



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Rosie Truelove, Interim Director, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development
R. Scott Swearengin, Interim Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management

DATE: November 29, 2016

SUBJECT: Federal Funds Available for Impacts from 2015 Floods

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The purpose of the memorandum is to provide an update on approximately \$4 million that will be available to the City of Austin for flood-related impacts from the May and October 2015 floods. The funds are a special appropriation from Congress associated with a Presidentially Declared Disaster and are distributed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant as Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. The funds must be distributed to affected areas to address impacts from the disaster and facilitate long term recovery.

The City of Austin is eligible for \$3,110,053.99 for eligible non-housing expenditures, as well as \$895,538 for eligible housing-related expenditures. The proposed projects must meet one of the HUD designated national objectives to be eligible for award: benefitting low-to-moderate income persons; preventing or eliminating slums or blight; or meeting urgent needs. A disaster-related impact can be addressed through any eligible CDBG activity, such as rebuilding or reconstructing housing, infrastructure and/or addressing economic revitalization. 70% of the funds must benefit low-to-moderate income persons (households earning less than 140% of the Median Family Income).

Travis County was designated by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) through HUD as the lead agency to create a method of distribution for CDBG-DR funds. As part of that process, Travis County hosted a public meeting on October 11, 2016, at the Dove Springs Recreation Center to gather public input on highest priorities for this funding, in addition to gathering input through surveys and at a public hearing. Multiple City of Austin departments worked in partnership with Travis County in this process.

The next step is for relevant City of Austin departments to work with Travis County to identify potential eligible projects. Staff will report back to Council as additional information becomes available.

To find out more about the method of distribution, visit: <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/health-human-services/cdbg/cdbg-disaster-recovery>. If you have questions, contact Erica Leak, Housing Policy and Planning Manager, at erica.leak@austintexas.gov.