



County Method of Distribution for 2016 Floods CDBG-Disaster Recovery Allocation

Summary Information

Contact Information

County: **Harris County**

DRAFT

Principal Contact Name, Title: **Daphne Lemelle, Community Development Director**

Principal Contact Telephone: **713-578-2000**

Principal Contact Email:

Principal Contact Address: **8410 Lantern Point**

City, State, Zip: **Houston, Texas 77054**

Allocation Summary

County Allocation for All Activities: **\$66,199,732**

Housing: **\$23,169,906**

Infrastructure (Non-Housing): **\$43,029,826**

Citizen Participation

Below is a description addressing how the County complied with the Citizen Participation Plan regarding citizen and non-governmental organization outreach, and any efforts exceeding GLO minimum public participation requirements:

Harris County’s citizen participation efforts included a kick-off meeting, attending several local community events, surveying participants, electronic surveys, one-on-one interviews, and public hearings. On May 3, 2017, Harris County hosted local jurisdictions to a meeting to discuss possible Disaster Recovery related CDBG funding for the 2016 FEMA 4269 and FEMA 4272 flood events.

Harris County attended several community events and fairs during May to July surveying residents on the affect of the two flooding events. Surveys are in English and Spanish and were included with our Citizen Participation Plan. These events include, but not limited to resource fairs, community college events, senior citizen events, and ISD fairs. The County also interviewed organizations and Housing Authorities who service low-to-moderate clientele. The County and participating jurisdictions also held approximately seven (7) community meetings around the county to solcite input from citizens regarding recovery and unmet needs. After the Tax Day flood event, Harris County staff canvased several affected areas, participately low- to moderate-income areas, distributing information about recovery services and surveying damage.

A survey of over 500 local service and housing providers was also sent via Facebook, Twitter, and on the HCCSD website inquiring about the organization’s recovery after the two storm events and their clients’ experiences and needs during recovery.

Harris County conducted one on one interviews with: Greater Houston Fair Housing Center, YWCA, Houton Area Urban League, Star of Hope, Community Family Center, Harris County Housing Authority, Baytown Housing Authority, Alliance Multicultural Community Services, LISC, United Way, Baker Ripley, Tejano Center, Texas Inter-faith, Northwest Assistance Ministries, Easter Seals, Avondale House, and Greater Houston Fair House Center

Public Planning Meeting

Date/Time: May 3, 2017, 10am Location: HCCSD, 9418 Jensen Dr. Houston, TX 77093
 Attendance: 21 persons

First Public Hearing Information

Date/Time: December 14, 2017; 5:30pm Location: 8410 Lantern Point, Houston, TX 77054
 Attendance: _____

Second Public Hearing Information

Date/Time: December 19, 2017, 10am Location: 1001 Preston, Houston, TX 77002
 Attendance: _____

Personal Notice. As required, personal notice was sent to eligible entities at least **five** days in advance of the public hearings using the following method(s) (at least one must be selected):

	Method	Date Sent	Documentation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Electronic Mail	12/05/17	Email sent to approx. 500 interested parties; email notifications attached
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Delivery		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certified Mail		

Internet Notice. As required, public notices was distributed on the Internet at least **five** days in advance using the following method:

	Method	Date Published	Documentation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Website	12/05/17	MOD documents released on the HCCSD website; Website print out attached
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Published Notice. As required, notice of the public hearings was published in at least one regional newspaper at least **three** days in advance. Notice of public hearing was published in the following regional newspaper(s):

	Newspaper Name	Date Published	Documentation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Houston Chronicle</i>	12/05/17	Affidavit attached
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Citizen Comment Documentation

<input type="checkbox"/>	The required copy of a sign-in sheet from the public hearing is attached.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A summary of the citizen comments and meeting discussion is attached.	
	Describe any efforts to notify and accommodate those with modified communication needs, such as posting information and providing interpretive services for other languages.	Public Hearing Notice posted in County Admin Building and HCCSD. Public hearing locations are fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Public hearing announcements will include information on accessibility request for individuals requiring an interpreter, auxiliary aids or other services. Should a significant number of non-English residents be expected at any scheduled public hearings, Spanish interpreters will be in attendance to provide assistance. Should other language interpreters be needed the county has access to these skills through a third party language services vendor.

Long-Term Planning and Recovery

Below is an explanation of how the region’s method of distribution fosters long-term community recovery that is forward-looking and focused on permanent restoration of infrastructure, housing and the local economy.

Due to the limited amount of Disaster Recovery CDBG funding available to the overall unmet need, the Method of Distribution encourages a focus on key systems, which will have an affect to correct damage, alleviate future disasters, particularly flooding and/or increases public safety and mitigation. Under the housing category, the Harris County and the City of Houston will implement program to repair single family and multi-family units and Harris County Flood Control District will leverage CDBG-DR funding with its existing Hazard Mitigation grant program to work with the entire county to buyout repetitively flooded housing, particular low-income homeowners. The non-housing funding is encouraged to correct damage or failure to function of critical infrasture and or improve drainage systems in the area for long-term protection to housing and bussinesses.

Unmet Housing Needs

Below is an explanation of how unmet housing needs will be addressed or how economic revitalization or infrastructure activities will contribute to long-term recovery and restoration of housing in the most impacted and distressed areas.

Under the housing category, programs will seek to assist those homeowners who were unable to fully repair their homes, particularly those who are low-income, disabled, or elderly. For those in repetitively flooding homes, the Harris County Buyout program will acquire these units and allow residents to move from flood hazards. Rental units repair will also be a focus as affordable rental housing is in short supply, particularly in impacted areas. Drainage projects and harding of community facilities within flood zones will increase the resilience of the community in future flood events. The repair of flooded roadways will improve that accessibility of residents and first responders in impacted areas.

Method of Distribution Detail

The County is required to prepare a method of distribution between the eligible entities or projects. The GLO has directed the County to use a direct allocation technique based on objective, verifiable data. The Method of Distribution will identify how it meets benefiting 70% low-to-moderate persons requirement., supports minimum allocation amounts that help ensure project feasibility, and provides an explanation of the distribution factors selected.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Statement

All subrecipients will certify that they will affirmatively further fair housing (“AFFH”) in their grant agreements, and will receive GLO training and technical assistance in meeting their AFFH obligations. Additionally, all project applications will undergo AFFH review by GLO before approval. Such review will include assessment of a proposed project’s area demography, socioeconomic characteristics, housing configuration and needs, educational, transportation, and health care opportunities, environmental hazards or concerns, and all other factors material to the AFFH determination. Applications should show that projects are likely to lessen area racial, ethnic, and low-income concentrations, and/or promote affordable housing in low-poverty, nonminority areas in response to natural hazard related impacts.

Distribution Factors

The County has selected the following distribution factors:

Distribution Factor*	Weight	Documentation Source	Explanation of Factor Selection and Weighting
FEMA/SBA/TDEM Damage Reports	50%	FEMA Invidual and Public Assistance Reports, SBA recovery assistance and TDEM grant allocations for damage/mitigation	Reports of actual individual housing/household assistance and public damage reported for FEMA 4223 and 4245 demonstrate damage level by jurisdiction.
Low- to Moderate-income percentage for jurisdiction	10%	HUD Low- to Moderate-income Data Tables	CDBG-DR must be expended to benefit 70% LMI population
FEMA/SBA/TDEM Damage Reports	40%	FEMA Invidual and Public Assistance Reports, SBA recovery assistance	Reports of actual individual housing/household Unmet need

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*Add more rows if needed

Eligible Activities

Grantee activities must be specifically related to 2016 disaster(s), and must meet the following criteria:

- Activity must be a CDBG-eligible project;
- Activity must be in response to a 2016 disaster(s)related impact in one of the following ways:
 - Direct verifiable damage from the disaster(s) that requires improvement of conditions, or
 - The facilities must have failed to function in the normal capacity as a result of the disaster(s).
- The County has added a stipulation that projects must meet a regionally-established recovery priority.

The County has addressed prioritization of eligible activities as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The County has chosen not to limit Grantees in the region to projects meeting regional priority activities.		
-OR-			
<input type="checkbox"/>	The County has limited Grantees in the region to selecting projects meeting the following regional priority activities:		
Non-housing Activities			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specially Authorized Public Facilities & Improvements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sewer Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Public Utilities (gas, et al)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clearance & Demolition Activities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Street Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Code Enforcement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Flood and Drainage Improvements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specially Authorized Assistance to Private Utilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debris Removal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Centers & Emergency Shelters (Existing)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planning and Urban Environmental Design
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior Centers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fire Protection Facilities and Equipment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parks, Playgrounds and other Recreational Facilities		
Housing Activities			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single-family repair and rehabilitation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multi-family repair and rehabilitation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single-family replacement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multi-family replacement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single-family elevation of homes in flood plains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Multi-family to replace multi-family stock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single family relocation from flood plains or identified environmental hazards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Buyouts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planning related to housing		

Reallocation of Funds

The county must identify the process of reallocation of funds from de-obligated funds and/or cost savings from completed projects:

Any funding not applied for or used by the entity allocated funding will be returned to the county to be used in their allocation. The county will try to the best extent possible to reallocate funding to existing projects for alternatives or to expand services/units or to fund proposals received under the county's competitive RFP who are eligible, but not funded due to limited funding, before seeking new proposals. Any amendments reallocating funding will be published on the county's website for at least 14 days and submitted to GLO for approval. If the county can not expend the funding, the funding will be returned to the State for re-allocation.

Approval and Signatory Authority

A Resolution of the County is attached approving the method of distribution and authorizing its submittal to the Texas General Land Office. I certify that the contents of this document and all related attachments are complete and accurate.

Signature

Date

Ed Emmett

Printed Name

County Judge

Title

Judge.emmett@cjo.hctx.net

Email Address

713-274-7000

Telephone Number