

# **HIDALGO COUNTY URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM**



**Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)  
Program Housing Projects  
2015 Flood Allocation**

## **NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

## **Needs Assessment Summary Hidalgo County (DR 4223 & DR 4245)**

### **Analysis of the Overall Damages by Registrants:**

Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) has been approved by the GLO as a Subrecipient of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) fund and understands that the GLO's Community Development and Revitalization (GLO-CDR) division oversees the administration of CDBG-DR funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) following a disaster. These funds remain the most flexible recovery source available and can support communities with protection and resiliency.

CDBG-DR funds are a special appropriation from Congress, associated with a Presidentially Declared Disaster.

**CDBG-DR funds must meet one of the following HUD designated National Objectives to be eligible for award:**

- Benefiting Low- to Moderate-Income Persons
- Preventing or Eliminating Slum or Blight
- Meeting Urgent Needs

Due to the limited amount of Disaster Recovery CDBG funding available, the Method of Distribution (MOD) focused initially on the most affected areas of the County. Discussion amongst the most affected County Precincts resulted in an agreement to prioritize the projects by assisting the most affected areas. Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP), in conjunction with Precinct staff, concluded that Precinct # 1 and Precinct # 4 were the most affected areas.

The Precincts created surveys via Survey Monkey to obtain essential information from residents in those areas. The surveys completed allowed for the identification of specific subdivisions within each precinct. Additionally, it was determined that the affected areas in Precinct # 1 currently have funding allocated to complete the drainage improvements to minimize future flooding. Precinct # 4, however, does not have the funding allocated to complete their drainage improvement projects. Therefore, the County has determined that these (GLO) funds will be utilized for housing needs in the affected Precinct # 4 subdivisions.

### **Affected Subdivisions:**

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| a) San Marcos Acres    | h) Chris Estates      |
| b) San Marcos Acres #3 | i) Alberta Meadows    |
| c) Alamo Estates       | j) Alberta Meadows #2 |
| d) Alamo Estates #2    | k) Trenton Oaks       |
| e) Herencia Manor      |                       |
| f) North Alamo Terrace |                       |
| g) Kaylen Subdivision  |                       |

An item of note, UCP Staff utilized Census.gov along with HUD provided census tract and block group data to determine Precinct # 4 affected areas, which was identified to be 65.42% LMI. Also, the affected area population of estimated Non-Hispanic is 579, while the estimated number of Hispanics at 3,442. In addition, there is an estimated 61 persons of Black African American decent and 22 persons of other multi-racial decent within the affected areas.

The UCP could not find more specific demographic data for the affected subdivisions located in Precinct # 4 in Hidalgo County. UCP staff was able to find the following relevant information from the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates 2012-2016 for Hidalgo County. In the county there were a total of 261,496 housing units, of which 227,477 were occupied housing units and 34,019 were vacant housing units. The total occupied housing units by a married couple family was 55.2%, by a female householder (no husband present) was 21.3% and by householder living alone was 15.7%. The household size for 1-person household is 15.7%, for 2-person household is 24.6%, for 3-person household is 17.9% and for 4 or more persons is 41.7%.

The disability status in the county based on the total institutionalized population of 820,004 was 13.4% with a disability and 86.6% with no disability. The population of 65 years and over was 84,032 where 50.1% have a disability and 49.9% have no disability.

The population for whom the poverty status was determined in Hidalgo County was 817,554. Based on the ACS estimates in the past 12 months 33.8% were below 100 percent of the poverty level; 15.3% 100 to 149 percent of the poverty level; 51.9% at or above 150 percent of the poverty level. The total estimates of families receiving SSI and cash public assistance was 20,377 and 45,909 obtain social security income.

#### **HUD Income Limits:**

The median income limits for Hidalgo County during the time of the events were as follows:

##### **Income Limits FY 2015 Hidalgo County**

- Median income: \$37,500
- Very Low (50%) 4 persons in the family: \$26,200
- Extremely Low 4 persons in the family: \$24,250
- Low (80%) Income 4 persons in the family: \$41,900

##### **Income Limits FY 2016 Hidalgo County**

- Median income: \$38,800
- Very Low (50%) 4 persons in the family: \$26,200
- Extremely Low 4 persons in the family: \$24,300

- Low (80%) Income 4 persons in the family: \$41,900

As of today, approximately fifty properties have been identified for possible assistance and the UCP plans to begin outreach efforts with those properties first. Outreach will continue to target the affected subdivisions by subdivision walk-throughs and door-to-door discussions between staff and residents. If unable to make contact with a resident at a target address, a record of those addresses will be kept for a mass mail out of program availability in both English and Spanish. Those properties that are abandoned will be reached by utilizing contact information obtained through the property eligibility phase.

Applicants applying for disaster assistance are processed by Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) and must meet certain eligibility standards to qualify for assistance. Eligibility standards are further discussed in the activity-specific housing guidelines.

The following are the percentage income bracket goals the UCP has set:

	Floors*	Ceiling
• 0% - 30% (\$24,600)	36.2%	60.23294509
• 31% - 50% (\$27,100)	11.3%	18.80199667
• 51% - 80% (\$43,350)	12.6%	20.96505824
Total:	60.1%	100%

\*The total for LMI applicants is only 60.1%; however, the County will use 100% of their funds to assist LMI applicants. The remainder of the funds will be distributed as needed.

**Assessment of Types of Public Service:**

UCP staff will work to cultivate partnerships with local and community liaisons such as banks, counseling agencies, legal services, title companies, etc. in the event that additional supportive services are needed outside of housing assistance for eligible applicants.

**Methodology Using Available Data:**

The National Weather Service (NWS) reported on the flooding event that affected Hidalgo County in 2015 <[https://www.weather.gov/bro/2015event\\_midjuneflooding](https://www.weather.gov/bro/2015event_midjuneflooding)>.

The NWS in their online article described the resulting issues of the 2015 event as follows:

- 23 million in insured damage (estimated) in the Edinburg/San Carlos area from events of June 18th and June 19th of 2015 alone;
- Eleven families evacuated from a subdivision in east Edinburg near Tower and Minnesota Road;

- At least 150 homes were flooded in subdivisions from Edinburg to San Carlos, due to the extensive torrential flooding rains in 40 hours;
- An American Red Cross shelter in San Carlos assisted 25 to 28 persons seeking temporary shelter until floodwaters receded;
- Seven to more than a dozen roads closed across Edinburg due to high standing water.

FEMA also published an article related to the flooding event in 2015.

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/04/06/texas-receives-33-million-repairs-roads-hidalgo-county>.

The online article headline reads as follows:

“Texas Receives \$3.3 Million for Repairs to Roads in Hidalgo County” (released April 6, 2016).

The article summarize that FEMA has allocated nearly \$74 million statewide in Public Assistance for emergency and permanent work due to the May to June 2015 severe storms and flooding in Texas. Furthermore, the funding for the Hidalgo County road repairs represents a 75 percent federal cost share. FEMA awards funding for projects directly to the state of Texas; the state then disburses the grant to the eligible applicant.

Due to the Hidalgo County UCP providing reconstruction activities the cost calculations are estimated as follows:

- 2 Bedroom/1 Bath = \$65,000
- 3 Bedroom/1 Bath = \$72,000
- 4 Bedroom/2 Bath = \$76,000

**FEMA Calculation Data by Income Categories:**

Data currently unavailable for this particular region.