



WALLER COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

05/03/2018

Waller County OEM
836 Austin Street, Suite 103
Hempstead, TX 77445

Waller County Resident

Dear Resident:

The Waller County Office of Emergency Management is in the process applying for the Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This is a federal program that assists homeowners with either acquisition of their property, commonly referred to as "buyout," or elevation of their home to mitigate against future home flooding.

We want you to be informed that Waller County is currently in the process of applying for this grant. Should the grant be approved, then the local Office of Emergency Management would administer the program. This involves working with local residents to make sure they are aware of the grant process. There is a 25% cost share to the local resident who chooses to participate in the grant. At this time, the county will not participate in funding for the 25% grant match. Additionally, we are seeking funds from the Community Development Block Grant to assist residents with the 25% grant match. **Participation is 100% voluntary.** The deadline to participate in this grant is May 31, 2018.

Our main goal is merely to inform you of our intentions to apply for the grant. We feel it's important to provide our residents with every available program we can provide. We strongly advise you to research your options and visit FEMA's link to this program at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/8545>. A fact sheet provided by the State of Texas is enclosed for your reference.

Should you have any questions or wish to participate in the program, please feel free to contact Hilary Avery at h.avery@wallercounty.us or 979-826-7785.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Cantrell".

Brian Cantrell
Waller County Office of Emergency Management
836 Austin Street, # 103
Hempstead, TX 77445



**WALLER COUNTY
Office of Emergency Management**

Frequently Asked Questions

Waller County is in the process of applying for Hazard Mitigation Grant, whereby "if" approved, will enable federal funds to be distributed to support the Flood Hazard Mitigation Programs below:

- Property Acquisition and Demolition (Buyout)
- Home Elevation (Home raising)
- Mitigation Reconstruction (Demo rebuilt)
- Property relocation (Moving existing home out of the floodplain) FAQ:

1. Potential Timeline for Federal Grant Approval?

It depends on when a complete application is submitted to the state and the state to FEMA. This process could take up to 12 to 24 months, but with FEMA and TDEM collaborating to expedite the process, application development, review, award, and contracting could be shorter, around 90 days.

2. What could prevent Federal Grant Approval?

- Not meeting the eligibility requirements.
- Incomplete application
- Not cost effective and a host of compliance issues.

3. Is participation in the program voluntary?

- Yes, participation in the program is completely voluntary.

4. Home Buyout Program - What value will I receive for my Property?

- Fair market value, based on an appraisal of the property by an independent certified property appraiser. The County can choose to offer pre-event fair market value. This is based on property condition immediately prior to any of the recent federally declared natural disasters or current market value.

5. Home Elevation Program - What is the Cost Share?

- 75% Federal & 25% Non-federal, This can be property owner or other nonfederal funds: to be determined by the sub-applicant. The county does not have funds to assist with the 25% match.

6. Home Elevation Program - Is there a price cap on the cost of the work?

- No, but all of the costs must be documented

7. Home Elevation Program - Who do I contact to see if it is technically feasible?

- Technical Feasibility for elevation will be determined by a Professional Engineer once the application is approved. The County will notify the homeowner of the determination.

8. Home Elevation Program - If technically feasible, can I start work now and be reimbursed if and when the grant funds become available?

- No, if you break ground prior to grant award no reimbursement is possible.

9. Home Elevation Program - Can I relocate my home out of the floodplain to another location within my property boundaries?

- Possibly, on a case by case basis, if the new location meets the community ordinance as it relates to the floodplain (an elevation certificate may be required to determine the elevation of relocation site) and the issue as to who will own and maintain the vacated part of your property, including deed restrictions will have to be resolved.

10. Mitigation Reconstruction - If my home cannot be raised but I don't want to leave the area, are there any other options?

- Yes, your existing home can be demolished and you may qualify for a grant towards rebuilding another home, up to a maximum of \$150K - building only - not for land purchase.