

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWC Requests \$5.8 Million in Federal Funds in Response to Flooding Caused by Hurricane Alex

AUSTIN — The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) today announced the agency has requested a \$5.8 million National Emergency Grant (NEG) from the U.S. Department of Labor in response to the extensive flooding caused by Hurricane Alex, which made landfall earlier this summer. Funds will provide temporary disaster relief employment to 381 dislocated workers who will assist the region's recovery efforts.

"Flooding caused by Hurricane Alex has caused extensive damage in South Texas and has dislocated many workers," said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. "These emergency funds will help provide funding for necessary repairs."

TWC has been working with the four local Workforce Solutions boards to determine the needs of the area. Workforce Solutions Cameron, Lower Rio Grande Valley, South Texas and Middle Rio Grande will coordinate the Temporary Jobs program that will place dislocated workers in subsidized employment to assist clean-up efforts.

"The impact of the flooding from Hurricane Alex has devastated parts of the Valley and additional resources are required for employment and clean-up efforts," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "TWC has turned to the Department of Labor for funding to bolster our response."

The NEG funds support eligible, enrolled participants in the Temporary Jobs program who will receive wages and necessary supportive services such as transportation assistance and work clothing.

"Hurricane Alex and resulting flooding have proven to be damaging to the South Texas economy," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. "NEG funds will provide tremendous assistance to affected workers and recovery for the region."

Hurricane Alex made landfall along the northeastern coast of Mexico as a Category 2 storm on June 30, 2010 delivering high winds and sustained rain as the storm moved west into South Texas.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.