In February of 2018, the federal government allocated Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for the purpose of assisting in long-term recovery from 2017 disasters. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was authorized under this Act to distribute the funds to state grantees. The State of Texas was required to submit a plan detailing the proposed use of all funds, including the criteria for eligibility and how the use of these funds will address long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure, housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed area. Within the State of Texas, these funds were distributed based on Methods of Distribution (MOD) developed by the Regional Councils of Government. The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is responsible for administering the hurricane recovery programs and guiding long-term and short-term resilience efforts in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region that includes Fort Bend County. H-GAC developed a state-approved MOD for approximately $241 million in CDBG-DR funds. Under this MOD, Fort Bend County was allocated $21,155,575 for a Local Buyout and Acquisition Program and $17,417,192 for a Local Infrastructure Program.

As part of this process, Fort Bend County must follow a detailed citizen participation plan that provides for and encourages citizen participation at all stages of the disaster recovery program. CDBG-DR subrecipients, like Fort Bend County are required to carry out citizen participation procedures in accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan as described in the Hurricane Harvey Action Plan.

Initially, Fort Bend County’s CDBG-DR Public Participation Plan was available for public review and comment from until Monday, February 4, 2019 to Tuesday, March 5, 2019. The comment period for the public participation plan and the infrastructure application has been extended to April 26th. The public is encouraged to submit comments to Marilynn Kindell, Community Development Director, at the Fort Bend County Community Development Department, 301 Jackson St., Suite 602, Richmond, Texas, 77469. Comments will be incorporated into the draft application documents, as appropriate.

Persons with vision or hearing impairments or other individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids and services may contact the department at (281) 341-4410 regarding reasonable accommodations. Spanish language translators are available for persons with Limited English Proficiency.