

Resources Available

The Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) has grown to become an organization funded through a variety of federal and non-federal funds from a variety of grants including CDBG, HOME, ESG, CDBG-R, HPRP, State CDBG Disaster Recovery, Federal Transit Administration and Neighborhood Stabilization Program. In addition to HCCSD, many other public and private agencies and other County departments offer services to low-income persons and, in many cases, complement community development efforts.

Federal Entitlement Resources

Harris County receives funds through three major formula grants issued by HUD: CDBG, HOME and ESG. Harris County anticipates receiving \$13,266,425 in CDBG, HOME and ESG funds in addition to \$31,223 in program income for PY2012. Appendix B details Source of Program Income for PY2012.

Figure 1: Anticipated PY2012 Entitlement Funds Allocation

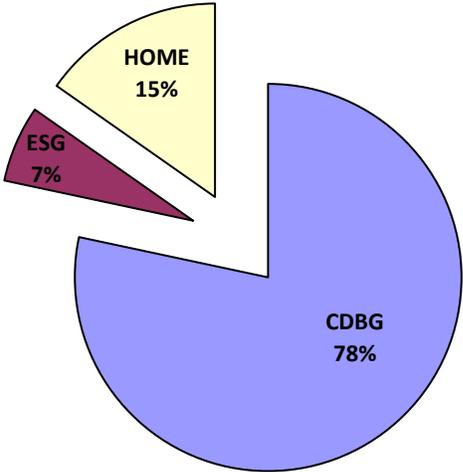


Table 2: Harris County Entitlement Funds, changes from PY2009 to PY2012

Program Year	CDBG	HOME	ESG	TOTAL
2009	\$9,933,074	\$3,714,611	\$478,553	\$14,126,238
2010	\$11,683,390	\$3,706,885	\$474,270	\$15,864,545
2011	\$9,830,921	\$3,270,075	\$473,344	\$13,574,340
2012	\$10,400,428	\$2,012,116	\$853,881	\$13,266,425

Table 3: Harris County PY2012 Funding Sources

Entitlement Grants	
CDBG	\$10,400,428
HOME	\$2,012,116
ESG	\$853,881
Total Entitlement Grants	\$13,266,425
Total (Estimated) Program Income	
CDBG Subtotal	\$23,720
HOME Subtotal	\$7,503
Total Estimated Program Income	\$31,223
Total PY2012 Funding Sources*	\$13,297,648

**Does not include prior year funding.*

As an urban county, Harris County receives funds to cover all of unincorporated Harris County in addition to fourteen smaller cities within the county that agree to allow services within their jurisdiction. There are four entitlement jurisdictions within Harris County that receive HUD funds: Harris County and the cities of Houston, Pasadena, and Baytown. Cumulatively, these jurisdictions will receive approximately \$75 million in CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA entitlement funds. The portion received by Harris County accounts for a little more than 20 percent of those funds. The City of Houston, on the other hand, represents 74 percent of the combined funds.

Largely, as a result of their proximity to Harris County and the region's significant growth, Fort Bend County, Brazoria County, and Montgomery County have also been designated as urban counties. In comparison to Houston and Harris County, the entitlement funds available to these counties remain small, but they play an important role in addressing regional community revitalization.

Table 4: Entitlement Funds throughout the Area, FY2011¹

	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	TOTAL
Harris County	\$10,400,428	\$2,012,116	\$853,881	\$0	\$13,266,425
Houston	\$27,342,559	\$12,414,905	\$1,327,628	\$7,127,183	\$48,212,275
Pasadena	\$1,733,343	\$716,790	\$84,322	\$0	\$2,534,455
Baytown	\$749,347	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$749,347
League City	\$268,884	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$268,884
Missouri City	\$271,279	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$271,279
Pearland	\$277,102	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$277,102
Sugar Land	\$306,988	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$306,988
Galveston	\$1,316,932	\$522,408	\$0	\$0	\$1,839,340
Fort Bend County	\$1,817,597	\$492,073	\$86,509	\$0	\$2,396,179
Brazoria County	\$1,706,381	\$621,460	\$82,575	\$0	\$2,410,416
Montgomery County	\$1,690,428	\$455,535	\$81,090	\$0	\$2,227,053
Total	\$47,881,268	\$17,235,287	\$2,516,005	\$7,127,183	\$74,759,743

¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Community Planning and Development Program Formula FY 2011 Allocations are current as of September 30, 2011
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/budget/budget10/states/tx.xls>

Other Resources - Federal

In an effort to further its pursuit of decent, affordable housing, a suitable living environment, economic opportunities and overall improvement in the quality of life for low-income persons throughout the service area, Harris County continues to pursue competitive grants which complement the County’s entitlement resources.

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CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding

In 2012, HCCSD will continue to work with the nearly \$106 million dollars received from the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Funds Round 1 to provide assistance to those affected by Hurricanes Dolly and Ike. These funds continue to assist with the needs of predominantly low to moderate income persons to help rebuild homes and infrastructure severely damaged as a result of the storms. Of the allocation, approximately \$32 million has been made available to provide housing assistance and \$46 million for non-housing infrastructure activities. HCCSD has utilized the housing assistance to launch the Harris County Homeowner’s Disaster Recovery Program (HDRP). The program enables eligible Harris County homeowners to repair and reconstruct homes that sustained significant damage from Hurricane Ike. HCCSD will also begin working with TGLO as part of the funding allocation for Round 2.2. This allocation will bring approximately \$48 million for non-housing activities and \$50 million for housing activities.

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Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)

Harris County will continue to utilize its allocation of nearly \$6 million in NSP and NSP3 funding from HUD to construct affordable senior housing as well as implement the Homeownership Made Easy (H.O.M.E.) Program.

Under the H.O.M.E. Program, Harris County purchases and rehabs foreclosed single family houses and resells them to qualified low, moderate and middle income families in Harris County. Utilizing NSP funding and related Program Income, Harris County has assisted in the creation of an affordable senior development, as well as, creatively promoted home ownership opportunities to income eligible Harris county residents having completed the HUD required minimum eight hours of housing counseling.

Federal Transit Administration

Harris County has become a regular recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding and receives FTA funding for use in areas outside of the METRO service area. Funding has been programmed for various projects in multiple locations within Harris County including:

- A Park and Ride at Garth Road and Interstate 10 in the City of Baytown. This Park and Ride service assists individuals getting to and from their jobs within the Central Business District of Houston as well as the Texas Medical Center. The Baytown Park & Ride service not only provides commuter transportation but this service is instrumental in reducing the number of vehicles traveling the Interstate 10 corridor from eastern Harris County to downtown Houston. This reduction in vehicle travel makes a significant reduction in vehicle emissions. This service has evolved from a pilot status to a permanent service that provides 2,500 trips a month from Baytown to the Central Business District.
- Local fixed route service in the City of Baytown. This local service began in 2008 through a partnership with Lee College and the City of Baytown. Harris County Transit was awarded \$992,000 in ARRA funds to provide a third route in Baytown, construct bus shelters in Baytown and to purchase an electronic fare media system for the RIDES program that will be expanded to all of the Harris County Transit service. Since its inception in July 2008 the Baytown Fixed Route service has provided over 130,000 passenger trips within the City of Baytown. Through the ARRA grant program, 25 bus shelters with solar battery lighting have been installed throughout Baytown.
- Operation of an elderly /disabled non-emergency demand response transit service for qualifying residents who live outside the METRO service area.
- Harris County has been awarded \$3,115,992 in FTA 5307 Funds to be used for continued operation of the Baytown Bus Service, RIDES and the Non Emergency Medical Transit programs.
- RIDES is administered by the Harris County Community Services Department Office of Transit Services.
- All transit services are fully ADA accessible.

- A project was begun in January 2010 using SSBG funds for fixed route bus services from South Houston to La Porte Route, La Porte to Clear Lake Route and the Baytown to Crosby Extension. The SSBG funds were extended by Congress through September 2011, which allowed local entities to opt to continue bus service under the FTA 5307 Urban Formula funding. The City of Pasadena, the City of La Porte and San Jacinto College have opted to retain the fixed route service after the project demonstrated an overall 56% increase in ridership from inception, using city and college general funding as match to the FTA 5307 funds from the County.
- The current Pasadena, La Porte and San Jacinto College routes operate four buses along the Spencer Highway and Fairmont Parkway corridors. This service links to the Metro #40 Telephone Road bus route as well as providing access to numerous retail, medical, educational and employment locations throughout the service area.

Other Resources - Non-Federal

Commented [s4]: Email the people responsible for the following programs on 10/4/2011.

State Funding

Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) provide a financial incentive to developers to build affordable rental units for low-income families and individuals. At the time the PY2012 AAP was approved by Commissioner's Court, Harris County had received notice from 29 developers of their intent to apply for LIHTC and construct a total of 4,352 affordable rental housing units in 29 developments within the Harris County service area.

Other Sources of Funding

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ). Harris County utilizes special TIRZ funds designated for the creation of affordable housing to provide additional funding for homeless shelters, down payment assistance, and other affordable housing related projects. These funds are utilized to provide assistance to eligible participants in the form of loans and grants, in order to increase the availability of affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing to low-income individuals and families.

General Utility Assistance. HCCSD, through a combination of funding from Emergency Assistance, EFSP Phase 29, Reliant CARE, TXU Energy Aid, and CDBG County has been awarded \$1,312,083.00 to assist eligible customers with utility assistance. While each program has individual eligibility requirements, all provide assistance to low-income households on the verge of utility disconnection or whose services have been disrupted due to economic hardship.

Commented [s5]: Updated information from Roxanne Henry on 10/7/11

County Departments. HCCSD represents only one of the many departments within Harris County working to improve the quality of life for all Harris County residents, including those low-income individuals and families within Harris County's HUD service area. In fact, the majority of County departments work toward improving quality of life and enhancing community revitalization. Even without the use of HUD funds, the County's many departments serve families through prevention, investigation, protective services, and treatment of sexually abused children. At the same time, they serve thousands of persons in education, health, public services, and public safety -- all priorities of the Consolidated Plan.

Furthermore, infrastructure and civic enrichment are always priorities with 6,504 road miles maintained by Harris County precincts as well as 167 parks and community centers.

Analysis of PY2012 grant awards in the major areas of the PY2008-2012 Consolidated Plan, such as housing, public facilities, infrastructure, youth services and health, indicate that activities implemented in other County departments complement those funded through HCCSD. For example, the Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services Department spends a large amount of its annual budget providing health services such as immunization, prenatal care, and pediatric health care.