

Executive Summary

Harris County anticipates receiving \$13,266,425 for use towards community development activities during Program Year 2012 (PY2012), which begins March 1, 2012 and ends February 28, 2013. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) determines this allocation amount based on Harris County's Service Area population, poverty, housing overcrowding and age of housing. Based on this, the total HUD Entitlement Grant funds will be comprised of \$10,400,428 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds, \$2,012,116 in HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program funds, \$853,881 in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funds, \$1,099,596 in prior year funds plus an estimated \$31,223 in program income for a total of \$14,397,244.

In preparation for the proposed Congressional Appropriation cuts to HUD entitlement funding, Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD), in conjunction with the Harris County Budget Department, is proposing to fund a total of \$7,621,756 in a combination of CDBG, HOME and ESG funds. The 30 projects in this action plan address the PY2008-2012 Consolidated Plan's priority need areas of housing, homelessness, infrastructure, public services and other.

The following matrix reflects Harris County's funding allocations by Consolidated Plan Need area:

Consolidated Plan Need Area	Number of Projects	Amount Allocated
Housing	6	\$2,853,403
Homelessness	10	\$571,099
Infrastructure	2	\$1,624,825
Public Services	10	\$814,016
Other *	2	\$1,758,413
Total Allocations	30	\$8,724,099
Unprogrammed Funds		\$3,325,061
Administration		\$2,350,831
Total Funds		\$14,399,991

**Projects classified in the Other category include a demolition/nuisance abatement, economic development and planning project.*

Although additional applications were evaluated during the PY2012 competitive RFP process, selected projects were conservatively chosen due to the proposed funding cuts. Thus, viable projects that are able to expend funds are pending release of HUD contracts and may be funded depending on the extent of the funding cuts.

Harris County 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 PY2012 Annual Action Plan (AAP) is the County's blueprint for facilitating change within lower-income communities and ultimately improving the quality of life in Harris County.

Introduction

The AAP is the annual update to the five-year Consolidated Plan, which sets forth Harris County's long-term community development goals and strategies. Program Year 2012 will be the last year of the PY08-PY12 Consolidated Plan for Harris County. 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 HUD, toward improving the quality of life for Harris County residents. Resources reported in this document will be available between March 1, 2012 and February 28, 2013.

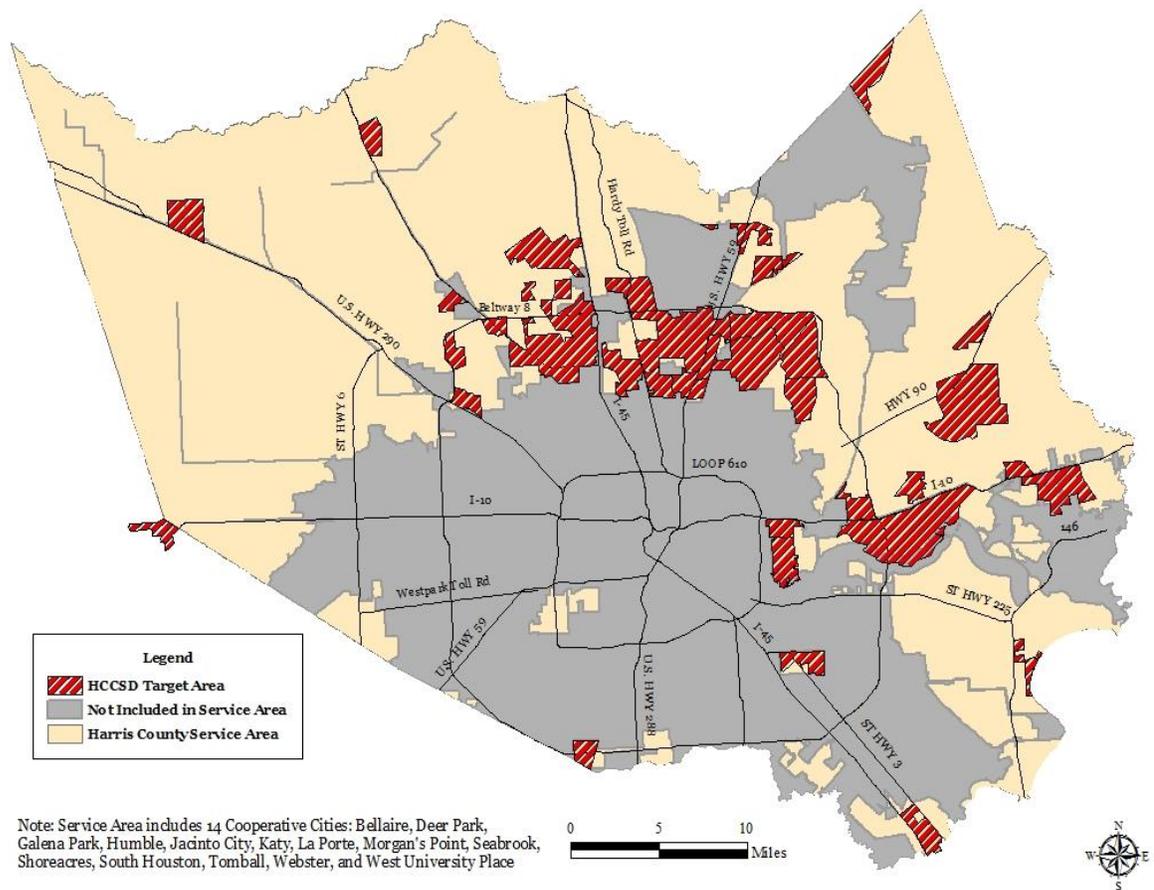
The majority of these resources are utilized within Harris County's Service Area (*Map 1*), which includes unincorporated Harris County and fourteen smaller cities within the County which have signed cooperative agreements with Harris County. The cities of Baytown, Houston, Missouri City, Pearland, League City, and Pasadena 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 improving the living conditions for low-income individuals. Low-income is defined as earning less than 80 percent of the median family income (MFI). The MFI for the Houston, Texas, Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area is \$66,000 for a family of four. *Table 1* denotes MFI limits for FY2011.

Table 1: FY 2011 Median Family Income (MFI) Limits*

Income Levels*	% of MFI	Amount
Extremely Low Income	0-30%	\$19,800
Very-Low Income	31-50%	\$33,000
Low Income	51-80%	\$52,800

**Based on a family of four*
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
<http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il/il2011/2011summary.odn>



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-income individuals. This process has been specifically developed to assist in creating 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 federal tax dollars. This alone warrants a need to use funds and other resources in a prudent manner. The AAP serves as a report to HUD and the general public of the anticipated manner 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.