, motels, and extended stay hotels are not eligible at this time.

### *Direct Leasing:*

- Direct Leasing: Enables local governments to lease a property that typically would not be available to the public, such as corporate lodging.
- Local government enters into the lease agreement on behalf of individuals or households. Various types of housing properties may be eligible.

### *Manufactured Housing Options (Mobile Homes and Recreational Vehicles):*

- Direct housing places manufactured housing units on private land or commercial pads.
- Local permitting may apply.
- Site must be suitable. Hauling and installation included.
- An inspection of the site to determine suitability will be scheduled.

### *Partial Repair and Essential Power for Sheltering (PREPS):*

- PREPS provides minor repairs to homes in locations with limited housing options.
- For eligible properties that have incurred limited damage displacing individuals from their homes.
- PREPS provides basic, emergency home repairs - not to include finish work.

*Direct Assistance for Limited Home Repair:*

- Program provides partial repairs to homes with significant damages.
- Program can include partial repairs to a damaged home where alternative housing is not available or is not cost-effective.
- FEMA will determine eligibility for permanent housing construction on a case-by-case basis.
- All other forms of housing assistance must be exhausted before the program can be considered.

To be considered for assistance, individuals affected by Hurricane Harvey must first register at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).



## Help us connect with more Harvey survivors

This FEMA Private Sector eBrief is sent as another way to provide information about relief and recovery support available from the State of Texas, the federal government and other organizations.

We need your help to reach out even further to all those impacted by this unprecedented event. If you receive the eBrief, you are free to use all or parts of it to help us spread the word:

- Forward it to your members and customers.
- Reuse the information in your own online or e-news products.
- Post the eBrief to your organization’s website and encourage your partners to post to theirs.



We ask you to continually promote ways homeowners, renters and business owners and operators can get assistance, including:

- **Share links** to disaster recovery websites **on your organization’s social media sites** or join the conversation and share updates from the [FEMA Harvey Facebook page](#).
- For continually **updated information** on Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery, visit FEMA’s [Hurricane Harvey disaster web page](#).
- Encourage business owners **to register** employees impacted by sharing FEMA’s registration [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) website.
- Help individuals looking for one-on-one assistance to find the nearest [Disaster Recovery Center online](#).
- Steer **business owners** who need disaster assistance loans to the [Small Business Administration’s website](#).
- **Direct unemployed workers to the [Disaster Unemployment Assistance](#)** website for Texans whose jobs were affected by Hurricane Harvey. (This may include people not normally eligible for unemployment benefits, such as self-employed persons and farm workers).

Think of creative ways you can connect your own communities, customers or memberships to the various outreach and assistance programs available through the State and FEMA as we work together to help get Texas business owners and operators back in business. Look for ways that will resonate with your individual audiences. For example:

- Consider printing a few of the websites listed above on your cash register receipts or on monthly bills you send out to customers

- Print up flyers to hang in your business identifying disaster relief resources they can use
- Promote disaster assistance websites on your marquees or make periodic announcements in your stores about the various programs available to survivors

Finally, please feel free to share your original ideas with us so that we may use them to help other communities across the country who are also recovering from recent hurricanes and floods.



## IRS providing info for taxpayers affected by Harvey

The IRS is providing help to the survivors of Hurricane Harvey. Special tax relief and assistance is available to taxpayers in the Presidential Disaster Areas via the [IRS' Hurricane Harvey website](#).

The IRS is monitoring the disaster locations impacted by Harvey and Irma, and is working to help taxpayers resolve potential tax issues as they are identified. The IRS is providing updates, tax tips, legal guidance and disaster relief information for charitable organizations, and recommends users check back frequently as additional info is added.



## Transitional Sheltering Assistance Extended 14 Days

Some Hurricane Harvey survivors who need more time to find housing are getting an extension to stay temporarily in hotels while they look for an alternative place to live.

The Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program, which pays for short-term hotel stays, has been extended by 14 days. The new checkout date is Oct. 10. Participants in the program will receive a phone call telling them whether they are eligible for the extension and what they need to do to remain at their current hotel or find a new hotel. Applicants must meet certain requirements to remain eligible.

Hurricane Harvey survivors who are not currently in the program but who may be eligible are notified automatically. TSA participants must be registered with FEMA for disaster assistance.

FEMA pays directly for the room and any applicable taxes. Applicants are responsible for all other incidental costs (meals, transportation, etc.) Hotels may require a credit card for incidental expenses.

A household of four or fewer members is authorized for one hotel room and a household of five or more is authorized additional rooms based on a limit of four people per room. One member of each household 18 or older must reside in each room.

TSA-eligible applicants must find and book their own hotel rooms. The list of participating hotels is on [DisasterAssistance.gov](#), under the link [Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program](#) or by phoning the FEMA helpline at 800-321-3362. For TTY, call 800-462-7585. For 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 800-621-3362.

Applicants with disabilities or who have access and functional needs should check with hotels to ensure appropriate accommodations are available. Those with pets must check to see if pets are accepted. Applicants must show photo identification and adhere to any hotel check-in requirements.

Many survivors have found other housing and no longer need to participate in TSA. The average stay is 3-4 nights. More than 40,000 families were using this temporary action. That number has decreased to 24,000 families staying in TSA hotels as they work on housing solutions.

# Hurricane Harvey Private Sector

eBrief



Sept. 28, 2017



## In this issue:

- [Questions about your FEMA determination letter?](#)
- [FEMA's Public Assistance program provides grants to eligible Private Non-Profits](#)
- [Texas Comptroller releases disaster tax webpage](#)

## Questions about your FEMA determination letter?

FEMA applicants who have been found ineligible for assistance can have FEMA revisit their cases. Remember the following tips when filing an appeal:

- Applicants must read their letters carefully.
- It should explain any problems that could be corrected. If a mistake has been made, they should let FEMA know right away by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585) or visiting a Disaster Recovery Center.
- Appeals may relate to eligibility, the amount or type of help provided, a late application, a request to return money, or continuing help.
- The appeal must be sent to and postmarked within 60 days after you receive the letter.
- Explain in writing why you think the decision about the amount or type of assistance is not correct.
- When submitting the letter, the applicant needs to include his or her full name, date and place of birth and current address.
- Sign the letter. It must be notarized and accompany a copy of a state-issued identification card. If you cannot do that, write: "I hereby declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct."
- Date the appeal letter and include the FEMA application number and the disaster number (DR-4332) and mail it to:

FEMA National Processing Service Center  
P. O. Box 10055  
Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055  
FAX: 800-827-8112; Attention: FEMA

**WHAT to DO**  
*if YOU DISAGREE*  
**with FEMA'S DECISION LETTER**

- 1** Read the letter carefully to find out why the decision was made.
- 2** Contact FEMA for help with filing an appeal or any questions.
- 3** File a written appeal.

FEMA



[FEMA's Pubic Assistance provides grants to eligible private](#)

## [non-profits](#)

FEMA's Public Assistance program provides supplemental assistance to states, tribes, local governments and certain private non-profit organizations. Public Assistance may be able to provide grants to certain private non-profit organizations that own or operate facilities that provide non-critical, essential governmental services, including child care facilities, which have sustained losses or damage as a result of Hurricane Harvey.



Private non-profits that provide non-critical, essential governmental services, as defined in the [Stafford Act](#), should apply simultaneously to FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration for disaster assistance.

For private non-profits that provide non-critical, essential governmental services, FEMA only provides

PA funding for eligible permanent work costs that are *not* covered by an SBA loan. This includes funding for damage to buildings, contents, and equipment. However, FEMA may provide funding for eligible Emergency Work, such as debris removal and emergency protective measures related to a damaged facility; this funding is not contingent upon SBA assistance.

### Eligible Private Non-Profit Applicants for FEMA's Public Assistance Program

- Organizations must have a ruling letter from the IRS or satisfactory evidence from the state that it is a nonprofit organization doing business under state law.
- Organizations must own or operate an eligible facility and must be open to the general public.
- Organizations must be legally responsible for disaster-related repairs to the facility.

### Available Disaster Assistance:

- SBA disaster loans may be available. These loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.
- FEMA's PA Program may provide grants for damage to buildings, contents, and equipment that is not covered by an SBA loan.
- FEMA may be able to provide funding for emergency work, including debris removal, related to the damaged facility.
- Organizations should file a claim with their insurance provider - do not wait for an insurance settlement before filing with FEMA or SBA.
- FEMA will not provide assistance for work that is covered under an SBA loan or insurance, or where other federal agencies have the specific authority to provide assistance.



## [Texas Comptroller releases disaster tax webpage](#)

Many taxpayers are unable to file taxes on time because of damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. The Comptroller's office is allowing limited temporary extensions of time to file taxes for businesses in Texas counties designated by the Hurricane Harvey [Federal Major Disaster Declaration](#). These extensions only apply to businesses in disaster declared counties.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:** *Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362 (voice), 711/VRS – (Video Relay Service), (TTY: 800-462-7585). Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).*

The Comptroller's office will evaluate whether additional filing periods may be eligible for extensions as due dates approach.

Visit the [Comptroller's webpage](#) for additional guidance and information on tax extensions to include:

- Franchise tax.
- Sales and use tax.
- Temporary suspension of hotel tax.
- Requesting a tax extension.
- Motor fuels tax.



**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:** *Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362 (voice), 711/VRS – (Video Relay Service), (TTY: 800-462-7585). Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).*