

PY 2014 Annual Action Plan Highlights

Harris County will receive \$15,702,816 for use towards community development activities during Program Year 2014 (PY2014), which begins March 1, 2014 and ends February 28, 2015. 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.

On December 3, 2013, Harris County Commissioners Court approved the PY2014 Annual Action Plan (AAP), for the allocation of Harris County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program funds. As part of the Request for Proposals and award process, projects selected for funding were conditionally awarded and subject to the actual annual allocation from HUD. For PY2014, Harris County conditionally awarded \$11,799,679 in CDBG funding, \$758,773 in ESG funding and \$2,699,905 in HOME funds. On March 18, 2014, the Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) received notice from HUD of Harris County's actual PY2014 allocation. Based on this, the total HUD Entitlement Grant funds will be comprised of \$11,844,232 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds, \$2,899,993 in HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program funds, \$958,591 in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funds plus an estimated \$32,616 in program income for a total of \$15,735,432.

Harris County Entitlement Funds from PY2009 to PY2014

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
2013	\$11,799,679	\$2,699,905	\$758,773	\$15,258,357
2014	\$11,844,232	\$2,899,993	\$958,591	\$15,702,816

HCCSD is proposing to fund a total of \$8,657,023 in CDBG, HOME and ESG funds. The 38 projects in this action plan address the PY2013-2017 Consolidated Plan's priority need areas of housing, homelessness, infrastructure, public services and other.

The following matrix reflects Harris County's funding allocations, including anticipated program income, by Consolidated Plan Need area:

Consolidated Plan Need Area	Number of Projects	Amount Allocated
Housing	4	\$1,867,503
Homelessness	11	\$1,303,852
Infrastructure	4	\$2,970,478
Public Facilities	2	\$1,250,000
Public Services	15	\$1,137,806
Other *	2	\$160,000
Total Allocations	38	\$8,689,639
Unprogrammed Funds		\$4,325,054
Administration		\$2,720,739
Total Funds		\$15,735,432

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

Although additional applications were evaluated during the PY2014 competitive RFP process, selected projects were conservatively chosen due to limited available funding. 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.

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 PY2014 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.

Measurement of Outcomes	For Coming Year
Homeless served/Homeless Prevention	2,064
New Single-Family Housing Construction	0
New Multi-Family Housing Construction	0
Rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing units	24
Rehabilitation of owner-occupied LBP housing units	25
Acquisition of existing Multi-Family units	0
Services to Youth (including services for abused/neglected children)	2,780
Services to Seniors	880
Services to Disabled	0
Transportation Services	1,320
Services to Abused/Neglected Children	485
Health Services	0

Direct Homeownership	70
Public Facilities Completed	2
Infrastructure Projects Completed	5

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 2014 is the second year of the PY2013-PY2017 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, 2014 and February 28, 2015.

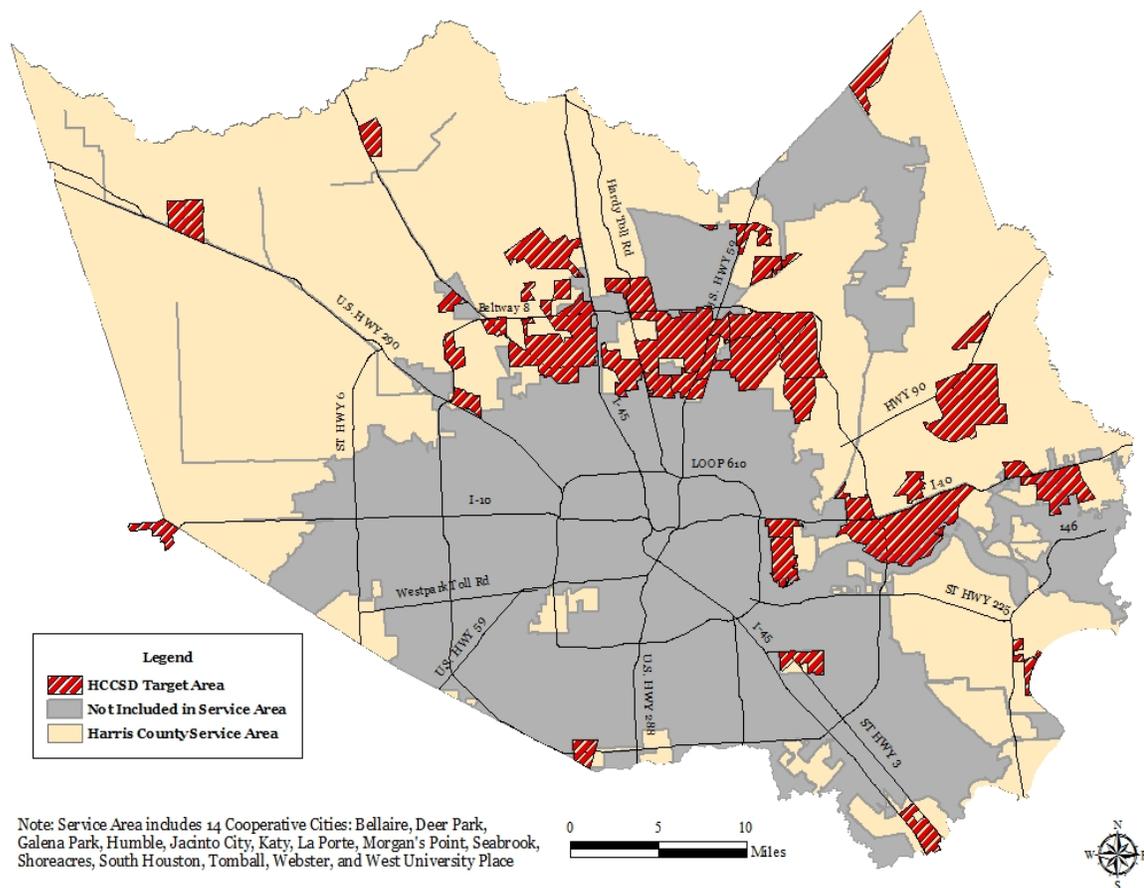
The majority of these resources are utilized within Harris County's Service Area (*Map 1*), which includes unincorporated Harris County and fourteen smaller cities within the County which have signed cooperative agreements with Harris County. The cities of Baytown, Houston, Missouri City, Pearland, League City, and Pasadena are entitlement communities that 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 \$66,200 for a family of four. *Table 1* denotes MFI limits for FY2013.

Table 1: FY 2013 Median Family Income (MFI) Limits*

Income Levels*	% of MFI	Amount
Extremely Low Income	0-30%	\$20,000
Very-Low Income	31-50%	\$33,300
Low Income	51-80%	\$53,300

**Based on a family of four
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
<http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il/il14/tx.pdf>*



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.