

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



**CONTACT:** Hannah Savage  
Carbonara Group  
**OFFICE:** 713-524-8170  
**CELL:** 713-819-1320  
**EMAIL:** [hannah@carbonaragroup.com](mailto:hannah@carbonaragroup.com)

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## **\$1.5 Million Invested by Greater Houston Disaster Alliance in Second Round of Grants from Hurricane Beryl Recovery Fund**

*Grants distributed to nonprofits serving low-income, vulnerable households impacted by storm*

**HOUSTON, TX** (Aug. 21, 2024) – The Greater Houston Disaster Alliance is investing an additional \$1.5 million in grants from its Hurricane Beryl Recovery Fund to help area neighbors who are struggling to recover from the July 8 storm. Like the first round of grants, this set of investments will support low-to-moderate income households with flexible emergency financial assistance and targeted home repair assistance. This support aims to offset the costs of crucial disaster recovery related expenses and assist the most severely impacted who face financial challenges covering repair costs.

To move quickly and efficiently in getting aid to those in need, grants are distributed through a trusted network of nonprofit partners based on the capability of each to provide needed services and geographical reach to the most impacted, low-income communities in the City of Houston and Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery and Waller counties. Nonprofits receiving grants to provide home repair assistance include **Fort Bend County Habitat for Humanity, Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County, Katy Responds and Tejano Center for Community Concerns**. Nonprofits receiving grants to provide flexible emergency financial assistance and resource navigation include **East Harris County Empowerment Council, Humble Area Assistance Ministries, Katy Christian Ministries, Second Mile Mission Center, Tejano Center for Community Concerns and West Houston Assistance Ministries**.

Households affected by the disaster that meet the eligibility criteria can receive flexible emergency financial assistance of up to \$1,500, which will be provided as direct payments from nonprofit organizations. Financial assistance is meant to help cover disaster relief and recovery expenses such as temporary housing, relocation, minor home repairs managed by the household, food or furniture replacement, and lost wages.

### **Eligibility Criteria for Financial Assistance**

- Households impacted by Hurricane Beryl on July 8, 2024 and its aftermath;
- Reside in the City of Houston, Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery or Waller counties;
- Are low-to-moderate income, defined as 80% or under [Area Median Income \(AMI\)](#);
- Reside in a [zip code disproportionately impacted](#) by the storm, or are very low-income, defined as 50% or under AMI;
- Are uninsured or under-insured homeowners or renters.

### **How to Get Help: Flexible Emergency Financial Assistance**

- Help seekers from Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery and Waller Counties should call the 211 Texas/United Way HELPLINE, a free, confidential helpline operating 24 hours a day. A helpline specialist will gather information on the caller's specific situation and needs and provide direct contact information for local organizations that can best address those needs.
- When connected with a nonprofit partner, a basic assessment will be conducted to identify primary needs that determine the amount of flexible emergency financial assistance provided.

- Additionally, eligible households will be connected with a navigator to help guide them through available federal relief programs, such as FEMA and SBA, as well as other public and private programs for temporary housing, food, medical care and other support services.

### **Eligibility Criteria for Home Repair Assistance**

- Households impacted by Hurricane Beryl on July 8, 2024 and its aftermath; and
- Reside in the City of Houston, Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery or Waller counties; and
- Are low-to-moderate income, defined as 80% or under [Area Median Income \(AMI\)](#); and
- Reside in a [zip code disproportionately impacted](#) by the storm, or are very low-income, defined as 50% or under AMI; and
- Are uninsured or under-insured homeowners; and
- Must have applied for FEMA individual assistance (regardless of outcome), unless ineligible for public assistance.

### **How to Get Help: Home Repair Assistance**

- Eligible households in need of home repair services should **complete one application with Connective** by visiting [www.connectivehomerepair.org](http://www.connectivehomerepair.org);
- The intake form is in four languages, English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin (Chinese simplified) and Chinese (traditional) and can be completed by a homeowner themselves or anyone supporting them, including friends, family, case managers or navigators;
- Connective’s client resource team will review the applications and work with the applicant to collect any additional documents before determining if they are eligible for nonprofit-managed home repairs;
- Once approved for assistance, Connective will match applicants with a home repair agency best suited to meet their needs based on geography, spoken language, and available resources.
- The nonprofit agency will then work with the household to complete the damage assessment and facilitate repairs in collaboration with the household using public (e.g. FEMA) and private resources.
- Due to limited resources, the most impacted and vulnerable households will be provided home repair services, and an application does not guarantee home repairs.

“Whether it’s from lost income or costly home repairs, recovering from the financial challenges created by Hurricane Beryl can take time for those in our community who were already struggling to make ends meet,” said Amanda McMillian, president and CEO, United Way of Greater Houston. “Help is still available, and we encourage anyone who needs assistance from the storm to apply for resources.”

To date, the Greater Houston Disaster Alliance has invested \$4.65 million in grants from the fund to help area neighbors who are struggling to recover from financial losses and property damage caused by the July 8 storm. The [Disaster Recovery Council](#), made up of volunteer leaders from the business and philanthropic community, leads grantmaking efforts for the Greater Houston Disaster Alliance. To better understand community needs and help guide funding considerations, a rapid data analysis was conducted by the Disaster Alliance using a variety of data sources to help identify the low-to-moderate income zip codes that were disproportionately impacted by Hurricane Beryl. Based on this analysis, 47 zip codes were identified across the City of Houston and Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery and Waller Counties as disproportionately impacted.

“Hurricane Beryl’s impact on the most financially vulnerable households in our region is significant, and as is the case with many disasters, the need is far greater than available resources,” said Stephen Maislin, president and CEO, Greater Houston Community Foundation. “Our hope is that these resources will provide some relief to those households who were most severely impacted by the storm.”

To date, the Hurricane Beryl Recovery Fund has raised more than \$5 million from generous organizations and individuals. To give to the Hurricane Beryl Recovery Fund, visit [www.disasteralliance.org/beryl](http://www.disasteralliance.org/beryl).

### **About United Way of Greater Houston**

United Way of Greater Houston connects people to possibility. We unite donors, volunteers and community partners in support of a focused plan to remove barriers on the path to financial stability for families and individuals. Programs focused on financial stability, early childhood and youth development, and physical and behavioral health care help our neighbors land on their feet and stay there. These programs are supported by a foundation of basic needs assistance and help for those escaping violence. For families and individuals who are ready, our individualized approach includes Navigators to guide them as they access multiple services on their unique journey to financial stability. United Way also connects our neighbors with help, hope and critical resources 24/7/365 through the 211 Texas/United Way HELPLINE. A focus on equity is integral to United Way's work and program investments are evaluated on how diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging is incorporated into policies, practices and service delivery. Our community investments are backed by research, ensured by good stewardship and deliver results. For more information, visit [www.unitedwayhouston.org](http://www.unitedwayhouston.org).

### **About Greater Houston Community Foundation**

Since 1995, Greater Houston Community Foundation has helped Houston thrive by convening philanthropic resources and knowledge to drive philanthropy in our community, distributing over \$2.2 billion in grants recommended by its donors since inception. The organization supports high profile community and donor initiatives with the most comprehensive philanthropic resources, expertise, and innovative platforms. Greater Houston Community Foundation is widely considered to be the go-to partner for high-profile philanthropic partnerships in the Greater Houston area, including major disaster relief initiatives, such as the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund as well as Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. Greater Houston Community Foundation leads collaborations that support the wellbeing and vitality of Houston, including [Understanding Houston](#), a regional indicator initiative with strategic research partner Rice Kinder Institute. The Foundation provides individuals, families, corporations, foundations, and advisors with the ability to expand their philanthropic impact. For more information, please visit, [www.ghcf.org](http://www.ghcf.org).