



AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION

American Flood Coalition

Strategies for flood resilience in Texas

March 10, 2022





Welcome remarks

The Honorable Sallie Alcorn, City of Houston

- At-Large Position 5 Representative
- Elected in 2019
- Serves on the following Committees: Budget and Fiscal Affairs; Ethic, Elections, and Council Governance; Quality of Life; Regulatory and Neighborhood Affairs (Chair); and Transportation, Technology, and Infrastructure (Vice Chair)
- Serves on the Houston-Galveston Area Council Water Resources Committee (Vice Chair)





AFC at a glance

Over 280 members nationwide



Federal champions



Cities, towns, & counties



Elected officials



Businesses



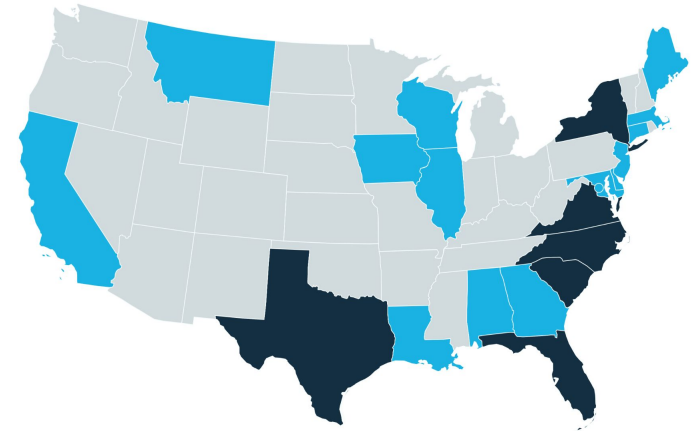
Military groups



Civic & academic

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and nonpartisan coalition advancing solutions to flooding and sea level rise

Active in 21 states



5+ members / federal champions

< 5 members / federal champions





Texas members and federal champions

Municipalities and elected officials



Nueces County



Waller County



Austin CM Paige Ellis



Waller County Judge Trey Duhon



Houston CM Sallie Alcorn

Civic groups and nonprofits



TEXAS WATER FOUNDATION



Texas federal champions



Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-7)



Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-2)

Academic institutions



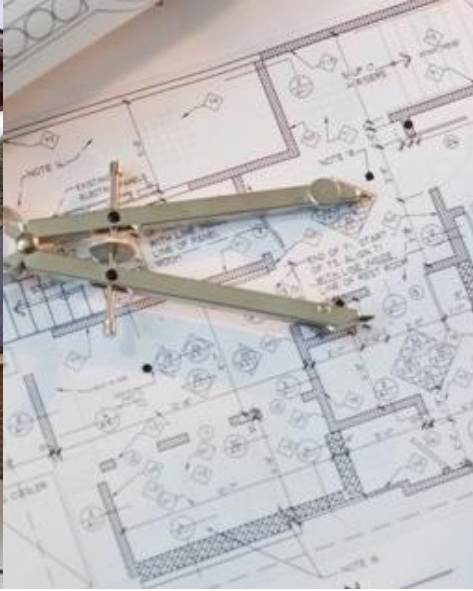
THE MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center

Businesses





Our 4 pillars for coastal and inland solutions

Economy

Invest in infrastructure that boosts the economy and protects property values

Communities

Use smart planning to keep communities safe and save taxpayer dollars

Rebuilding

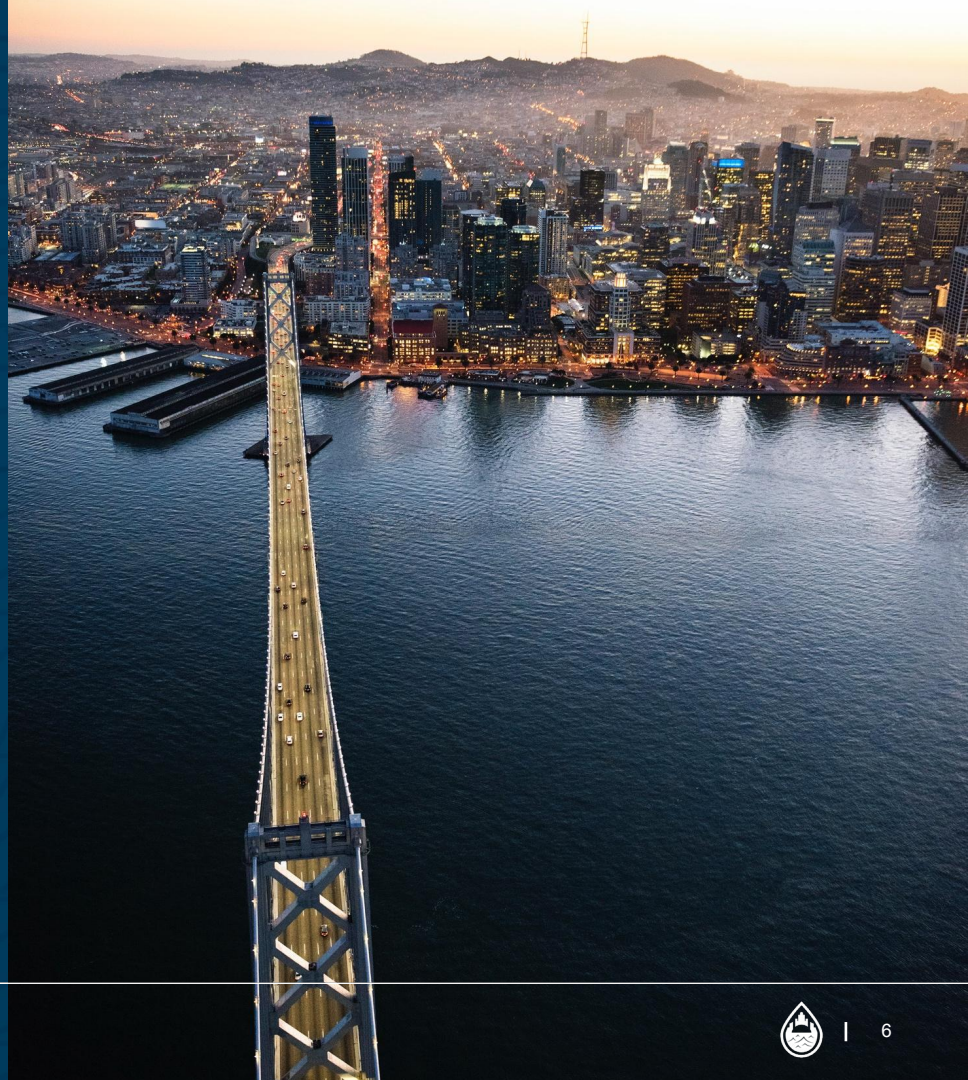
Build back stronger to protect communities from future flooding

Military

Ensure our military installations are ready to deploy 365 days a year



AFC resources for building resilience



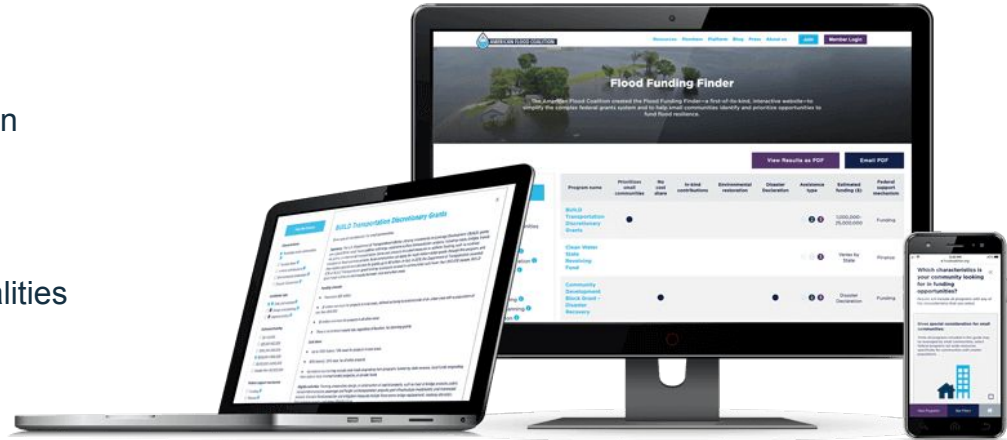


Flood Funding Finder

This tool breaks down federal grant and technical assistance programs best suited for flooding and sea level rise initiatives.

Identifies programs by characteristics including:

-  Requires Presidential Disaster Declaration
-  No local cost share requirements
-  Special considerations for small municipalities
-  Supports project planning
-  Administered by state





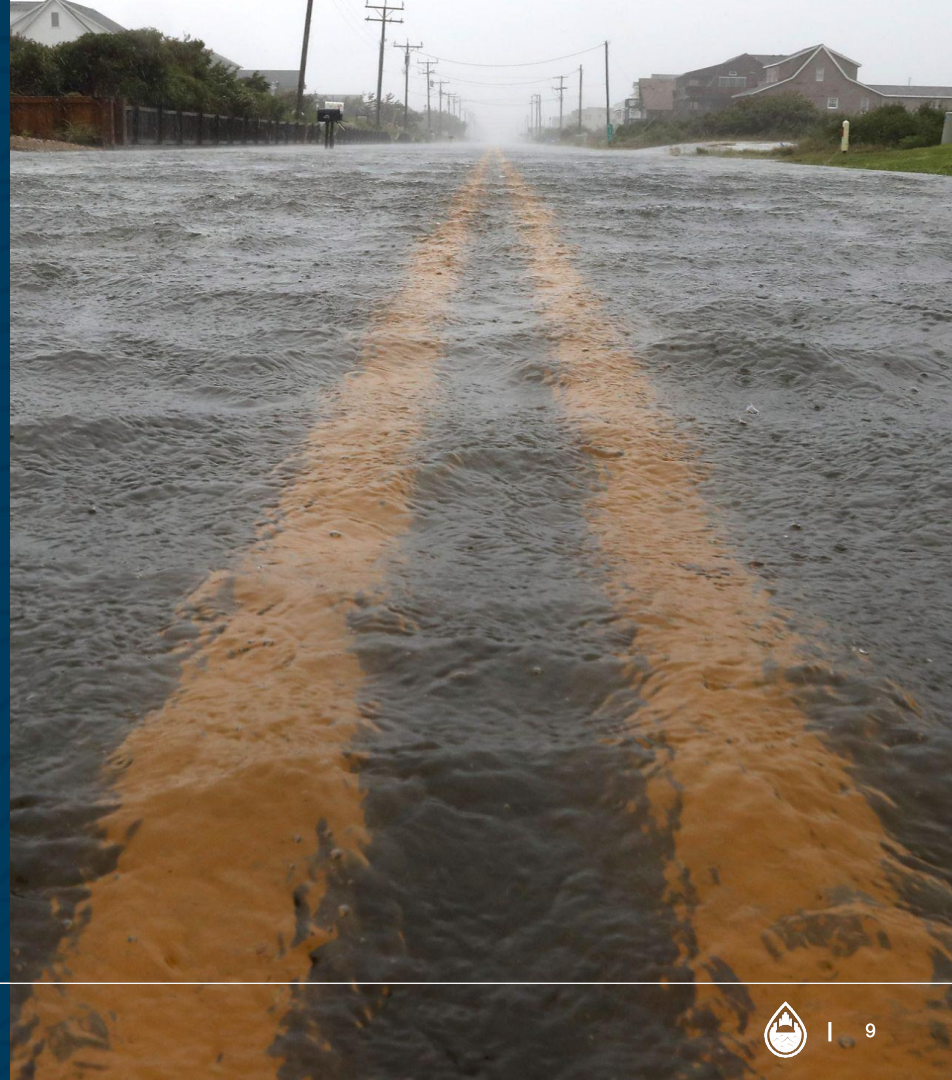
Adaptation for All guide

AFC's Adaptation for All guide provides several examples of how to build flood resilience for communities of every size.

- Purpose is to help local leaders determine approaches to flooding or sea level rise that can work best for them
- Highlights 26 approaches broken down by cost, benefits, and implementation considerations
- Most of the case studies found in the guide are from communities with populations less than 50,000
- Developed in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Arcadis



The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act explained





Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: a historic investment in flood resilience

After months of negotiations, President Biden signed into law the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) on November 15, 2021.

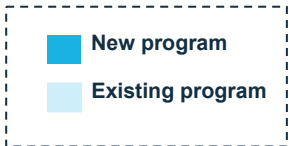
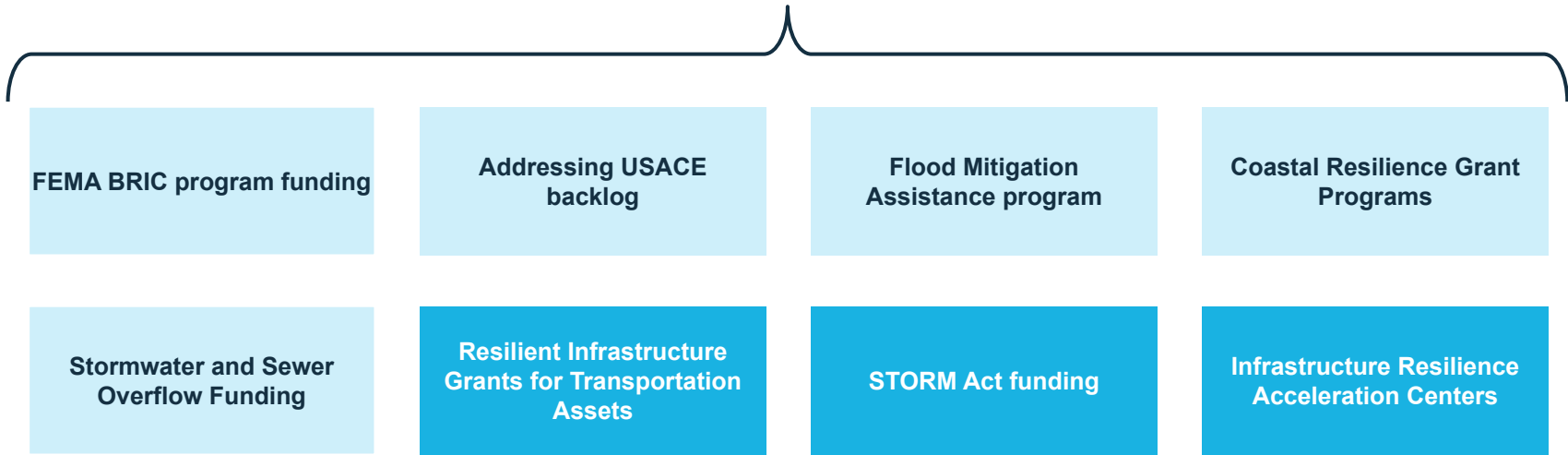
- The law includes **\$550 billion** in new federal spending
- This investment comes at a time when the number of **billion dollar storms and disasters** is at an all time high
- Funding from IIJA will help communities **prepare for the future impacts of flooding** and **reduce the staggering costs of disaster recovery**
- Research from AFC and the Johns Hopkins University finds that every **\$1 billion invested in flood resilience** can **create up to 40,000 jobs** across the country





AFC secured \$34.7 billion of our \$38 billion request for flood resilient infrastructure in the law

AFC pushed for inclusion of a slate of comprehensive resilience priorities to enhance flood mitigation, resilience, and disaster preparedness programs





What's in the infrastructure bill and when will communities see funding?

Immediate funding

Funding will either be distributed **via formula or become available through traditional program cycles**

- ✓ Army Corps project funding
- ✓ Flood Mitigation Assistance program
- ✓ BRIC grant program
- ✓ Coastal Resilience Program

Upcoming opportunities

Funding will become available after regulations are finalized or funding is appropriated, likely in **late 2022 or 2023**

- ✓ Sewer overflow and stormwater grants
- ✓ PROTECT grant program
- ✓ STORM Act funding

Future programs

Some new provisions are authorized for eight years rather than five and will take **one to two years to implement**

- ✓ Creation of resilience accelerators





What's next for infrastructure implementation?

Communications from the Biden Administration

- President Biden appointed Mitch Landrieu to oversee the disbursement of funds.
- The Administration created **Build.gov**, developed a **guidebook**, and will be holding informational webinars.

Program funding through appropriations

- Several resilience programs were established in the IIJA, but still need to be **funded by Congress through the appropriations process**.
- For existing programs that received funding in the IIJA, money could become available in the next funding cycle.

Program implementation by Federal Agencies

- Federal agencies will **begin the process of writing regulations** in order to implement new programs established in the IIJA.
- Some programs will have a formal process where regulations will appear in the Federal Register with an opportunity for comment.





The law will establish or fund several new resilience programs

PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation) Program

Establishes a new **\$8.7 billion** program under the Department of Transportation to upgrade and reinforce existing transportation infrastructure to better withstand extreme weather.

- ✓ *Restoration or replacement of surface transportation facilities*
- ✓ *Environmental reviews and planning*
- ✓ *Installation of stormwater or drainage improvements*

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program

Authorizes up to **\$1.4 billion** for Environmental Protection Agency grants that help communities upgrade aging sewer systems that routinely overflow during storms.

- ✓ *Drainage infrastructure*
- ✓ *Bioretention/bioswales (e.g., rain gardens)*
- ✓ *Permeable pavement*
- ✓ *Installation of separate sanitary and storm sewers*





How can your community prepare for infrastructure programs and funding?

Stay informed

- ❑ **Reach out to state contacts:** States will play a key role in administering programs and distributing funds.
- ❑ **Monitor updates from the Administration:** Visit [build.gov](https://www.build.gov) and sign up for email updates.
- ❑ **Follow AFC:** Our blog, newsletter, and social media will have all the latest information on IJA implementation.

Start planning

- ❑ **Review and evaluate local planning:** Consider projects that might be a good fit for federal funding.
- ❑ **Ensure that your community's Hazard Mitigation Plan is up to date:** This is a requirement for several programs.
- ❑ **Seek local input on potential projects:** Getting buy-in from community members early on will streamline the process and lead to a stronger project plan.

Turn to AFC resources

[AFC Blog Post on Infrastructure Bill](#) | [Flood Funding Finder](#) | [Adaptation For All Guide](#)

Questions, comments, prompts for discussion





Next steps and upcoming opportunities in Texas

- **Membership growth in Texas**
 - Build a strong, diverse coalition that represents flood challenges across the state
- **Welcome Texas Director!**
 - Investing on the ground, dedicated to Texas
- **Preparing for the 2023 legislative session**
 - Explore policy concepts and capitalize on opportunities to drive success next year
- **Future programming and resources**
 - Always engaging with our members and partners
 - If there are flood topics or issues that you're interested in learning more about, please let us know!





AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION

Thank you for joining us



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