

Definitions

Act. Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

Affirmative Fair Housing Objective: To enforce the Fair Housing Act of 1988 in order to minimize discrimination against any person because of race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, disability, familial status, or national origin.

Age of housing. Means the number of year-round housing units.

AIDS: *Auto Immune Deficiency Syndrome* (also see persons with AIDS).

American Housing Survey. A source of information for frequent and up-to-date information on the Nation's housing supply. Collected for the Department of Housing and Urban Development by the Housing and Household Economics Statistics Division. (Formerly the Annual Housing Survey)

American Housing Survey - Metropolitan Sample. Provides data on selected housing and demographic characteristics. The metropolitan sample is conducted in 44 metropolitan areas on a rotating basis.

Apartment complexes: An assemblage of buildings, made up of rooms or suites of rooms designed to live in and located in a building occupied by more than one household, that together form a single comprehensive group.

Area of Low and Moderate Income Concentration: An area consisting of one or more adjacent block groups in which 51 percent or more of total persons are considered low or moderate income according to definitions and figures provided by HUD.

Area of Minority Concentration: An area consisting of one or more adjacent block groups in which 51 percent or more of total persons are classified as "minority." HCHCDA defines minority to include all ethnic groups other than Non-Hispanic Whites.

Assisted housing: The subsidization of an individual's rent based on their total household income. HCHCDA provides assisted housing to households in its service area, more commonly known as Section 8.

Barrier-free environment: Circumstances or conditions surrounding a person that are free from hindrances or restrictions.

Battered woman: Any woman who is physically, emotionally, verbally, or sexually abused.

Block Group. The groups of blocks in the areas where data for the 1980 decennial census were reported by block. For the 1990 decennial census the entire country was blocked. A BG comprises all census blocks that have the same first digit in a census tract or the block numbering area. For purposes of data tabulation BGs are equivalent to the tabulated enumeration districts used in the 1970-1980 decennial censuses.

Bureau of the Census: A general purpose statistical agency that collects, tabulates, and publishes a wide variety of data about the people and the economy of the nation. This information is generally used by Congress, the Executive Branch, and the public in the development and evaluation of programs.

CDBG: Community Development Block Grant. Program that provides federal aid to promote sound community development. Entitlement communities, such as Harris County, develop their own programs and funding priorities and consult with local residents before making final decisions. All CDBG activities must benefit low- and moderate-income persons; aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight; or address other community development needs that present a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

CSD Community Services Department. The Community Services Department is committed to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Harris County, Texas, by creating housing and economic opportunities, in promoting civic enrichment, and through supporting special services and programs, while stabilizing the infrastructure of its neighborhoods.

Certification. A written assertion based on supporting evidence, that must be kept available for inspection by HUD, by the Inspector General of HUD, and by the public. The assertion shall be deemed to be accurate unless HUD determines otherwise, after inspecting the evidence and providing due notice and opportunity for comment.

Census Tract. A small, relatively permanent, homogenous subdivision of metropolitan areas and selected non-metropolitan counties, delineated for the purpose of presenting census data.

CFR: The Code of Federal Regulations. The CFR is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register* by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. The CFR is divided into 50 titles which represent broad areas subject to federal regulation.

CHAS: The Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy. CHAS was created by the Cranston-Gonzalez Act of 1990 and was required of all entitlement areas to insure that these areas were planning for the housing and related needs of the extremely low-, low- and moderate-income residents of the Service Area. The Consolidated Plan replaces the CHAS.

Chief Executive Officer of a State or unit of general local government. The elected official or the legally designated official, who has the primary responsibility for the conduct of that entity's governmental affairs. Examples of the "chief executive officer" of a unit of general local government are: the elected mayor of a municipality; the elected county executive of a county;

the chairperson of a county commission or board in a county that has no elected county executive; and the official designated pursuant to law by the governing body of unit of general local government.

Chronically homeless: Continually or repeatedly having no home or place of residence.

Citizen Participation Plan: Requirements designed especially to encourage participation by very low-and low-income persons, particularly those living in slum and blighted areas and in areas where CDBG funds are proposed to be used. Jurisdictions are expected to take whatever actions are appropriate to encourage the participation of all its citizens, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with mobility, visual, or hearing impairments.

City means the following:

- (1) For purposes of Entitlement Community Development Block Grant and Urban Development Action Grant eligibility:
 - (i) Any unit of general local government that is classified as a municipality by the United States Bureau of the Census, or
 - (ii) Any other unit of general local government that is a town or township and that, in the determination of the Secretary:
 - (A) Possesses powers and performs functions comparable to those associated with municipalities;
 - (B) Is closely settled (except that the Secretary may reduce or waive this requirement on a case by case basis for the purposes of the Action Grant program); and
 - (C) Contains within its boundaries no incorporated places as defined by the United States Bureau of the Census that have not entered into cooperation agreements with the town or township for a period covering at least 3 years to undertake or assist in the undertaking of essential community development and housing assistance activities. The determination of eligibility of a town or township to qualify as a city will be based on information available from the United States Bureau of the Census and information provided by the town or township and its included units of general local government.
- (2) For purposes of Urban Development Action Grant eligibility only, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii in the State of Hawaii, and Indian tribes that are eligible recipients under the State and Local Government Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 and located on reservations in Oklahoma as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or in Alaskan Native Villages.

City of Baytown: The third largest incorporated city in Harris County. Baytown is a CDBG entitlement community.

City of Houston: The largest incorporated city in Harris County and fourth largest city in the United States. Houston is a CDBG entitlement community.

City of Pasadena: The second largest incorporated city in Harris County. Pasadena is a CDBG

entitlement community.

Civil Rights Act: A United States law that bans discrimination because of a person's color, race, nationality, origin, religion, or sex.

Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area. An area defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a Federal statistical standard. In metropolitan areas where Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs) are defined, the larger area of which the PMSAs are components is designated a CMSA.

Consolidated plan (or "*the plan*"). The document that is submitted to HUD that serves as the planning document (comprehensive housing affordability strategy and community development plan) of the jurisdiction and an application for funding under any of the Community Planning and Development formula grant programs (CDBG, ESG, HOME, or HOPWA), which is prepared in accordance with the process prescribed in this part.

Consortium. An organization of geographically contiguous units of general local government that are acting as a single unit of general local government for purposes of the HOME program .

Cost burden. The extent to which gross housing costs, including utility costs, exceed 30 percent of gross income, based on data available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Comments and complaints: The Consolidated Plan requires the jurisdiction to consider any comments or views of citizens (or units of general local government) received in writing, or orally at public hearings, in preparing the final consolidated plan, amendment of the plan, or performance report. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons thereof, shall be attached to the final consolidated plan, amendment of the plan, or performance report.

Community Development Plan: Identifies community development and housing needs and specifies both short-term and long-term community development objectives that have been developed in accordance with the primary objective of the statute authorizing the CDBG program.

Comprehensive grant program: Compilation of federal grant programs that includes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

Comprehensive plans: The primary purpose is to solve problems of community interest with a systematic formula. As such, this comprehensive plan should be used as: (1) A means by which public and private community decision can be evaluated; (2) A basis for budget and capital improvement planning; (3) A means of establishing funding priorities; (4) A guide to the general public regarding community needs; and (5) A basis for balancing strategies for economic development and enhanced quality of life.

Consolidated Plan (CP): Document submitted to HUD that serves as the comprehensive planning document of the jurisdiction and application for funding under any of the Community Planning and Development formula grant programs. The process is discussed in the Final Rule process described in the Federal Register dated January 5, 1995, Part VI, 24 CFR Part 91, et al.

Consortium: An organization of geographically contiguous units of general local government that act as a single unit of general local government for purposes of the HOME program (see 24 CFR part 92).

Cost: An amount paid or to be paid for a purchase, property or service.

Cost burden: The extent to which gross housing costs, including utility costs, exceeds 30 percent of an individual's gross income, based on data available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Criteria for amendment to plan: The Consolidated Plan must specify the criteria the jurisdiction will use for determining what constitutes a substantial change in the jurisdiction's planned or actual activities that requires an amendment to the consolidated plan. It must address such issues as changes in the use of CDBG funds from one eligible activity to another or changes in the method of distribution of such funds.

Disproportionately greater need: A person or group of persons who have a statistically higher percentage of need than the average patterns of an area.

Economic development: Process of revitalizing the economy through various tools, techniques, and development of programs.

Elderly persons: HCCDD defines an elderly person as a person at least 65 years of age. However, in some cases, such as "non-homeless special needs populations", HCCDD, as required, classifies an elderly person as a person at least 62 years of age.

Elderly household. That which contains one or more persons aged sixty-five (65) or older.

Emergency shelter: Any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.

Empowerment zone: An area so designated by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to improve the overall economic and viability of a general area with at least 100 million dollars in federal block grants.

Enterprise community: An area so designated by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to improve the overall economic and viability of a general area with at least 3 million dollars in federal block grants.

Entitlement amount. The amount of funds which a metropolitan city or urban county is entitled to receive under the Entitlement grant program, as determined by formula set forth in section 106 of the Act.

Entitlement cities: Cities with populations over 50,000. The amount of the grant for each entitlement community is determined by a statutory formula which uses several objective measures of community need, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population growth lag in relation to all metro statistical areas. Harris County, the City of Houston, the City of Pasadena, and the City of Baytown are entitlement jurisdictions.

ESG: Emergency Solutions Grant. A program that provides grants for safe, sanitary shelter, supportive services, and other assistance to homeless people and families.

Ethnicity: Belonging or relating to a religious, racial, national, or cultural group.

Extremely low-income family: A family whose income is between 0 percent and 30 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families.

Extent of poverty. The number of persons whose incomes are below the poverty level based on data compiled and published by the United States Bureau of the Census available from the latest census referable to the same point or period in time and the latest reports from the Office of Management and Budget. For purposes of this part, the Secretary has determined that it is neither feasible nor appropriate to make adjustments at this time in the computations of "extent of poverty" for regional or area variations in income and cost of living.

Fair market rent (FMR): The rent established by HUD in accordance with 24 CFR part 888, including utilities (except telephone), ranges and refrigerators, and all maintenance, management, and other services, that would be required to be paid in order to rent privately owned decent, safe, and sanitary rental housing of a modest (non-luxury) nature with suitable amenities in the market area. Fair market rents for existing housing are published annually in the *Federal Register*.

Federal Register (FR): Provides a uniform system for making available to the public regulations and legal notices issued by federal agencies.

Frail Elderly. Individuals aged sixty-five (65) or older who cannot perform without assistance at least three (3) "activities of daily living" (ADL), i.e. toiling, eating, moving from bed to chair, dressing and leaving the house.

FWSD: Fresh Water Supply District. (See MUD) **Family.** All persons living in the same household who are related by birth, marriage or adoption.

General households: All the persons who occupied a housing unit such as a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room.

Goals: The objectives toward which an endeavor is directed. **Homeless family with children.** A family composed of the following types of homeless persons: at least one parent or guardian and one child under the age of 18; a pregnant woman; or a person in the process of securing legal custody of a person under the age of 18.

Harris County Commissioners Court: Administrative body of county government and advisory body to Harris County Housing and Community Development Agency.

HCHA: The Harris County Housing Authority mission is to provide safe, decent and sanitary housing conditions for very low- and extremely-low income families and to manage resources efficiently.

HIV: Human immunodeficiency virus. A retro virus that causes AIDS.

HOME: The HOME program provides grants to states, units of general local government, and Indian tribes to implement local housing strategies designed to increase home ownership and affordable housing opportunities for low- and very low-income Americans..

Homeless family with children: A family composed of the following types of homeless persons: at least one parent or guardian and one child under the age of 18; a pregnant woman; or a person in the process of securing legal custody of a person under the age of 18.

Homeless person. A youth (17 years or younger) not accompanied by an adult (18 years or older) or an adult without children, who is homeless (not imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a State law), including the following:

- (1) An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
- (2) An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
 - (i) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
 - (ii) An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
 - (iii) A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Homeless subpopulations: Homeless subpopulations include but are not limited to the following categories of homeless persons: severely mentally ill only, alcohol/drug addicted only, severely mentally ill and alcohol/drug addicted, fleeing domestic violence, youth, and persons with HIV/AIDS.

Homeless youth: Those homeless persons under 18 years of age who have left home either by force or by personal choice.

Homelessness: When an individual (not imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a State law) or family who: (1) Lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and (2) Has a primary nighttime residence that is: (I) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); (ii) An institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or (iii) A public or private place designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Homeownership: A household that owns the housing unit it occupies.

HOPE 3: The HOPE for Homeownership of Single Family Homes Program, which is authorized by Title IV, Subtitle C of the National Affordable Housing Act.

HOPWA: The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS.

Household. All the persons who occupy a housing unit. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements.

Housing Quality Standards (HQS): Median criteria established by HUD in the HUD handbook 7420.8 for all units particularly in the Section 8 programs. All units must meet the safe decent and sanitary housing ordinances as defined in 7420.8.

Housing rehabilitation: The improvement of a property to decent, safe and sanitary condition.

Housing stock. The number of existing housing units based on data compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census and referable to the same point or period in time.

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

income: Earnings from all sources of each member of the household as determined in accordance with criteria established by HUD.

incorporated area: Combined into one body or unit; united; usually considered a municipality or city.

information infrastructure: refers to the variety of transmission available for the sharing of information. This can include phone lines, TV cables, fiber optic cables, satellite links and cellular (microwave) transmitters. Much like a modern highway system, it is the route by which information is taken to market for exchange.

infrastructure: The basic foundation of facilities and equipment (e.g. water, sewerage, power, roads, etc.) which are necessary for the functioning.

Jurisdiction. A State or unit of general local government.

jurisdictions: The territorial range over which an authority extends.

large family: A household of five or more persons.

lead-based paint hazards: Any condition that causes exposure to lead from lead-contaminated dust, soil, or paint that is deteriorated or present in accessible surfaces, friction surfaces, or impact surfaces that would result in adverse human health effects as established by the appropriate federal agency. Lead-based paint hazards as defined in part 35, subpart B of this title.

leveraging: Use of credit in order to improve one's speculative capacity.

Low-income family. Family whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 80 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD's findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

Low-income household. A household having an income equal to or less than the Section 8 low-income limit established by HUD.

Low-income person. Means a member of a family having an income equal to or less than the Section 8 low-income limit established by HUD. Unrelated individuals will be considered as one-person families for this purpose.

Low-income household. Means a household having an income equal to or less than the Section 8 very low-income limit established by HUD.

marital status: A state of affairs of or relating to marriage.

median age of housing: Represents the exact middle age in which area housing was constructed.

median family income: The exact middle when the income distribution of the specified area is divided into two equal parts, with one half of the distribution falling above the middle point and one half below that same point.

middle-income family: A family whose income is between 80 percent and 95 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families.

minority concentration: HCHCDA determines an area of minority concentration as a U.S. Census block group in which more than 50 percent of persons are non-White.

mobile homes: A house trailer serving as a permanent home and usually hooked up to utilities.

MUD: Municipal Utility District. Taxing entities authorized under Texas law to make it easier to

begin or expand subdivisions in unincorporated areas of Harris County. These governmental entities are initiated by developers and authorized by the state to sell bonds and collect taxes to raise money for the operation of wells and transmission/distribution lines, water treatment plants, wastewater facilities and streets.

Metropolitan area. Means a standard metropolitan statistical area as established by the Office of Management and Budget.

Metropolitan City.

(A) a city within a metropolitan area which is the central city of such area, as defined and used by the Office of Management and Budget, or

(B) any other city, within a metropolitan area, which has a population of fifty thousand or more

Middle-income family. Family whose income is between 80 percent and 95 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 95 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD's findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes. (This corresponds to the term "*moderate income family*" under the CHAS statute, 42 U.S.C. 12705.)

Mortgage Payment. The amounts reported are included in the computation of "Selected Monthly Owner Costs" and "Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 2000" for units with a mortgage. The amounts reported include everything paid to the lender including principal and interest payments, real estate taxes, fire, hazard, and flood insurance payments, and mortgage insurance premiums. Separate questions determine whether real estate taxes and fire, hazard, and flood insurance payments are included in the mortgage payment to the lender. This makes it possible to avoid counting these components twice in the computation of "Selected Monthly Owner Costs."

needs: A condition in which there is a deficiency of something..

non-homeless, special needs populations: Includes frail elderly persons, persons with AIDS, disabled families, and persons with drug and alcohol problems as well as families participating in organized programs to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

owner-occupied housing: A housing unit is owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit, even if it is mortgaged or not fully purchased.

Occupied Housing Units. A housing unit is classified as occupied if it is the usual place of residence of the person or group of persons living in it at the time of enumeration, or if the occupants are only temporarily absent; that is, away on vacation or business. If all the persons staying in the unit at the time of the census have their usual place of residence elsewhere, the unit is classified as vacant. A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. By definition, the count of occupied housing units for 100-percent

tabulations is the same as the count of households or householders. In sample tabulations, the counts of household and occupied housing units may vary slightly because of different sample weighting methods.

Overcrowding. For purposes of describing relative housing needs, a housing unit containing more than one person per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, for which data are made available by the Census Bureau. (See 24 CFR 791.402(b).)

Owner Occupied. A housing unit is owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. The owner or co-owner must live in the unit and usually is the person listed in column 1 of the questionnaire. The unit is "Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan" if it is being purchased with a mortgage or some other debt arrangement such as a deed of trust, trust deed, contract to purchase, land contract, or purchase agreement. The unit is also considered owned with a mortgage if it is built on leased land and there is a mortgage on the unit.

persons with AIDS: Individuals with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases is the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome including infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

person with a disability: A person who is determined to:

- (1) have a physical, mental or emotional impairment that:
- (2) is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
 - (ii) substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and
 - (iii) is of such a nature that the ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; or
- (2) have a developmental disability, as defined in section 102(7) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6001-6007); or
- (3) be the surviving member or members of any family that had been living in an assisted unit with the deceased member of the family who had a disability at the time of his or her death.

population density: The amount of population in a given area.

precincts: An election district of a town, a city or a county. Harris County has four precincts.

public hearings: Meetings designed to obtain citizens views and to respond to proposals and questions in all stages of the community development program, including at least the determination of needs, the review of proposed activities and review of program performance, which hearings shall be held after adequate notice at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries and with accommodations for the handicapped.

Persons in Unit. This item is based on the 100-percent count of persons in occupied housing units. All persons occupying the housing unit are counted, including the householder, occupants related to the householder, and lodgers, roomers, boarders, and so forth. This item is based on the 100-percent count of persons in occupied housing units. All persons occupying the housing unit

are counted, including the householder, occupants related to the householder, and lodgers, roomers, boarders, and so forth.

Persons per room. Is obtained by dividing the number of persons in each occupied housing unit by the number of rooms in the unit. Persons per room is rounded to the nearest hundredth. The figures shown refer, therefore, to the number of occupied housing units having the specified ratio of persons per room.

Population. The total resident population based on data compiled and published by the United States Bureau of the Census available from the latest census or which has been upgraded by the Bureau to reflect the changes resulting from the Boundary and Annexation Survey, new incorporations and consolidations of governments pursuant to 570.4, and which reflects, where applicable, changes resulting from the Bureau's latest population determination through its estimating technique using natural changes (birth and death) and net migration, and is referable to the same point or period in time.

Poverty level family. Family with an income below the poverty line, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually.

Renter Occupied. All occupied housing units that are not owner occupied, whether they are rented for cash rent or occupied without payment of cash rent, are classified as renter occupied. "No cash rent" units are separately identified in the rent tabulations. Such units are generally provided free by friends or relatives or in exchange for services such as resident manager, caretaker, minister, or tenant farmer. Housing units on military bases also are classified in the "No cash rent" category. "Rented for cash rent" includes units in continuing care, sometimes called life care arrangements. These arrangements usually involve a contract between one or more individuals and a health services provider guaranteeing the individual shelter, usually a house or apartment, and services, such as meals or transportation to shopping or recreation.

regional economic development network: An organization comprised of entities from the Texas Gulf Coast Region which serves as an information dissemination point for their respective communities. Participants provide information about their organizations in an interconnected electronic format on the Internet.

resources: Something that can be looked to for support or aid.

runaway youth: Those homeless persons under 18 who have left home either by force or by personal choice.

rural homeless: Persons residing in country areas having no home or place of residence.

Section 8: Voucher and certificate program that assists very low-income families in finding decent, safe and sanitary rental housing.

Service Area: The HCHCDA service area is comprised of the unincorporated area of Harris

County and all incorporated areas that choose to sign cooperative agreements with the county. In 1995, the service area included 15 incorporated communities. Baytown, Houston and Pasadena, as entitlement communities, are not included in the HCHCDA service area.

severe cost burden: The extent to which gross housing costs, including utility costs, exceed 50 percent of gross income, based on data available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

severely mentally ill: A serious and persistent mental or emotional impairment that significantly limits a person's ability to live independently.

single family: Representative of one dwelling unit. Single family detached housing signifies a single, and separated dwelling unit; single family attached housing signifies single dwelling units joined by a common wall, such as townhouses.

slums and blighted areas: Deteriorated or deteriorating area under state or local law. Throughout the area there is a substantial number of deteriorated or deteriorating buildings or the public improvements are in a general state of deterioration.

SSI: Social Security Insurance. A government program providing economic assistance to persons faced with unemployment, disability, or old age, financed by assessment of employers and employee. Benefits are paid to individuals and their families on the basis of work history.

strategic plan: A strategy developed by the community development agency, with the participation and commitment of the public, private and education sectors work with citizens in developing overall goals and specific actions relative to these goals.

strategies: Plans of action.

substandard housing: A dwelling unit which is deficient in any or all of the acceptable criteria of Section 8 Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and, where applicable, the building code adopted by an incorporated area.

suitable living environment: A living environment that is not substandard or dilapidated (running water, a bathroom, and heat must be available).

supportive services: Services provided to residents of supportive housing for the purpose of facilitating the independence of residents. Some examples are case management, medical or psychological counseling and supervision, child care, transportation, and job training.

Severe cost burden. The extent to which gross housing costs, including utility costs, exceed 50 percent of gross income, based on data available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

State. Any State of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

target area: Low and moderate income communities that are designated for Community

Development Block Grant activities.

technical assistance: The facilitating of skills and knowledge in planning, developing and administering activities in entities that may need but do not possess such skills and knowledge, and includes assessing programs and activities.

tenure: The classification of all occupied housing units as either owner or renter occupied.

Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: The primary purpose of this title is the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income.

transitional shelter/housing: A project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months, or a longer period approved by HUD. For purposes of the HOME program, there is no HUD-approved time period for moving to independent living.

Unit of general local government. A city, town, township, county, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State; an urban county; and a consortium of such political subdivisions recognized by HUD in accordance with the HOME program (24 CFR part 92) or the CDBG program (24 CFR part 570).

Urban County shall have the meaning provided in section 102(a)(6) of the Act. For the purposes of this definition, HUD will determine whether the county's combined population contains the required percentage of low- and moderate-income persons by identifying the number of persons that resided in applicable areas and units of general local government based on data from the most recent decennial census, and using income limits that would have applied for the year in which that census was taken.

Vacant Housing Units. A housing unit is vacant if no one is living in it at the time of enumeration, unless its occupants are only temporarily absent. Units temporarily occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by persons who have a usual residence elsewhere also are classified as vacant. (For more information, see discussion under "Usual Home Elsewhere.")

unincorporated area: Areas of a county that are not within the corporate limits of cities, towns, villages or other form of incorporated area. For the purposes of this report unincorporated areas refers only to those areas within Harris County.

urban county: Any county within a metropolitan area which (1) is authorized under state law to undertake essential community development and housing assistance activities in its unincorporated areas, (2) has a population of 200,000 or more (excluding the population of the metropolitan area).

vacant housing: Unoccupied year round housing units (U.S. Census definition).

Very Low-income families. Low-income families whose incomes do not exceed 50 percent of the median family income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 50 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD's findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

WCID: Water Control and Improvement District.

World Wide Web: The fastest growing part of the Internet. Connects databases from around the globe, it allows users to search for information presented in a textual, graphical, audio or video format through the use of key word searches. An estimated three million computer networks are currently connected via the World Wide Web.