TEXAS INDIVIDUAL TORNADO SAFE ROOM REBATE PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Texas Individual Saferoom Rebate program will reimburse a homeowner or developer for ½ of the cost to install an individual saferoom in an existing or planned home, up to a cap of $3,000. Individuals may not apply directly to the State; their city or county must apply for funds on their behalf. In order to assure quality control, only saferooms that qualify for a National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA), or American Tornado Shelter Association (ATSA) seal are reimbursable. Both in-ground and in-house shelters are reimbursable. Associated security systems or air filtration systems are eligible costs but do not change the cap. Properties in a locally or FEMA mapped floodplain are not eligible.

PROGRAM FUNDING

The Saferoom Rebates are funded with FEMA supplied mitigation grants: the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM). Both of these grant programs are limited and competitive, which means that just because a city or county applies does not mean their application will be selected and funded. HMGP is funded only in the event of a federally declared disaster; the state will publish deadlines in letters to the senior elected representative in each jurisdiction. Although HMGP is available statewide, the state normally prioritizes funding to those jurisdictions most heavily impacted by the event. PDM is an annual grant; the grant window normally opens in June and closes in August of each year. Mitigation grant funding is only available to jurisdictions that have a State approved Local Mitigation Plan and are at the Basic level of preparedness on their Emergency Management Plan.

PROCESS

The Emergency Management Coordinator or elected representatives in a jurisdiction decide that they wish to participate in this project in any particular year. They decide how many saferooms they wish to rebate, and apply for funding. If their application is approved, they then go out and solicit citizens who wish to participate, capturing their address and contact information. There will typically be more interest than funding available, so the jurisdiction will have to select which addresses will be funded, the rest go on a standby list. The jurisdiction then contacts the selected citizens and tells them they may proceed with construction. Once construction is complete, the jurisdiction visits the completed saferoom and captures its latitude and longitude. The citizen then provides copies of the construction receipts and the NSSA/ATSA certificate and receives a payment from the jurisdiction of ½ the cost of construction, capped at $3,000. If some citizens initially selected eventually choose not to build a shelter, the funding is applied to the next person on the standby list. The process continues until all funds are expended or two years are up.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

If you have additional questions, please contact the TDEM Mitigation Section at (512) 424-5489 or TDEM-Mitigation@dps.texas.gov

If you are interested in applying, contact your local Emergency Management Coordinator, Floodplain Manager, or County Commissioner/City Council representative.