

## Executive Summary

Harris County anticipates receiving \$17,313,147 for use towards community development activities for Program Year 2004 (PY2004), which begins August 1, 2004 and ends July 31, 2005. HUD determines the allocation amount based on Harris County service area's population, poverty, housing overcrowding, and age of housing. Based on this funding formula, the total HUD Entitlement Grant funds will be comprised of \$12,729,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$3,878,760 in HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, \$469,021 in Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds, \$236,366 in American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) funds and an estimated \$112,500 in program income.

In accordance with HUD's philosophy of comprehensive community development, Harris County Community and Economic Development Department (CEDD) is proposing to fund 48 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 PY2004 project allocations total \$12,377,793 in a combination of CDBG, HOME, ESG and ADDI funds. The following matrix reflects Harris County's funding allocations by subject area:

Consolidated Plan Need Area	Number of Projects	Amount Allocated
Housing	6	\$3,811,866
Homelessness	9	\$1,004,709
Economic and Workforce Development	1	\$125,000
Infrastructure	8	\$3,909,681
Public Facilities	3	\$1,614,000
Public Services	14	\$1,353,876
Special Needs	2	\$81,661
Crime Awareness	3	\$214,500
Other *	2	\$375,000
<b>Total Allocations</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>\$12,490,293</b>
Unprogrammed Funds		\$2,153,227
Administration		\$2,782,127
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>\$17,425,647</b>

\*Projects classified in the *Other* category include one demolition/nuisance abatement project and administration funds for the Coalition for the Homeless.

Harris County CEDD 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 2004 Annual Action Plan is the County's blueprint for facilitating change within lower-income communities and ultimately improving the quality of life in Harris County.

## Introduction

The Annual Action Plan is the annual update to the five-year Consolidated Plan, which sets forth the County's long-term community development goals and strategies. The AAP process has been specifically created to assist in mapping one-year actions for community development and making good use of available federal, state, and local resources.

In addition, the AAP 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, 2004 and July 31, 2005. 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.

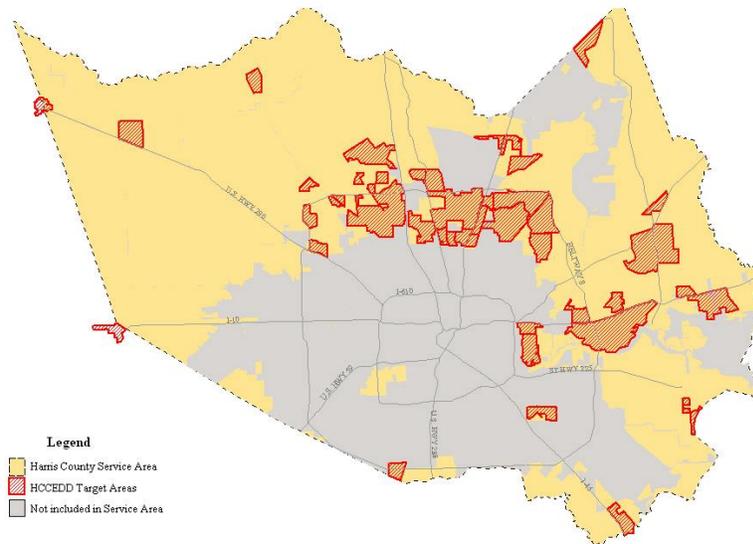
Resources available through the County are almost exclusively dedicated toward improvement of living conditions for low- and moderate-income individuals. Low- and moderate-income is defined as earning less than 95 percent of the median family income (MFI). The MFI for the Houston, Texas, Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area is \$61,000 for a family of four. *Table 1* denotes low- and moderate-income limits for PY2004.

**Table 1: FY 2004 Low and Moderate Income Levels**

Income Levels*	% of MFI	Amount
30% of Median	0-30%	\$18,300
Very-Low Income	31-50%	\$30,500
Low Income	51-80%	\$48,800
Moderate Income	81-95%	\$57,950

*\*Based on a family of four  
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 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 long- and short-term solutions for 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 county 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 a discussion of available resources, an explanation of the allocation process, a summary and brief analysis of proposed allocations, and 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.