



# TEXAS INDIVIDUAL TORNADO SAFE ROOM REBATE PROGRAM



## FACT SHEET

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Texas Individual Safe Room Rebate program will reimburse a homeowner or developer for ½ of the cost to install an individual safe room 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 safe rooms 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 Safe Room 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 October and closes in December 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 safe rooms 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 safe room 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 State Project Officer, Ms. Hildy Soper of the State Mitigation Section at (512) 424-2454 or [hildy.soper@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:hildy.soper@txdps.state.tx.us).

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