



On behalf of our citizens, let me welcome you to the City of Wharton, Texas. As the Gateway to the Texas Gulf Coast, Wharton has many thriving businesses and industries that secure a stable tax base. Founded in 1846, the City of Wharton is located along the I-69 corridor just 50 miles southwest of Houston.

Wharton is the perfect place to grow your business and your family. I invite you to see just what Wharton has to offer.

- Mayor Tim Barker

What's in the Works?

- Water Well Plant Project \$4,900,000
- FM 1301 Overpass Project Phase I \$9.5 million
- LCRB Phase I Flood Risk Management Project \$7.4 million

The Gateway to the Gulf Coast



Texas Back in Business Applications Now Open

New economic revitalization program awarding \$50,000 up to \$250,000 to qualified small businesses damaged by Hurricane Harvey



©2019 Texas Back in Business Video

HOUSTON - Yesterday Texas Back in Business announced the launch of the application for the new federally-funded Texas Back in Business program awarding \$50,000 up to \$250,000 in disaster relief for qualified Texas small businesses damaged by Hurricane Harvey. Texas small business owners can now apply for the program at no cost online at TexasBackInBusiness.com.

"Today we are proud to kick-off the Texas Back in Business program, which will be helping small businesses recover from the cataclysmic blow dealt by Hurricane Harvey," said CEO of Texas Back in Business Dan Slane. "We are excited to launch this new program helping to stabilize small businesses, protect jobs for local workers, and grow the economies of those areas hardest hit by Hurricane Harvey."

Texas Back in Business funds may create or retain much-needed jobs, and can be used for operating capital, repairs, inventory, machinery, equipment, supplies and other expenses directly related to the business.

To meet the minimum eligibility requirements, a small business must:

- Have been in business on August 25, 2017;
- Be defined as a small business by the Small Business Administration;
- Have experienced damage from Hurricane Harvey; and
- Be located in one of the [49 Hurricane Harvey impacted counties](#) deemed eligible by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for disaster recovery funds.

Texas small business owners will be able to apply for the program at no cost online at TexasBackInBusiness.com. Potential applicants can review the [FAQ section](#) of the website to learn more about the program requirements and what will be needed to successfully complete the application process. If their business meets the basic qualifications, applicants will be entered in a random selection process to give all applicants an equal opportunity for the program. If selected, applicants will then be contacted via email to schedule an office or site visit with a grant officer to confirm the business's qualifications for funding approval and amount of grant qualification.

This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). In the state's Hurricane Harvey CDBG-DR action plan, the Texas General Land Office allocated \$100 million for an economic revitalization program to help small businesses impacted by Hurricane Harvey. For more information, please visit TexasBackInBusiness.com.



\$100,000,000
HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF PROGRAM
FOR TEXAS SMALL BUSINESS

Funded by Congress through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Authorized by the Texas General Land Office. Texas Back in Business is the \$100 Million Hurricane Harvey relief program for Texas small business. Not a bank loan. Not affiliated with the SBA.

Texas Back in Business is the jobs and economic revitalization program created to help Texas small businesses damaged by Hurricane Harvey. Now your small business can apply for grants from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Apply today. It's easy, online and Free to apply.

APPLY NOW FOR GRANTS FROM \$50,000 TO \$250,000

Applications will be accepted from December 2, 2019 - March 2, 2020

TexasBackInBusiness.com

1001 W. Loop South • Houston, TX 77027 • 3-844-77-FLOOD • FAX 281-673-3922



Upcoming City Holidays

The City of Wharton will observe the following holidays:

- New Years Day - January 1st
- MLK Day - January 21st
- Good Friday - April 10th



Per Press Release issued by the GLO December 2019



City of Wharton
 120 E. Caney St.
 Wharton, TX 77488

Phone: 979-532-2491
Fax: 979-532-0181

Helping pinpoint areas of need helps everyone! A sign down, street lights out, or even too many mosquitos can all be issues that affect our residents. The City of Wharton wants to hear from you. Reporting issues that need attention is as simple as calling City Hall at: 979-532-2491.

Public comments on any of the City's projects is encouraged and anyone wishing to do so may attend one of the regularly scheduled City Council meetings.

City Meeting Schedule

All meetings held at City Hall at 120 E. Caney St. unless otherwise posted.

City Council

Every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7pm

Mayor's Committee On People With Disabilities

Every 2nd Wednesday at 8a

Beautification Committee

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm

Update on Grants

INFRASTRUCTURE/ CONSTRUCTION

HMGP – Warning System Mitigation (Siren Warning System)
 Application submitted 10/13/16 under the DR-4269. This project was awarded 02/26/2018 and was accepted by the City Council on 03/26/18. Scope change approval was received February 1, 2019. Befco Engineering was awarded the engineering contract on May 13, 2019 and is in the process of preparing bid documents to go out for bid on equipment and installation.

CDBG-DR – Infrastructure
 Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City is designated to receive \$1,650,172.00 for infrastructure projects related to Hurricane Harvey. Project applications were submitted August 28, 2019. The GLO is currently reviewing the application. The City is currently constructing drainage improvement to the Ahldag Edition.

HMGP – FEMA Shelter/Dome
 The City submitted the HMGP Application on behalf of the

WISD for FEMA Shelter/Dome. The project is under FEMA review and awaiting final approval.

2019-2020 CDBG – South East Ave. Sanitary Sewer Repairs
 Application has been submitted and the City is awaiting a response.

City of Wharton Flood Reduction Project – The Lower Colorado River Basin Phase I, Texas WHARTON FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The City of Wharton was notified that the Flood Reduction Project was funded in the early part of 2018. City staff has been meeting with USACE staff monthly on items to be addressed. HDR was selected by the City Council on June 4, 2019. Property owner meeting was held August 8, 2019 and a citizen meeting is still to be scheduled. The acquisition progress has started and HDR is working with the surveyors and appraisers. USACE staff has indicated they will be ready for construction beginning Fall 2020. USACE is also in the process of contracting design firms for the remaining portions of the Flood

Reduction Project and will be working concurrently on this while phase 1 is in progress. The City and HDR have obtained 68 out of 71 ROE's.

HOUSING

HMGP – Residential Elevation
 Application completed and submitted by GrantWorks Inc. in December 2018. One request for information has been received and responded to at this time.

HMGP – Reconstruction of 100 Homes

Application completed and submitted by GrantWorks Inc. in December 2018. One request for information has been received and responded to at this time.

HMGP – Residential Mitigation (Elevation/Reconstruction of Homes)

Submitted on 1/20/17 under a second funding opportunity for DR 4272 and we are awaiting a response.

Continued on next page

“Connected Community” Seeking High Speed Internet Input

In an effort to improve broadband (high speed internet) access, adoption, and use, our community is participating in Connected Nation's “Connected Community” program. This project will assess the current status of broadband access, adoption, and use in our area so a Broadband Technology Action Plan can be developed to improve the quality of life and economic potential in our community.

The Wharton County Broadband Initiative was officially launched December 4th, and residents, businesses, and organizations need to share input about their broadband access or lack thereof. To do so, head to <https://www.myconnectedcommunity.org/wharton-county/> and select the appropriate option. There are nine options that range from residential to higher education to government.



Did You Know...

Carbon-monoxide alarms should be tested monthly! Carbon monoxide can be deadly and quickly lead to health risks. Carbon monoxide alarms can help detect dangerous levels of poisonous gas in the air. If your alarm goes off, leave immediately and call 9-1-1.



Winter Safety

Use caution this winter season when using fireplaces and pits. Place ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the ash container at least 10 feet away from the home and any other buildings. Be sure to allow ashes to cool before disposing of them or pour water on hot ashes and never empty them directly into a trash can. Make sure vents and fireplaces are clear of debris. Blockage to chimneys and vents from dryers can cause fires.



Community Calendar

JANUARY ❄️

- 1/7 - Wharton County Historical Commission Lecture 6p @ Hesed House
- 1/8 - Coffee with a Cop 8-9a @ Hesed House
- 1/16 - 3rd Thursday Walkabout 4-9p @ Downtown Wharton
- 1/26 - Open Door: Rest and Restore 4-7p @ Hesed House
- 1/31 - TexasGulf Federal Credit Union Membership Dinner 6-9p @ Wharton Civic Center

♥️ FEBRUARY

- 2/7 - Driving Miss Daisy Opening Night 7:30p @ Plaza Theater
- 2/8 - Wharton Senior Serve 6p-9p @ Wharton Civic Center
- 2/20 - 3rd Thursday Walkabout 4-9p @ Downtown Wharton
- 2/27 - 101st Annual Chamber Banquet 6-9p @ Wharton Civic Center

MARCH 🍀

- 3/3 - General Elections 7a-7p @ Wharton Civic Center
- 3/5 - Wharton Lions Club Annual Pancake Supper 5-7p @ Wharton Civic Center

Want to feature your community event?

Send details to

KHasselmeier@cityofwharton.com

Update on Grants

(Continued from Page 2)

TDHCA – HOME Reservation Participation

Applicants are currently being notified of any outstanding paperwork for their applications and are being asked to send this information in to finalize their applications. There were 73 applicants from throughout the city that submitted applications to participate in the program. There are currently 43 still working on applications. There are 7 applicants in title phase and 5 have been fully approved through TDHCA. 5 applicants have been awarded funding as of 7/17/19. 1 subject has declined the contract. Demo has been completed on the first home and construction will begin the week of October 28th.

GLO Community Development and Revitalization Program

The City Council procured GrantWorks, Inc. for administration and Jones & Carter for engineering.

FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

Call for application was made on August 11, 2017. The application was submitted 10/30/17 for

the Nan Ya Lift Station and we are awaiting a response.

CDBG - DR - Buy-outs/Acquisitions

Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City is designated to receive \$1,693,784.00 for buyouts/acquisitions projects related to Hurricane Harvey. Project application for buyouts was submitted and the City is awaiting further information.

2016 CDBG-DR – Housing Elevation/Reconstruction

Notification of \$2,000,000 funding was received by city staff on February 4, 2019. This funding will assist homeowners with elevation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of homes to address existing damage and mitigate future damage. There was no public comment on the guidelines and needs assessment. 3 applications were taken in October at the first intake. City Staff and GrantWorks had a second intake December 4-5, 2019. GrantWorks is currently reaching out to non-profit organizations and local businesses and churches to have further notification. They

will also be going door to door with flyers to residents affected in 2016.

TxDOT – Safe Routes to School

The City submitted the Preliminary Application in April 2019. City staff was notified that the preliminary application had been selected for review and City staff met with TxDOT Representative on May 10th. City Staff submitted the detailed application August 15th, 2019. It is currently awaiting award announcements.

STUDIES

None

OTHER

HMGP – Critical Facility Generators

HMGP Application was submitted on 9/11/18 and the City is awaiting a response.

FEMA – Temporary Housing Units (THU)

There are 3 THU still in the City.



Department Highlight

Wharton Civic Center

The Wharton Civic Center was opened in 1991 through local fundraising and donations and features 5 event spaces of varied capacity as well as a caterer's kitchen. City EMS, Office of Emergency Management, Wharton Economic Development Council, and the Wharton County Library are also housed on the Civic Center campus. Making reservations for your next event is easy! Contact Civic Center Director Makyla Monroe, at (979) 532-2491 Ext. 603 for availability and other reservation details.

Wharton Civic Center

1924 N. Fulton
Wharton, Texas 77488
www.cityofwharton.com/page/civic_center
(979) 532-2491 Ext. 603



We're On the Web! Stay up to date with City Information and services at www.cityofwharton.com

Wharton Civic Center Announces Newly Remodeled John M. O'Quinn Room Open for Reservations!



The Wharton Civic Center recently completed renovations to the John M. O'Quinn room, donated in 1991 by John M. O'Quinn. The newly renovated space features 1,776 sq. ft. of space with wood-style tile floors and neutral color to match any event décor. The space can accommodate up to 100 people and can be arranged to suit any need.



Reservation fees start at \$160 for 4 hours and \$40 for each additional hour with a \$200 refundable deposit. Don't delay, reservations for this space will book fast!



Have your next event at the Wharton Civic Center!

AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK

Smart 911

Smart 911 is a service the City of Wharton uses to send out a mass communication message to citizens. The notification system enables us to reach anyone, anytime, for more effective emergency notification and community outreach.

Receive timely notifications on your cellphone, telephone or email by signing up now at Smart911.com!

Sign up for Smart911



A free service:
Provided by your community



Private and secure:
You control your information



Saves time in an emergency:
When seconds count

Smart911.com



For more information, details, and Reservation info on the Wharton Civic Center