



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GUILLEN URGES LOCAL OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR HARVEY FUNDS

\$500 Million Available Now For Harvey Recovery More On The Way

AUSTIN - Representative Ryan Guillen (D- Rural South Texas) wants to be sure all South Texans know that \$500 million in Hurricane Harvey recovery funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is now available for disbursement to local and county governments to aid in recovery efforts from damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. These funds come in addition to the \$10 billion that was already approved by Congress earlier this year.

"It has come to my attention that the Texas Department of Emergency Management has only received a handful of completed applications," said Guillen. "This means that hundreds of millions of dollars are still available to Rural South Texas county and local governments."

Guillen wants to ensure local and county governments that they will not be obligated to pay the typical 25% local cost share for hazard mitigation grants if they receive any. Additionally, he wants to alert officials that an additional \$600 million in hazard mitigation funding will become available in four months time, according to the Office of the Governor. Any of this combined \$1.1 billion can be used for the following:

- Buyouts and elevations of flood prone properties;
- Drainage and reservoir projects that eliminate future flooding;
- Projects to lessen the frequency or severity of flooding;
- Flood risk reduction projects such as dams, retention basins, levees and flood walls; and
- Large-scale channeling of waterways.

"I am grateful that these funds have finally arrived," said Guillen. "We still have a lot to do in the recovery effort, especially for Port Mansfield, but South Texans are in this together and have made great progress. These funds will help us continue to rebuild, our community will be stronger and closer when we're done."

Serving ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, Ryan Guillen is known for his hard work, fierce independence, and relentless efforts for South Texas families. Recently, Capitol Inside called him a "House Bill Machine," and a "one-person assembly line for legislation." Since elected, few other legislators have passed more bills than Guillen. Sign up for updates at ryanguillen.com, facebook.com/representative.guillen, and twitter.com/ryanguillen

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