

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA 4332-DR-TX  
11000 N I-35  
Austin, TX 78753



**FEMA**

January 5, 2018

W. Nim Kidd, CEM, TDEM  
Division Director, Texas Department of Public Safety  
Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
P O Box 4087  
Austin, TX 78773-0220

RE: Houses of Worship Request for Public Assistance Deadline

On January 2, 2018, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued guidance to consider private nonprofit (PNP) Houses of Worship as potential eligible applicants under the Public Assistance grant program. Under FEMA's Public Assistance program, eligible applicants are reimbursed for disaster-related costs for emergency response, debris removal and permanent work such as repairs or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. To be eligible, a House of Worship must be owned or operated by a PNP organization and, as a non-critical PNP facility under the Stafford Act, it must apply to the Small Business Administration for a loan.

FEMA applies this new guidance to incidents declared on or after August 23, 2017. Thus, this includes Houses of Worship impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The counties in Texas that are eligible for Public Assistance include: Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Comal, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Milam, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, and Wharton.

For Houses of Worship, FEMA is allowing a 30-day application period beginning January 5, 2018, and applications will be accepted no later than February 4, 2018, at 11:59 pm CST.

Houses of Worship that would like to apply for Public Assistance must first submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA). To download the RPA form, applicants can go online to <https://grants.dps.texas.gov/site/PA.cfm> and click on Forms. All information on the form must be completed. Applicants will then return the form to [TDEMrecovery.rpa@dps.texas.gov](mailto:TDEMrecovery.rpa@dps.texas.gov). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin L. Hannes", written over a large, stylized scribble.

Kevin L. Hannes  
Federal Coordinating Officer  
Disaster Recovery Manager  
FEMA-4332-DR-TX