



HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

David B. Turkel
Director

8410 Lantern Point Drive
Houston, Texas 77054
Tel (713) 578-2000
Fax (713) 578-2090

Dear Community Leaders:

As you may know, the Harris County Community Services Department (CSD) will be submitting a consolidated needs assessment to the State of Texas for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for disaster relief. The funds are awarded from HUD to the State through the Office of Rural and Community Affairs (ORCA) and Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). The amount of funds that Harris County will receive will be based on our documented damage assessment. The county is asking you to assist us in assuring that all storm related damages is identified. To do this we are asking you to provide a list of all projects to repair damaged infrastructure that may be eligible for FEMA or HUD funding and be a resource for identifying damages to other areas. A format for reporting your jurisdiction/organization's damages is provided as an attachment to this letter and is provided on the CSD website (www.csd.hctx.net). This format follows the same categories detailed in Governor Perry's report "Texas Rebounds", published November 2008. Damage reports must be submitted to the CSD no later than January 13, 2008. The categories listed in "Texas Rebounds" are as follows:

- **Category 1 – Housing Assistance**
Definition: Repairs, reconstruction, elevation or relocation for uninsured single-family homeowner, small rental, and multi-family rental properties.
This category has already been completed by the Harris County Housing Authority.
- **Category 2 – Critical Infrastructure**
Definition: Assist state agencies and local governments for unreimbursed hurricane damages to utilities, public buildings, and equipment.
- **Category 3 – Economic Development**
Definition: Community revitalization, historic repair, and bridge loans and/or grants.
- **Category 4 – Economic Development – Gulf Opportunity Zone**
Definition: Address long-term economic impact for areas damaged during the 2008 hurricane season.
- **Category 5 – Forestry, Agriculture, and Fisheries**
Definition: Offset forestry, agricultural, and fishery losses.
- **Category 6 – Social Services**
Definition: Structural damage, direct client services, emergency assistance, and other social services.

- **Category 7 – Transportation**
Definition: Local, county, and state transportation repairs and mitigation.
- **Category 8 – Workforce Services**
Definition: Address workforce housing, workforce development training, and disaster-related unemployment costs.
- **Category 9 – Educational Services**
Definition: Unreimbursed repair costs to public and private colleges and universities and public schools damaged during the 2008 hurricane season.
- **Category 10 – Navigation and Waterways**
Definition: Waterway and infrastructure repairs, mitigation projects, coastal restoration, and underwater debris removal projects.
- **Category 11 – Health Care and Mental Health Services**
Definition: Provide uncompensated health care and mental health services, and to repair or replace unreimbursed damage to facilities and loss of equipment.
- **Category 12 – Utility Infrastructure**
Definition: Repairs to electric and telecommunication utilities.

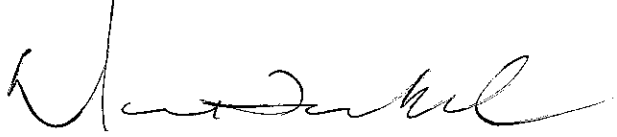
For the category of critical infrastructure in the triage survey worksheet, Harris County would like you to rank your city's **infrastructure projects only** either as an Emergency Need, High Critical Need, Medium Critical Need or Low Critical Need for repairing the damages. The definitions for the needs are as follows:

- **Emergency:** Projects that posed an immediate threat to the public health and safety that required repair/replacement to begin within 90 days after the storm. *Example: water system shut down.*
- **High Critical Need:** Projects that were severely damaged and “may” pose a threat to public health and safety that require repair/replacement to begin within 6 months after the storm. *Example: damage to roof of building that will cause additional damage if not repaired/replaced, but building is still functional*
- **Medium Critical Need:** Projects that do not pose an immediate threat to public health and safety, but are “needed” to re-stabilize the community. *Example: Damaged library*
- **Low Critical Need:** Projects that are aesthetic in nature. *Examples: signage, parks and recreation, bike paths*

We would also ask that if your city has any projects in the other categories to please refer these projects to the assessment team leads (a list of lead and contact information was provided with this letter). Please provide all data by January 13, 2008 to the assessment team leads.

Harris County appreciates your efforts in this matter to ensure that we receive the funding necessary for recovery from the devastating hurricanes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Turkel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and "T".

David B. Turkel
Director

DBT/dal/cl

Enclosure