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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**



PRESS RELEASE

Disaster Relief Funding Available for Areas Affected by Hurricanes Ike & Dolly

*ETCOG will receive and distribute **\$9,224,823.25** among eligible counties*

Kilgore, TX, February 9, 2009: The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) will release \$9,224,823.25 in federal funding for the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) to distribute disaster relief funds to cities and counties affected by hurricanes Ike and Dolly. Counties eligible for these grant funds include Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rusk, Smith, and Upshur. ETCOG will host a series of public hearings to obtain comments on the proposed distribution of funding for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure, housing and economic revitalization in areas affected by the hurricanes.

To determine the grant distribution process, ETCOG will also host two Public Hearings to receive public comments. The hearings will be held Monday, February 16, at 10:00 AM and Wednesday, February 18, at 2:00 PM at ETCOG offices.

For more information, contact Community & Economic Development Manager, Julie Burnfield at (903) 984.8641 x237 or julie.burnfield@etcog.org.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.

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