



Presentation to the Senate Finance Committee on Hurricane Harvey Response

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Hurricane Harvey Aid and Recovery Activities

- FEMA Grants
- SNAP and Disaster SNAP Food Benefits
- Medicaid and CHIP
- Women, Infants & Children
- Behavioral Health Services and Grants
- Regulatory Services
- State Supported Living Center Operations



Initial Estimate of Financial Impact of Hurricane Harvey

- HHSC's initial estimate totals approximately \$1.3 billion in All Funds and includes costs related to:
 - ❖ FEMA Other Needs Assistance - \$300 million
 - ❖ SNAP and Disaster SNAP food benefits - \$760.1 million
 - ❖ Medicaid and CHIP - \$70.1 million
 - ❖ Other - \$170 million





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For More Information

- Call 2-1-1 for Information About Disaster Assistance
- Hurricane Harvey Disaster Assistance:
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/disaster-assistance>
- Disaster SNAP:
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/disaster-assistance/disaster-snap>



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Appendix

Interim Charge

1. Monitor the use of federal and state funds currently being used for Harvey relief and ensure efficient use.
2. Evaluate long-term economic impact of the storm on Texas and the gulf coast region.



Immediate Response to Hurricane Harvey

- SNAP recipients in affected counties had their September benefits automatically loaded onto their Lone Star Card early.
- Behavioral health professionals were deployed to provide support for first responders and impacted Texans.
- HHSC inspected and responded to affected nursing facilities and assisted living facilities.
- HHSC evacuated 213 residents and 205 staff from the Corpus Christi SSLC.
- HHSC provided about \$6.5 million of ice, water, and freight to impacted counties.
- HHSC temporarily closed more than 115 offices, many of which sustained water damage.
- HHSC staff in affected counties were given up to five days of leave if their homes were flooded.



Hurricane Harvey Aid and Recovery Activities

FEMA Grants

- FEMA determines eligibility and award amounts for individuals who evacuated or whose property was damaged by Hurricane Harvey.
- FEMA pays 75 percent of costs and the state is responsible for providing the 25 percent match.
- HHSC projects it will process more than 280,000 grant applications, totaling about \$300 million in All Funds and \$75 million in General Revenue.



Federal Flexibility Granted to Aid in Recovery

SNAP

- Replacement Food Benefits:
 - ❖ Recipients in affected counties saw a percentage of their August benefits automatically added to their Lone Star Cards to replace food that was lost during Hurricane Harvey.
 - ❖ HHSC issued replacement benefits to about 693,000 households, totaling \$91 million.
- Disaster Food Benefits:
 - ❖ HHSC received a federal waiver to allow the state to offer short-term food benefits to eligible families after they return home following the disaster.
 - ❖ HHSC has issued more than \$468 million in Disaster SNAP benefits to about 440,000 households.



Federal Flexibility Granted to Aid in Recovery

Medicaid and CHIP

- HHSC worked with CMS to receive flexibility that would allow displaced individuals to access out-of-network services and expedite the enrollment process for out of state providers.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

- HHSC is working with USDA to help individuals replace their lost WIC card, receive food and formula, and partner with grocery stores.



Other Federal Grant Funds for Disaster Response

- Crisis Counseling Assistance & Training Program
 - ❖ Immediate Services Grant - \$2.8 million
 - ❖ Regular Services Grant - \$14 million
- Administration on Community Living – \$300,000
- FEMA Disaster Case Management Grant – In process of applying for grant, which totals \$128 million



Additional HHS Services Provided to Impacted Texans

- Behavioral health and IDD services and supports are being provided to individuals in affected areas.
- LMHAs and LIDDAs are providing triage, assessment, referral, crisis counseling, and 24-hour call center support.
- Behavioral Health Coordinating Council agencies are sharing disaster related services and supports.
- HHSC is working with LMHAs and community providers to address needs of school aged children.
- Emergency and Risk Management staff continue to support the State of Texas Emergency Operations Center.
- 2-1-1 Call Centers are coordinating emergency messaging and referring clients to federal, state, and local assistance.



Impact to Regulatory Services

- HHSC obtained federal and state waivers from standard rules and continues to provide information to regulated entities.
- HHSC is coordinating with and inspecting affected nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.
- HHSC has been conducting on-site inspections of affected hospitals and dialysis centers.
- HHSC is in continual contact with child care providers and is working closely with state and federal partners to assist them.



Communications Strategy

- HHSC sent news releases to all media outlets in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey.
- HHSC created a webpage that lists recovery information and created a webpage specifically for Disaster SNAP benefits.
- Social media accounts continue to be updated with the latest disaster recovery information.



Examples of Federal Funding Received for Past Disasters

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (2005)

- HHSC received:
 - ❖ \$88 million in federal SSBG funding;
 - ❖ \$66 million in All Funds for Other Needs Assistance;
 - ❖ \$97 million in one-time TANF grants to provide short-term, non-recurring cash assistance;
 - ❖ \$8.9 million for crisis counseling from FEMA; and
 - ❖ A waiver to offer Medicaid coverage to Katrina evacuees and establish an uncompensated care pool, totaling \$142 million.

Hurricane Ike (2008)

- HHSC received:
 - \$219 million in federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding;
 - \$200 million in All Funds for Other Needs Assistance; and
 - \$4.65 million for crisis counseling from FEMA.

