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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

PRESS RELEASE

Social Services Block Grant Funding Available for Hurricane Ike Disaster Relief

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 5:00 PM

Kilgore, TX, August 19, 2009: The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) announces the availability of funding for eligible local, regional, non-profit and faith-based organization projects in support of the goals and objectives of the *Health and Human Services Commission* under the Social Services Block Grant for Emergency Disaster Relief Funds for Hurricane Ike. The nine counties designated by the Governor's office as Declared Disaster Areas are: Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rusk, Smith and Upshur Counties.

Funding for this program is provided through Public Law 110-329, providing SSBG Supplemental Funding. The approximate expected total amount of funding is **\$2,545,361.14** and is provided through federal grants through the Health & Human Services Commission. Eligible public entities are: 1) Cities; 2) Counties; 3) Public Schools and School Districts (excluding universities and other post-secondary educational institutions); 4) General and Special Purpose Districts; 5) Non-profit organizations; 7) Local and Regional Health Districts; 8) Faith-based organizations; and 9) Other organizations providing eligible services as explained in the full Request for Applications (RFA). Attached is a list of eligible project categories.

A copy of the full RFA, the application forms, and instructions can be downloaded from www.etcog.org. Digital copies are also available directly by email upon request. For more information, contact Luke Kimbrough or Claude Andrews by phone at (903) 984-8641 or luke.kimbrough@etcog.org or claudio.andrews@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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