

## Meetings to offer recovery advice

By T.J. Aulds | Posted: Tuesday, July 21, 2009 12:00 am

Ten months after Hurricane Ike wrecked much of Galveston County hundreds of residents still are struggling to get back on their feet. As recovery funds for housing and refurbishing the county's social services network are slow to be spent many worry that recovery is a foreign word to many who need help.

Gulf Coast Interfaith a coalition of Galveston County faith-based congregations and community organizations has scheduled a pair of recovery town hall meetings this week. The first is today in Texas City. The next meeting will be Thursday in Galveston.

The town hall meetings have two goals Bob Higgs of Gulf Coast Interfaith said. The first is to point people needing help to resources now available in the county including organizations such as Galveston County Restore and Rebuild and social service agencies in the county.

That also includes helping people to wade through the process of filling out applications and finding the help that is available and to identify why help may not be getting to people who need it.

The second goal is to get people involved and offer them a voice in shaping how cities and the county spend federal funds for hurricane recovery Higgs said. A second round of community block grant money is scheduled to be made available to the region for Ike recovery projects within the next three months.

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At A Glance

**WHAT:** Hurricane recovery town hall meetings

**WHO:** Gulf Coast Interfaith

**WHEN:** Today and Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Today — Barbours Chapel Baptist Church 7420 FM 1765 in Texas City

Thursday — Old Central Cultural Center 2627 Avenue M. in Galveston

**CALL:** 409-939-8017