

We have an opportunity to apply for a FY 2019 Disaster Relief grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). This grant is for natural disasters which occurred in 2018 and floods in 2019. EDA offices are collocated with the COG in Abilene.

Ms. New, Operations Manager for EDA's Center for Community and Economic Development, has provided us guidance and recommendations to improve our chances of receiving a grant award.

This grant is specifically for roads damaged in the periods above. "EDA wants to fund projects that are designed to construct roads so that they are resilient to future damage, not patch work, or fix back to what was".

- The suggested requested cap for our county is \$3.6M total (divided among the four precincts in any manner)
- This grant is an 80/20 split, making the county's cost share \$720,000
- Previously committed FEMA funds cannot be used for the match amount
- Using cash for the cost share amount is always a plus, increasing the chance of an award.
- Projects are limited to construction (roads only)
- For a small fee, written into the grant, EDA/COG will assist with grant application and management. Choosing this option also strengthens our chances for a grant award. If we don't receive the grant, there is no fee.

I'm requesting that the Commissioners Court approve me going forward with a grant request in the amount of \$3.6M, understanding that the county has a cost share of \$720,00. Additionally, I ask that the court approves writing EDA/COG assistance for grant application and management into the request.

March 9, 2020
(Exhibit #8)