

Executive Summary

For Program Year 2003 (PY03), Harris County anticipates receiving \$17,582,168.00 for use towards community development activities. This total is comprised of \$12,822,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$3,893,168.00 in HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, \$387,000.00 in Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds, and estimated \$480,000.00 in program income. Administered by the Office of Housing and Economic Development (OHED) and in accordance to HUD's philosophy of comprehensive community development, Harris County is proposing to fund 41 projects addressing the PY2003-2007 Consolidated Plan's priority need areas of housing, homelessness, economic development, education and workforce development, infrastructure, public facilities, public services and other needs. The total PY2003 project allocations amount to \$12,988,974.00 in a combination of CDBG, HOME and ESG funds.

The following matrix reflects Harris County's funding allocations by subject area:

Consolidated Plan Need Area	Number of Projects	Amount Allocated
Housing	5	\$3,632,554.00
Homelessness	5	\$247,435.00
Economic and Workforce Development	0	\$0.00
Infrastructure	7	\$4,849,911.00
Public Facilities	4	\$1,630,668.00
Public Services	13	\$1,380,000.00
Special Needs	2	\$110,000.00
Crime Awareness	3	\$204,000.00
Other *	2	\$309,313.00
Total Allocations	41	\$12,363,881.00
Unsolicited Proposal Funds		\$2,149,220.00
Administration		\$3,069,067.00
Total Funds		\$17,582,168.00

*Projects classified in the *Other* category include one CHDO operating expense project and one demolition/nuisance abatement project.

Harris County OHED believes its comprehensive and community-based approach to solving the complex socio-economic ailments within the county is the most effective way to stimulate private reinvestment in the county's most underserved areas. The 2003 Annual Action Plan is the County's blueprint for impacting change within lower-income communities and ultimately improving the quality of life in Harris County.

Introduction

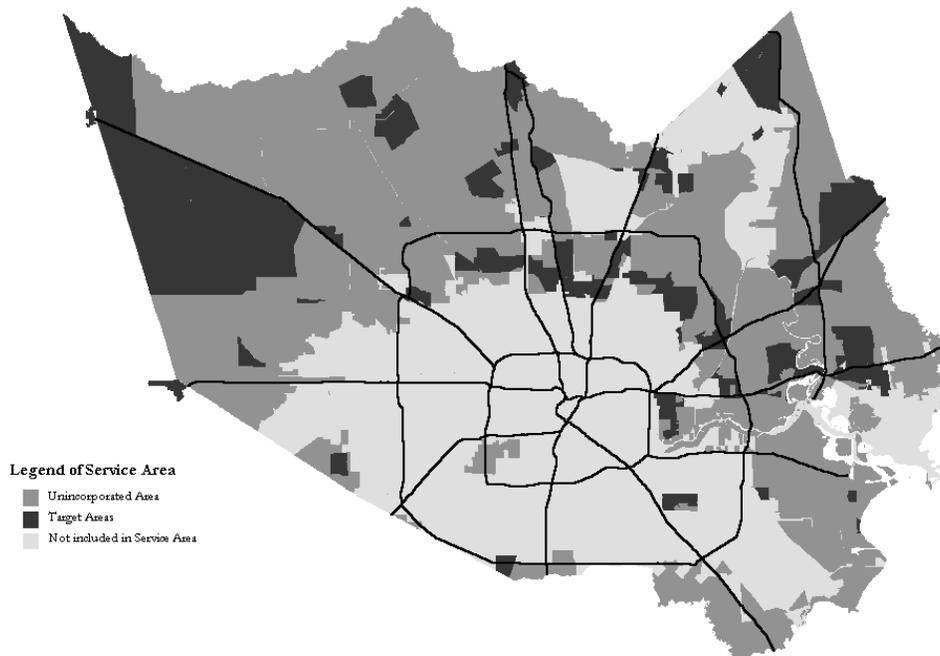
The PY03 Annual Action Plan details the allocation of Harris County resources and entitlement grants allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), toward improving the quality of life for Harris County residents. Resources reported in this document will be available between August 1, 2003 and July 31, 2004. The majority of these resources are utilized within the Harris County's service area (*Map 1*), which includes unincorporated Harris County and fifteen smaller cities within the county which have signed cooperative agreements in the application for HUD funds. Houston, Pasadena, and Baytown utilize their own community development resources and, therefore, are not within the Harris County service area. Resources available through the County are almost exclusively dedicated toward improvement of living conditions for low- and moderate-income individuals. Low- and moderate-income is defined as earning less than 80 percent of the median family income (MFI); *Table 1* denotes low- and moderate-income limits for PY03.

Table 1 FY 2003 Median Family Income (MFI), based on a family of four

Income Levels	% of MFI	Amount
Very Low-Income	≤ 30%	\$17,900
Low Income	31-50%	\$29,800
Moderate Income	51-80%	\$47,700

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Map 1 Harris County Service and Target Areas



The AAP is a public awareness and strategy development document required by HUD for any jurisdiction receiving federal entitlement grants – funds allocated to participating jurisdictions based upon a formula of population and poverty characteristics. In fact, the AAP is only one part of an extensive community development process designed to plan for long- and short-term solutions to improving the lives of low- and moderate-income individuals. This process has been specifically developed to assist in mapping strategies for community development and making proper use of available resources.

Importance of the Annual Action Plan

The large majority of resources discussed within the AAP are derived from tax dollars. This alone warrants a need to use funds and other resources in a prudent manner. The AAP reports to HUD and the general public the anticipated way in which resources made available through tax dollars will be utilized and provides an additional forum for community input into the community development process.

Further, the AAP provides a means by which HUD can ensure proper and efficient use of resources. By requiring the AAP, HUD not only has an opportunity to review for appropriate use of funds, but also has a benchmark document by which Harris County's performance can be evaluated.

The AAP includes 1) a discussion of available resources, 2) an explanation of the allocation process, 3) a summary and brief analysis of proposed allocations, and 4) strategies for monitoring appropriate use of those resources. Each topic is further divided and discussed as necessary to make the process understandable to members of the general public.