



Citizen Participation Plan
 County Method of Distribution
 Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster Recovery Allocation

Summary Information

Contact Information

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Citizen and Non-Governmental Organization Outreach

The county will encourage citizens, with particular emphasis on persons of low-to-moderate income and other vulnerable populations to submit their views regarding community development and housing needs resulting from the disaster(s) in the following ways:

To date, Harris County has conducted thirteen (13) open house style community meetings through the county, particularly in or near low-to moderate-income areas to discuss recovery needs. HCCSD coordinated innovative ways to market and encourage residents to attend meetings by creating a blog website, sending press releases, posting the meeting flyer on social media, knocking on doors, making phone calls to residents, sending text messages, contacting school districts, local non-profits, and direct mail. As a result, a total of 931 residents attended the community meetings. We also partnered with BakerRipley and Texas Organizing Project (TOP) to conduct meetings in their areas of Harris County and both organizations were able to solicit well over 500 residents to attend their meetings.

Cities listed in the MOD will also conduct community meetings to discuss recovery, CDBG-DR funding, unmet needs, and possible projects to assist in recovery. A public notice to the meeting will be posted to the local newspaper, city’s website, and county’s website.

A community survey is underway to assess resident needs regarding Hurricane Harvey Recovery and barriers to fair housing. So far, 569 survey have been collected. Surveys have and are available via online at social media sites and county website/blog, and in paper form at community events. Surveys were translated into English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

The County also created a grassroots community engagement toolkit called Meeting in a Box (MIB). The MIB allows individuals and community leaders to host smaller focus group meetings aimed at soliciting input on recovery needs, long term goals, and strategies for funding. The toolkit is available for download on our blog/

website. MIB facilitators are provided instructions and a script to conduct small group meetings and return the results to County staff.

The MOD documents will be posted on the county's website for a 30 day comment period. A public notice will be published in the Houston Chronicle and La Voz (Spanish newspaper), posted to website, and sent to the county's interested parties (over 400 local leaders, non-profits, etc.) via email.

The County has and will be conducting neighborhood canvassing to deliver recovery information and collect resident's comments and concerns regarding unmet needs and recovery projects. The County will perform two types of canvassing, virtual and door-to-door. 1) Under virtual canvassing, the county will send emails to those affected by Harvey in impacted areas informing them of online resources and survey and upcoming community events that County staff will be performing public engagement activities. 2) Under Door-to-Door canvassing, county staff along with community partners will go door-to-door in areas of high Harvey impact providing written resources and realtime engagement at the household level. This will allow those who may not be online to receive information and provide input. Both of the canvassing type will provide information of CDBG-DR programs and possible future projects.

The following local organizations that provide services or housing for low-to-moderate income persons, including but not limited to, the local Public Housing Authorities, the local Health and Human Services offices, the local mental health and MHMR offices, Community Development Corporations and Community Housing Development Organizations, will receive written notification concerning the date, time, location and topics to be covered at the method of distribution public hearings:

Harris County Housing Authority, Baytown Housing Authority, Pasadena Housing Office, Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD, Harris County Public Health, Harris Health (Hospital District), Legacy Community Health Services, HACS, Houston Center for Independent Living, Avondale House, Center for Hearing and Speech-Houston, Jewish Family Services, Catholic Charities, Texas Interfaith Ministries, ACAM, Salvation Army, Tejano Center, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Asian Chamber of Commerce, Chinese Community Center, Alliance for Multicultural Community Services, Sheltering Arms, HAUL, YWCA, Gulf Coast Community Services, NCI, United Way of Greater Houston, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Coalition for the Homeless, Healthcare for the Homeless, SEARCH, Greater Houston, Builders Assoc, Houston Apartment Assoc, Cloudbreak Houston, Lone Star Legal Aid, Temenos Housing (CHDO) and approximately 400 other non-profits, housing providers, and social services providers on our County Interested Parties List (attached)

The following organizations interested in fair housing issues and representing protected classes of individuals will be contacted to gain additional perspective on fair housing and civil rights issues in the region, and how the people they represent were affected by the disaster(s). Approaches beyond simple written notification of public hearings are required and detailed below:

Harris County will conduct a stakeholder meeting with: Greater Houston Fair Housing Center, Houston Center for Independent Living, LISC, Texas Housers, Lone Star Legal Aid, Texas Organizing Project (TOP), Harris County Housing Authority, HAUL, and Coalition for the Homeless for Houston & Harris County.

The County acknowledges that language differences may play a role in effectively reaching non-English speaking residents. The County will address these potential barriers by providing notification efforts as follows:

Notices of public hearings and surveys will be provided in English and Spanish. Additional language services can be acquired as needed and requested. Notices will be posted on the Harris County CSD website, sent to the Houston Chronicle and La Voz (Spanish Newspaper) and press release sent to local English and Spanish radio stations. Notices in English and Spanish will also be emailed to our Interested Parties list.

Public Hearing Content

The public hearings will include a discussion of the following topics:

- The development of housing and community development needs resulting from the disaster(s);
- The amount of funding available;
- All eligible activities under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program, including linking activities to the disaster(s) through direct damage or failure to function;
- Proposed objective factors;
- The COG's draft Method of Distribution.

Required Meeting and Public Hearing Information

To the extent possible, the County will adhere to the following schedule of hearings and notifications:

Posting of Draft Method of Distribution for Public Review

Date/Time: September 23, 2018, 3pm Website Address: www.csd.hctx.net

Public Hearings Scheduling Information

Public Planning Meeting – 1st Public Hearing

Date/Time: July 10 and August 2, 2018, 10am Location: Harris County Community Services Dept

2nd Public Hearing During Comment Period

Date/Time: Oct. 18, 10am & 6pm Location: Harris County Community Services Dept

Notification consistent with GLO requirements will be provided on or before the following dates:

Dates Personal Notice of Hearings will be sent to entities: June 26 and Sept. 24, 2018

Dates Notice of Hearings will be published on the County's Website: September 23, 2018

Dates Notice of Hearings will be published in regional newspaper(s): July 1 & Sept. 16 (Spanish) & June 26th & Sept 23, 2018 (English)

The County understands public hearings shall be held at a time and location compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries. The hearing must include accommodations for persons with disabilities.. The County will accommodate these needs in the following ways:

Public hearing locations are fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Public hearing announcements will include information on accessibility request for individuals requiring an interpreter, auxiliary aids or other services.

The County understands its responsibility to provide interpretive services when a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate in the public hearing. If these services are determined to be necessary, the County will address this need as follows:

Should a significant number of non-English residents be expected at any scheduled public hearings, Spanish interpreters will be in attendance to provide assistance. Should other language interpreters be needed the county has access to these skills through a third party language services vendor.

Efforts Exceeding Minimum Participation Requirements

The GLO has encouraged the County to seek public participation when developing the method of distribution. In pursuit of this goal, the County held additional meetings and took other additional actions as follows:

Harris County has conducted thirteen (13) open house style community meetings through the county, particularly in or near low-to moderate-income areas to discuss recovery needs. In addition, the County and its participating cities will be conducting approximately 11 public meetings across the county to solicit community input on recovery and unmet needs. A community survey is underway to assess resident needs regarding Hurricane Harvey Recovery and barriers to fair housing.