



DISASTER RECOVERY PROVISIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL DEAL

On February 7, 2018, Congressional leaders announced a deal for continued funding of the federal government that includes \$89 billion for disaster relief. The deal is likely to be passed by both chambers to become law, and supplants the House-passed \$81 billion disaster relief package. This document highlights some of the provisions that are applicable to the City of Houston's recovery.

Army Corps of Engineers Construction

Funds are appropriated to the Army Corps of Engineers to expedite construction of projects for flood and storm damage reduction, including shore protection.

Amount	Notes
\$17.39b	The proposal increases the amount of Army Corps construction spending over the House version by nearly \$7 billion and dedicates \$10 billion to areas affected by 2017 hurricanes. These are funds that may be used for new reservoirs and bayou expansions/improvements.

Community Development Block Grants – Disaster Recovery (Mitigation)

In addition to traditional CDBG-DR funds, both the House and Senate disaster recovery measures include CDBG-DR funds that are reserved for disaster mitigation.

Amount	Notes
\$12b	The proposal reduces the number of states eligible to receive from 33 to 7. Texas is eligible under both measures. Additionally, the ratios used to determine allocation of funding has changed in a manner likely to benefit Texas. Although the total has decreased slightly from the House-passed bill (\$12.5b), Texas may ultimately receive a larger amount under the new proposal.

Community Development Block Grants – Disaster Recovery (Traditional)

Traditional CDBG-DR funds are used for expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure, housing and economic revitalization. Projects eligible for CDBG funds must address a direct or indirect disaster-related impact.

Amount	Notes
\$16b	The new proposal reduces the number of states eligible to receive allocations from 33 to 7. Texas is eligible under both measures. Under the revised version however, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands will receive at least \$11 billion of this total. The total is an increase over the \$13.5 billion in the House package.

Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grants

EDA will award competitive grants to support immediate relief efforts and long-term recovery projects, including repairing and replacing basic infrastructure needs that are vital for local economic recovery.

Amount	Notes
\$600m	The City of Houston has obtained EDA grants for non-disaster related projects in the past. Only areas affected by 2017 disasters will be able to access this funding.

Department of Education Funding

The proposal includes \$2.79 billion in funding for disaster recovery for educational institutions.

Amount	Notes
\$2.79b	The total amount in the proposal includes provisions listed below.
\$2.46b	To restart operations at elementary and secondary schools affected by the hurricanes and wildfires, and for temporary assistance for schools, including private schools outside of affected areas, serving elementary and secondary school students displaced by the hurricanes and wildfires.
\$100m	For institutions of higher education, and students at those institutions, in areas affected by the hurricanes and wildfires.
\$75m	For institutions of higher education outside affected areas for unexpected expenses related to enrolling students displaced by hurricanes and wildfires.
\$25m	For education services for homeless children and youth under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
\$35m	For Project SERV for education-related services to help students recover from traumatic events, including natural disasters.

Department of Transportation

The proposal includes \$1.83 billion in funding for the Department of Transportation to repair transportation infrastructure damaged in disasters, including state and local roads.

Amount	Notes
\$1.83b	The total amount in the Senate proposal includes provisions listed below.
\$114.6m	For the Federal Aviation Administration to support operations, communications equipment and security, to replace equipment and navigation aids and to make facility repairs.
\$1.3b	For the Federal Highway Administration to make repairs for highways damaged by disasters.
\$330m	For the Federal Transit Administration to cover operating and capital costs for transit systems damaged by hurricanes.