

PUBLIC NOTICE
DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION
REGIONAL ALLOCATION

The Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) is giving notice and soliciting comments on its intent to submit two Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (TxCDBG-MIT) Regional Allocation applications to the Texas General Land Office for Broadband Infrastructure and Interoperable Radio System Infrastructure totaling \$56,000,000 in grant funds. The purpose of the proposed projects is to mitigate long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by improving the broadband infrastructure utilized by residents as well as the communication systems currently utilized by first responders and other critical communication networks within the Hurricane Harvey impacted areas of the region in order to lessen the impact of future disasters, including riverine flooding, storms and tornadoes. The application is available for review beginning October 28, 2022, on the DETCOG website at www.detcog.gov or in person at the DETCOG Regional Headquarters during regular business hours, Mon.-Fri., 8:30am to 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm. DETCOG plans on submitting the applications on or before November 14, 2022. Written comments may be made prior to 4:30pm, November 11, 2022, by contacting DETCOG Regional Headquarters at 405 Kurth Drive, Lufkin, TX 75904-1929 or emailing lhunt@detcog.gov. Para obtener una copia en español, comuníquese con DETCOG al (936) 634-2247.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (DETCOG) AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION (CDBG-MIT) APPLICATIONS TO THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE FOR INTEROPERABLE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UNDER THE HURRICANE HARVEY REGIONAL ALLOCATION; AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ACT AS DETCOG'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DETCOG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments desires to develop a viable community, including decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, certain conditions exist which represent a threat to the public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the best interests of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments to apply for funding under the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Regional Allocation Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:

1. That applications to the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program are hereby authorized to be filed on behalf of DETCOG with the Texas General Land Office.
2. That DETCOG 's applications be submitted for funding through the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program – Hurricane Harvey Regional Allocation, under both HUD MID and State MID programs.
3. That the applications include a total of \$14,000,000.00 in grant funds to provide regional interoperable radio infrastructure and a total of \$42,000,000.00 in grant funds to provide broadband infrastructure.
4. That these application address these needs as related to hurricane, tropical storm, tropical depression and/or riverine flooding communications mitigation.
5. That the Board of Directors directs and designates the Executive Director as DETCOG's Chief Executive Officer and Authorized Representative to act in all matters in connection with these applications and DETCOG's participation in the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Regional Allocation Program.
6. That all funds will be used in accordance with all applicable federal, state, local and programmatic requirements including but not limited to procurement, environmental review, labor standards, real property acquisition, and civil rights requirements.

Passed and approved this 27th day of October, 2022.


Allison Harbison, President

ATTEST:


Mark Nettuno, Secretary

Deep East Texas Council of Governments

Community Development Block Grant Mitigation
Regional Allocation Applications

State MID

*Broadband
&
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications
Infrastructure Projects*

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="text"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="text"/>
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* 3. Date Received: <input type="text" value="11/14/2022"/>	4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/>
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5a. Federal Entity Identifier: <input type="text"/>	5b. Federal Award Identifier: <input type="text"/>
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State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State: <input type="text"/>	7. State Application Identifier: <input type="text"/>
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8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): <input type="text" value="75-1251001"/>	* c. Organizational DUNS: <input type="text" value="0398271180000"/>
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d. Address:

* Street1:
Street2:
* City:
County/Parish:
* State:
Province:
* Country:
* Zip / Postal Code:

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name: <input type="text"/>	Division Name: <input type="text"/>
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f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix: * First Name:
Middle Name:
* Last Name:
Suffix:

Title:

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number: Fax Number:

* Email:

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

E: Regional Organization

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.228

CFDA Title:

Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

FR-6109-N-02

* Title:

CDBG-MIT

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

DETCOG HUD MID Broadband Infrastructure Project & Public Safety Communications Infrastructure Project

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

* b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="10,968,472.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="10,968,472.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

- Yes
- No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

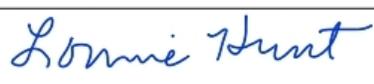
Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:
Middle Name:
* Last Name:
Suffix:

* Title:

* Telephone Number: Fax Number:

* Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative: 

* Date Signed:





**Texas General Land Office
Community Development and Revitalization Division
Mitigation – Local Certifications**

Each Applicant for Community Development Block Grant Mitigation ("CDBG-MIT") funding must complete Federal Assistance Standard Form 424 (SF-424) and certify that local certifications included in this application guide were followed in the preparation of any CDBG-MIT program application. Additionally, Applicant must certify that it will continue to follow local certifications in the event that funding is awarded and Applicant is reclassified as a Subrecipient.

Each Applicant/Subrecipient must comply with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), the Council on Environmental Quality ("CEQ") regulations, the requirements set forth in Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("CFR") part 58, and applicable Texas General Land Office policy directives.

Each Applicant/Subrecipient must comply with all applicable federal and state laws, including environmental, labor (Davis-Bacon Act), the procurement procedures and contract requirements found at 2 C.F.R. §200.318 – §200.326, and all civil rights requirements.

Each Applicant/Subrecipient certifies, as outlined in 84 FR 45838 (August 30,2019), the following:

A. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that it has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan in connection with any activity assisted with CDBG-MIT funds.

B. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies its compliance with restrictions on lobbying as required by 24 C.F.R. part 87, together with disclosure forms, if required by part 87.

C. Any entity or entities designated by the subrecipient, and any contractor, subrecipient, or designated public agency carrying out an activity with CDBG-MIT funds, possess(es) the legal authority to carry out the program for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations and the federal register notice. The subrecipient certifies that activities to be undertaken with CDBG-MIT funds are consistent with the Action Plan.

D. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that it will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Act ("URA"), as amended, and implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 24, except where waivers or alternative requirements are provided for CDBG-MIT funds.

E. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that it will comply with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. §1701u) and implementing regulations at 24 C.F.R. part 135.

F. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that it is following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR §91.115 or §91.105 (except as provided for in notices providing waivers and alternative requirements for this grant). Also, each local government receiving assistance from a state grantee must follow a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR §570.486 (except as provided for in notices providing waivers and alternative requirements for this grant).

G. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that it is complying with each of the following criteria:

1) Funds will be used solely for necessary expenses related to mitigation activities, as applicable, in the most impacted and distressed areas for which the President declared a major disaster in 2015, 2016, or 2017 pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. §5121 et seq.).

2) With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG-MIT funds, the relevant action plan has been developed to give priority to activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income families.

3) The aggregate use of CDBG-MIT funds shall principally benefit low- and moderate-income families in a manner that ensures that at least 50 percent (or another percentage permitted by HUD in a waiver published in an applicable Federal Register notice) of the CDBG-MIT grant amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons.

4) The Applicant/Subrecipient will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG-MIT funds by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low- and moderate-income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements, unless:

i. CDBG-MIT funds are used to pay the proportion of such fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of such public improvements that are financed from revenue sources other than under this title; or

ii. For purposes of assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of moderate income, the grantee certifies to the Secretary that it lacks sufficient CDBG funds (in any form) to comply with the requirements of clause (a).

H. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that the grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000d), the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. §3601-§3619), and implementing regulations, and that it will affirmatively further fair housing.

I. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that it has adopted and is enforcing the following policies, and, in addition, must certify that they will require local governments that receive grant funds to certify that they have adopted and are enforcing:

1) A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations;

2) A policy of enforcing applicable state and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location that is the subject of such nonviolent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

J. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that it (and any administering entity) currently has or will develop and maintain the capacity to carry out mitigation activities, as applicable, in a timely manner and that the subrecipient has reviewed the respective requirements of this notice.

K. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that it will not use CDBG-MIT funds for any activity in an area identified as flood prone for land use or hazard mitigation planning purposes by the state, local, or tribal government or delineated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (or 100-year floodplain) in FEMA's most current flood advisory maps, unless it also ensures that the action is designed or modified to minimize harm to or within the floodplain, in accordance with Executive Order 11988 and 24 C.F.R. part 55. The relevant data source for this provision is the state, local, and tribal government land use regulations and hazard mitigation plans and the latest-issued FEMA data or guidance, which includes advisory data (such as Advisory Base Flood Elevations) or preliminary and final Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

L. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that its activities concerning lead-based paint will comply with the requirements of 24 CFR part 35, subparts A, B, I, K, and R.

M. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that it will comply with environmental requirements at 24 CFR part 58.

N. The Applicant/Subrecipient certifies that it will comply with applicable laws.

WARNING: ANY PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY MAKES A FALSE CLAIM OR STATEMENT TO HUD MAY BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PENALTIES UNDER 18 U.S.C. §287; 18 U.S.C. §1001, AND 31 U.S.C. § 3729.

Except as otherwise provided under federal law, any person who knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up a material fact by any trick, scheme or device or who makes any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation or who makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the writing or document to contain materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry shall be prosecuted under Title 18, United States Code, §1001.

Lonnie Hunt, DETCOG Executive Director

October 28, 2022

Printed Name of Authorized Signatory

Date



Signature of Authorized Signatory

Deep East Texas Council of Governments

Community Development Block Grant Mitigation
Regional Allocation Applications

PROJECT A

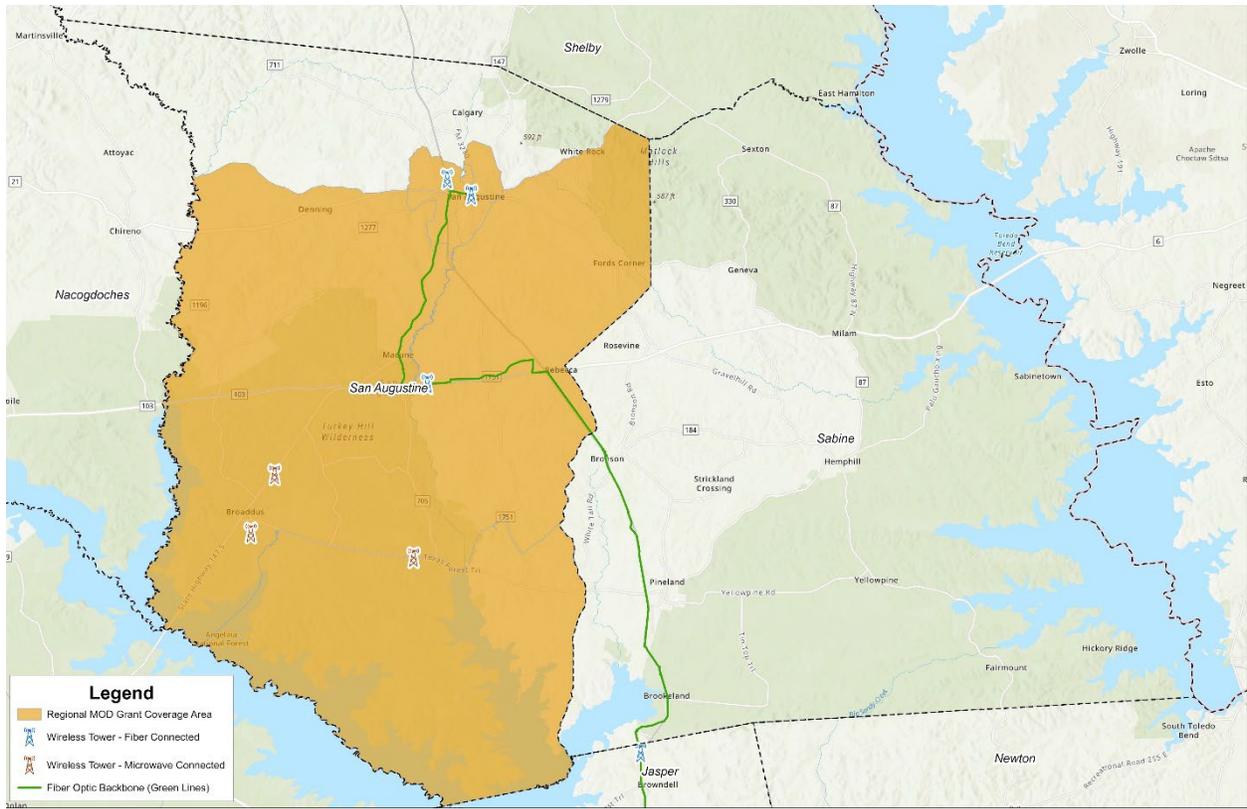
Broadband Infrastructure

SECTION 1. Description of Proposed Improvements

The Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) is requesting \$6,399,722 in CDBG MIT funds under the Harvey Statewide Mitigation Method of Distribution to be used for construction of telecommunications improvements designed to provide broadband internet access to 8035 residents, of whom 4814 (59.91%) are LMI persons. The Project service area is a large contiguous area in the DETCOG Region, specifically San Augustine & Sabine Counties. Project includes construction of the following broadband communications system infrastructure components:

- a) Capital leases to access/utilize six (6) existing cellular communications towers
- b) Installation of sixty-four (64) base stations
- c) Installation of eight (8) point-to-point microwave links
- d) 269,280 Linear Feet of aerial fiber optic cable affixed to existing utility poles;
- e) 13,200 linear feet of underground fiber optic cable installed in existing public utility easements;
- f) One (1) Core equipment shelters w/Core equipment;
- g) Twenty-two (22) Edge equipment cabinets w/Edge equipment;
- h) Installation of residential customer access equipment at 1,185 residential dwellings occupied by Low and Moderate Income households;
- i) Project engineering services; and
- j) Project grant administration services.

INSTRUCTIONS AND DATA SOURCE		
Data Source: Most Recent ACS 5-year Est. - Table DP05		
City Applicants: Enter city-wide data as reflected on Table DP05		
County Applicants: Enter census tract data as reflected on Table DP05		
APPLICANT:		San Augustine County, Texas
Sex and Age	ENTER DP05 DATA HERE	
Male:	4098	
Female:	4162	
One Race		
White:	5921	
Black or African American:	1812	
American Indian and Alaska Native:	48	
Asian:	9	
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:	0	
Some Other Race:	397	
Two or more races:	73	
-White and Black or African American:	31	
-White and American Indian and Alaska Native:	42	
-White and Asian:	0	
-Black or African American and American Indian and Alaska Native:	0	
Hispanic or Latino and Race		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race):	609	
Not Hispanic or Latino:	7651	
-White alone:	5718	
-Black or African American alone:	1812	
-American Indian and Alaska Native alone:	48	
-Asian alone:	0	
-Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone:	0	
-Some other race alone:	0	
-Two or more races:	73	
Enter Number of Project Beneficiaries:		8035
Gender of Project Beneficiaries		
	Male	3986
	Female	4049
Race and Ethnicity of Project Beneficiaries		
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
White	197	5562
Black/African American	0	1763
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	47
Asian	9	0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0
Some Other Race	386	0
White and Black/African American	0	30
White and American Indian/Alaska Native	0	41
White and Asian	0	0
Black/African American and American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0
Other multi racial	0	0
Total:	8035	



Deep East Texas Council of Governments

**Community Development Block Grant Mitigation
Regional Allocation Applications**

PROJECT B

*Public Safety Interoperable Radio
Communications Infrastructure*



Deep East Texas Council of Governments

*Public Safety
Interoperable Radio Communications
Infrastructure Project*



**Community Development Block Grant Mitigation
Regional Allocation (State MID)
Proposal with Grant Management Plan**

October 2022



CDBG-MIT Regional Allocation (State MID)
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications Infrastructure Project
Proposal with Grant Management Plan

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13	Project Scope
13	Budget
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14	Project Locations



CDBG-MIT Regional Allocation (State MID)
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications Infrastructure Project
Proposal with Grant Management Plan

Overview of Need

The *State of Texas CDBG Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Action Plan: Building Stronger for a Resilient Future*, prepared by the Texas General Land Office (GLO), published on November 22, 2019, and approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), states the following:

FEMA’s community lifelines provide a framework for this RHA [State Risks and Hazards Assessment] to discuss risks and impacts of Texas hazards. By describing lessons learned from past disasters in Texas through the frame of community lifelines, this RHA aims to ensure that CDBG-MIT funds go towards programs and activities that reduce the risk of loss of life, injury, and property damage, as well as accelerate recovery following a disaster (p. 41).

On Page 42 of the Action Plan is found *Table 2-12: FEMA Community Lifelines and Components* (see below). Among the seven critical service areas, or lifelines, this table lists **Safety and Security** as a first priority with **Communications** listed second among seven total categories of lifelines. The Safety and Security lifeline includes the components of Law enforcement, Search and Rescue, Fire Services, and Responder Safety. The Communications lifeline includes Infrastructure, Alerts-Warnings-Messages, 911 and Dispatch, and Responder Communications.

The Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) has also identified these lifelines as priorities and realizes that these lifelines, especially related to the public safety communications infrastructure, are woefully inadequate or outright unavailable in our region. The result is a risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and/or loss of property, as well as suffering and hardship due to prolonged response times and diminished capabilities as a direct result of poor communications among and within local, state, and federal public safety agencies as well as the absence of interoperability.

The interoperable radio coverage map for our area of Texas (see below after Table 2-12) demonstrates a major communications “black hole” that exists in the eastern side of Texas. That “black hole” is the DETCOG region. DETCOG considers this situation to be an urgent need that must be solved in all haste.

Although this serious communication need is urgent for the safety and security of our citizens, the amount of funds required to address this need has never been in reach for our small, rural communities. **Simply put, the millions of dollars required to mitigate this urgent need make doing so an absolute impossibility without CDBG-MIT funding.**



CDBG-MIT Regional Allocation (State MID)
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications Infrastructure Project
Proposal with Grant Management Plan

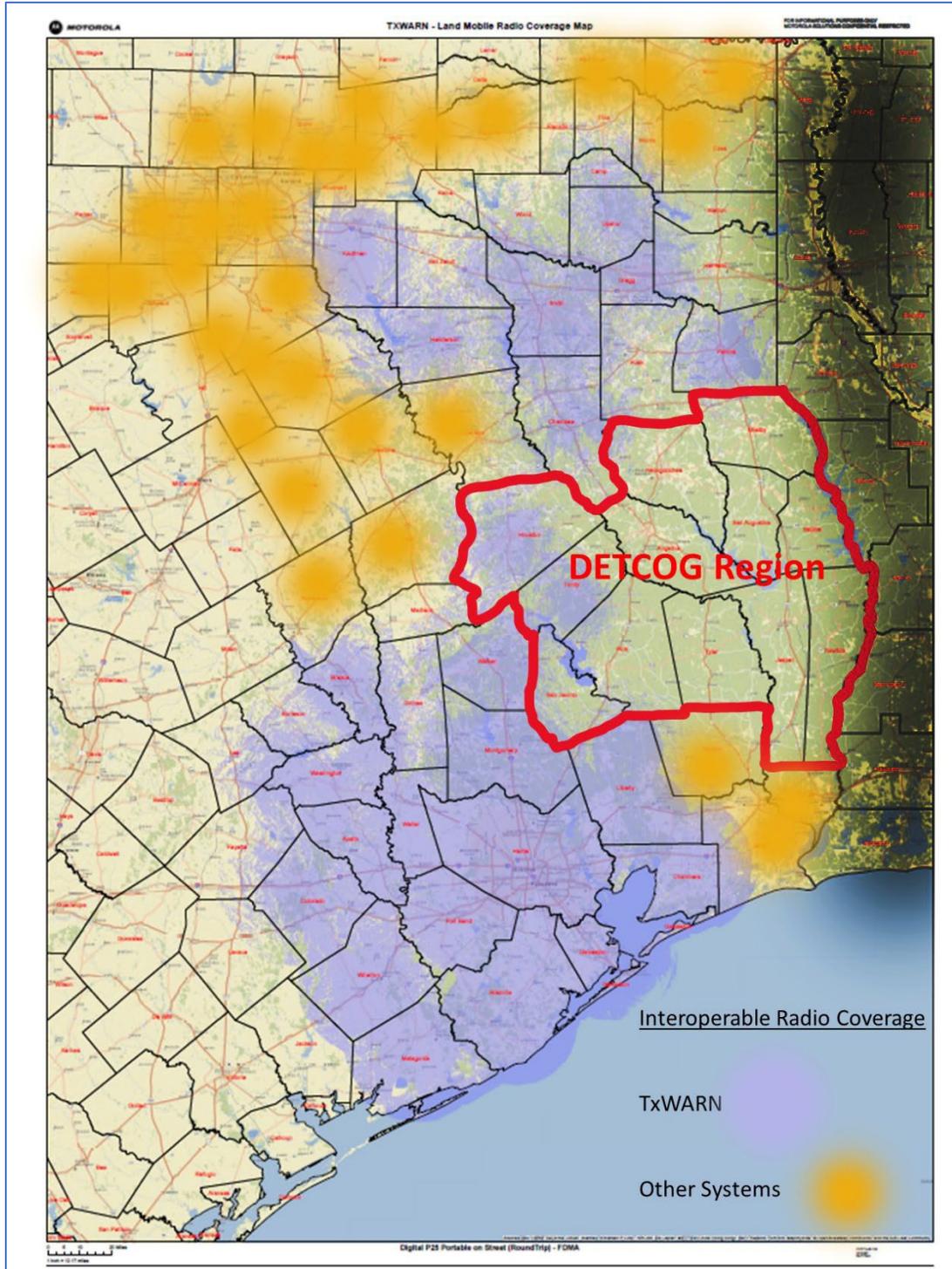


Table 2-12: FEMA Community Lifelines and Components

I. Safety and Security	II. Communications	III. Food, Water, Sheltering	IV. Transportation	V. Health and Medical	VI. Hazardous Material	VII. Energy
Law Enforcement	Infrastructure	Evacuations	Highway/Roadway	Medical Care	Facilities	Power (Grid)
Search and Rescue	Alerts, Warnings, Messages	Food/Potable Water	Mass Transit	Patient Movement	Hazardous Debris, Pollutants, Contaminants	Temporary Power
Fire Services	911 and Dispatch	Shelter	Railway	Public Health		Fuel
Government Service	Responder Communications	Durable Goods	Aviation	Fatality Management		
Responder Safety	Financial Services/ Economic Impact	Water Infrastructure	Maritime	Health Care Supply Chain		
		Agriculture	Pipeline			



CDBG-MIT Regional Allocation (State MID)
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications Infrastructure Project
Proposal with Grant Management Plan





CDBG-MIT Regional Allocation (State MID)
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications Infrastructure Project
Proposal with Grant Management Plan

Explanation of Urgent Need

The ability for first responders to communicate during a disaster or emergency event is a critically basic need. The *2019 Texas Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP)* states:

*Reliable, timely communications among public safety responders and between public safety agencies and citizens is critical to effectively carry out public safety missions, **and in many cases, save lives** (p. 5).*

This need for reliable, interoperable communications has become increasingly apparent over the last two decades. During incidents such as the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, Hurricane's Katrina and Rita in 2005, Hurricane Ike in 2008, and Hurricane Harvey in 2017, the ongoing call for improved communications has been heard loud and clear. Unfortunately, the resources for the DETCOG region to answer this call have simply not been available.

Over the last 20 years, jurisdictions within the DETCOG region have attempted to address the problem of a lack of adequate public safety communications. **Several systems have been developed and implemented at significant local costs, but these systems have all fallen short. The result is a patchwork system throughout the region** where agency-to-agency communications are nonexistent and even responder-to-responder communications within an agency is often unreliable or even absent.

Around the State of Texas, larger populated areas with more financial resources have been able to address this need by creating interoperable radio networks that vastly improve communications within an agency and allow different agencies the ability to easily communicate with each other during a crisis. As mentioned above, a communications "black hole" exists within our state and that communications "black hole" is the DETCOG region.

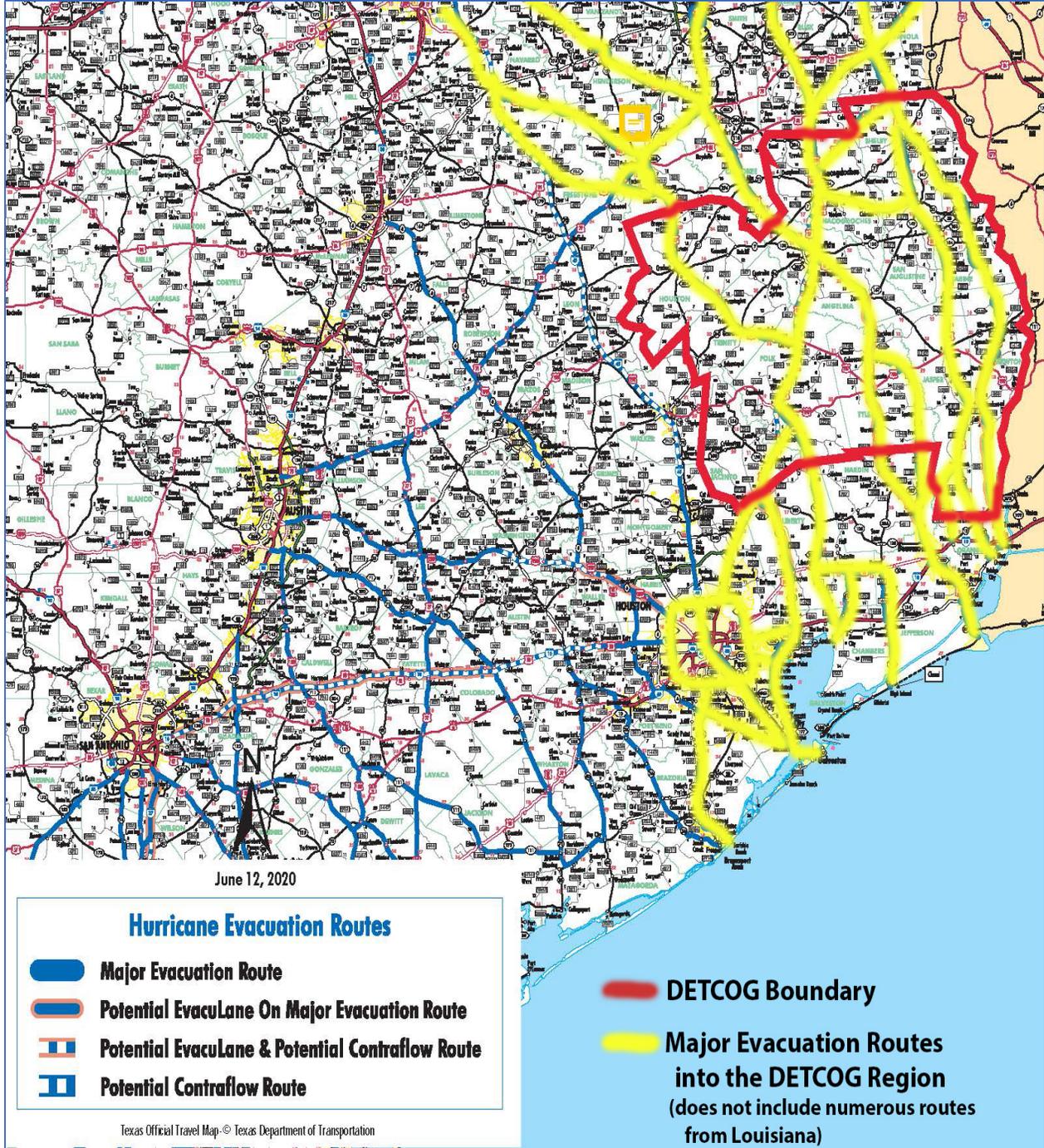
The *2020-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* developed by the Deep East Texas Council of Governments and Economic Development District states:

A combination of factors makes public safety radio communications difficult, and often impossible, for law enforcement and first responders in Deep East Texas. They face the challenge of serving a region that is broken up by four National Forests and some of the largest lakes in Texas. Distance combined with the geology of high iron content soil and the topography of rolling hills covered with tall pine trees, impede radio signals and makes communications difficult, and in some locations, impossible (p. 17).

The result is an ongoing series of risks to our citizens as well as those who are evacuated into or through our region. There are several major evacuation routes from the Houston-Galveston area as well as the Beaumont-Port Arthur area that pass through DETCOG region. (See map below.) Agencies from those regions that need to communicate with agencies within our region are not able to do so. Likewise, agencies in our region cannot communicate effectively among each other.



CDBG-MIT Regional Allocation (State MID)
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications Infrastructure Project
Proposal with Grant Management Plan





CDBG-MIT Regional Allocation (State MID)
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications Infrastructure Project
Proposal with Grant Management Plan

A scenario demonstrating this difficulty could be described by a first responder in San Augustine County, located on the US Hwy 96 evacuation corridor from the Beaumont/Port Arthur area, needing to communicate with first responders further north along the US Hwy 96 evacuation corridor. An attempt for a San Augustine County first responder to communicate directly with first responders in Beaumont is slow, cumbersome and unreliable.

With the current system today, the first responder would need to radio their local dispatch center (assuming this responder was in an area of adequate radio coverage). Then the local dispatch center would need to telephone the Jasper area dispatch center. The San Augustine County dispatcher would relay the message to the Jasper dispatch center and then the Jasper dispatch center would relay the message to the proper first responder by radio.

This method of communication invites delays. For example, the San Augustine County dispatch center may contact the dispatch center in Jasper at the Jasper County Sheriff's Office only to learn that the Jasper Police Department is the correct receiving party. This causes unnecessary and potentially dangerous delays.

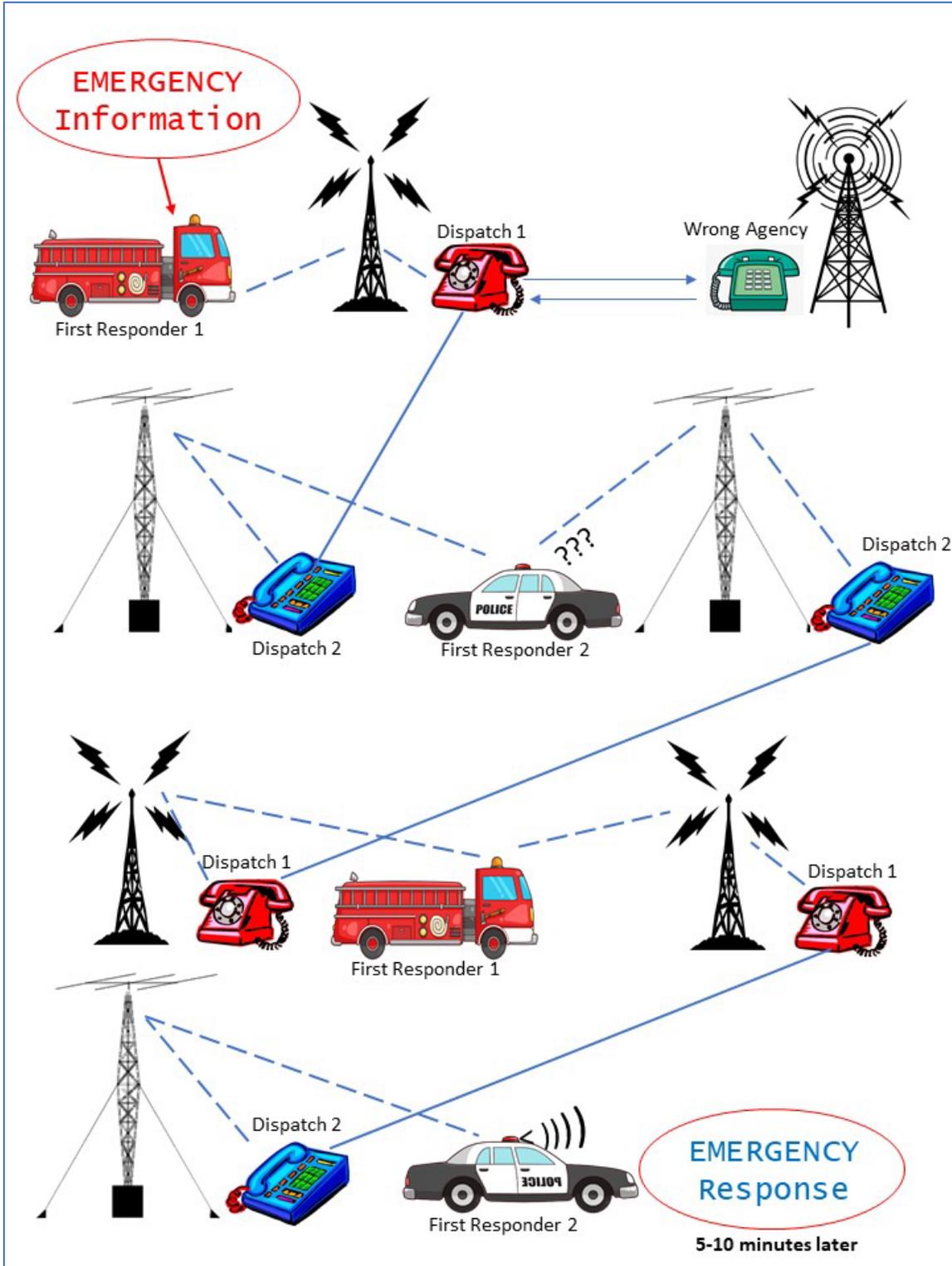
This method of communication also invites inaccuracies. When the message finally reaches the appropriate first responder, the information passed from **local first responder-to-local dispatcher-to-receiving dispatcher-to-receiving first responder** may be inaccurate or incomplete. Again, this is a dangerous scenario.

In addition, requests for additional information or clarifications from the receiving first responder would result in a reversal of the communication trail just described followed by a repeat. It would look something like this:

(See next page.)



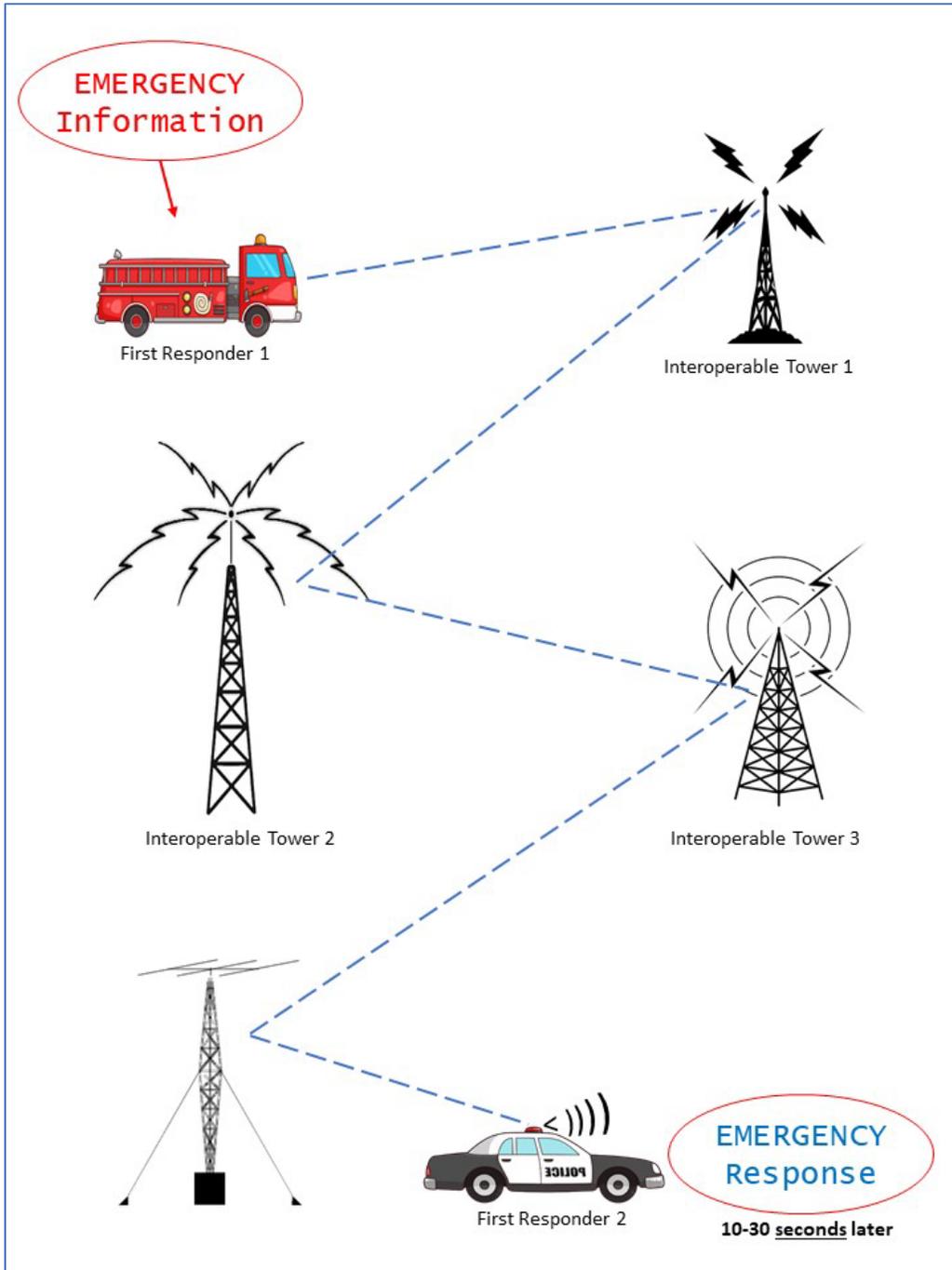
CDBG-MIT Regional Allocation (State MID)
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications Infrastructure Project
Proposal with Grant Management Plan





CDBG-MIT Regional Allocation (State MID)
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications Infrastructure Project
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Dependable, fast and accurate communications with interoperability would allow the first responder in San Augustine County to communicate directly with the intended first responder in Jasper. This communication trail would be much quicker and more accurate looking something like this:





CDBG-MIT Regional Allocation (State MID)
Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications Infrastructure Project
Proposal with Grant Management Plan

In reality, no scenario demonstrates the need as well as real life events. Just recently, Hurricane Laura impacted the DETCOG region. Lack of interoperable communications among first responders was a major issue. Here is how one police chief (located in a HUD MID area) described it in his recent letter supporting this project:

*The lack of interoperability of our current radio system is detrimental to our community and was recently highlighted with the evacuation events of Hurricane Laura. **During this time Texas Highway Patrol Troopers were sent to our area to assist with evacuations, and we were unable to communicate with them on our current radio system.** These Troopers came from all over the State of Texas and we did not have a channel or system that could communicate with them.*

Chief Michael McCulley, Woodville Police Department

The pleas for help are sincere. One sheriff (also located in a HUD MID area) describes their need and isn't ashamed of begging for help:

*We get a lot of impulse noise and are susceptible to skip as well. **Too much noise + not enough signal = Loss of service.** Poor radio transmissions in certain parts of the county due to heave forestry and distance which equal a HUGE officer safety issue.*

TXWARN system currently services over 100 agencies located in multiple counties all around us to the south, east and northwest. Our agency would benefit from joining the program thereby allowing our dispatchers to communicate with other agencies as well as our own officers. This would help out tremendously in manhunts, multi-agency pursuits of which we find ourselves in about twice a month, search and rescue and serving search warrants or any warrant services.

Any time we run multi-jurisdictional agency operations we are constantly having to give one of our patrolmen's handheld radio to another agency so just maybe we can hear them if they need us.

This has been a problem here within our county for at least twenty years or longer as I have been in Law Enforcement for 39 years now and I can remember back to when I started people always saying how bad the radios were here. I know we have 66% National Forest within my county but having that much beauty all wrapped up in one county, should we let another officer get hurt or possibly die due to the bad radios here and him not being able to get his message heard by a dispatcher to send him help, for it? We have a small county budget and absolutely no monies to help pay for a tower or better radio service, we just try and get along but as a Sheriff I am tired of listening to units constantly saying "Can you repeat ma'am" and or the dispatcher "Unit, you are not coming through, call dispatch", this in itself is a problem that HAS to stop.

*It is for these reasons and many, many more **I am begging you to please help us** look out for these fine men and women in which don our uniforms every day to protect all from the evil, most men and women run from.*

Sheriff Greg Capers, San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office



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Objectives and Goals

The goal of this public safety communications infrastructure project is to increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters, especially related to storms, tornadoes, and riverine flooding.

This goal will be achieved by meeting the following project objectives:

- Obtaining 15-year leases with tower owners throughout the region
- Equipping communication towers with interoperable communication systems
- Constructing local dispatch consoles
- Connecting to the P25 Harris County Regional Radio System, known as TXWARN

As described above, lack of communications impacts the DETCOG region by preventing efficient, rapid response to emergencies. The *Deep East Texas Council of Governments, Region 14, Regional Interoperable Communications Plan (RICP)* was adopted by DETCOG and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe on October 24, 2019 and December 9, 2019, respectively. The RICP is an 84-page plan addressing the communication needs of the region. The issue at hand can be summed up in one sentence found on page C1 of the RICP. This form is intended to evaluate the current radio systems in DETCOG, but it reads simply, **“No Interoperable Radio System in Existence Within DETCOG Region 14.”** The other 417 fields in the form are left blank.

This communications impediment urgently needs to be addressed. Reliable communications reduce response times during emergency incidents and will reduce or eliminate the risks mentioned above of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship.

The entire RICP plan offers solutions to mitigate against this major communications gap. For example, pages 11-35 of the plan lists solutions by each county with each county constructing numerous well-equipped communication towers and dispatched consoles. Each county is also shown with a list of deficiencies that prevent the plan from moving forward. At the top of each deficiency list for each county is lack of funding. It is only through a program like the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) that this goals of the RICP can be achieved. **Due to the significant price tag involved, it is safe to say that only through the current offering from the GLO can this project become a reality.**

And the State of Texas agrees with this statement! On page 64 of, *Eye of the Storm: Report of the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas*, it states, “In short, full system interoperability carries a heavy price tag, and its absence was a challenge to responders during Hurricane Harvey. This disaster reminds us once again of the importance of widespread radio interoperability during major storms. And the need for such a system isn’t unique to the coast; the state has to plan for its next disaster, which could occur anywhere in the state.”



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On page 67, the report also states, “Given the frequency of disasters and emergencies in Texas, not only on the coast but throughout the state, Texas citizens would benefit from a system with enhanced interoperability.”

Project Scope

DETCOG proposes to meet this urgent need by leasing space on three (3) four hundred to five hundred feet (400-500 ft) communication towers and installing RF antenna communications equipment and associated appurtenances. This project will also include the permanent installation of two (2) two-seat dispatch consoles.

The locations on the project map are estimated locations. While these towers will provide coverage for San Augustine and Sabine County, and it is currently anticipated that a location in each county will be utilized, it is possible that a tower serving a County could be located within a neighboring County. In the design phase, factors such as terrain will be considered regarding exact locations.

Budget

The cost of this project is estimated to be \$ 4,568,750 provided by CDBG-MIT grant funds.

Activity	Amount
Construction	\$ 3,655,000
Engineering	\$ 548,250
Administration*	\$ 365,500
TOTAL	\$ 4,568,750

*Includes Environmental Services

Beneficiaries

This project will provide a benefit for all residents residing in San Augustine County and Sabine County.

Population numbers issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) State of Texas - LMISD and Use of Standardized Area Median Income (AMI) Waiver indicate that 36,075 people will benefit from this project, with 21,300 people, or 59.04%, being of low-to-moderate income.

GEONAME	STUSAB	STATE	COUNTY_NAME	QUALIFY_FOR_STATE_MEDIAN_INCOME_WAIVER	COUNTY	lowmod_pop	lowmodu_pop	lowmod_pct_POP
COUNTY	TX	48	San Augustine County	YES	405	4,814	8,035	59.91%
COUNTY	TX	48	San Jacinto County	YES	407	16,486	28,040	58.79%



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Project Locations

The locations of the three towers have been estimated by the project engineer. These may not be the final locations as an in-depth study will be required during the engineering design phase of the project. The estimated locations coordinates are as follows:

TOWER COVERAGE AREA	TOWER LOCATIONS (APPROXIMATE COORDINATES)
Sabine Co./ San Augustine Co.	31-16-39.8 N 093-56-29.7 W
San Augustine Co./ Sabine Co.	31-32-49.5 N 094-05-47.9 W
San Augustine Co./ Sabine Co.	31-23-59.7 N 094-11-13.7 W

The location for the construction and installation of the two new dispatch consoles is as follows:

# of Seats	Facility	Address	Coordinates
2	Sabine Co. Sheriff's Office	310 Main Street, Hemphill, TX 75948	31.342900, -93.850121
2	San Augustine Co. Sheriff's Office	219 N. Harrison, San Augustine, TX 75972	31.533216, -94.110632

