

**Harris County Community Services Department
Executive Summary**

Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan (PY2023 AAP)
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG)
HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

January 10, 2023

In accordance with 24 CFR Part 91, the Consolidated Planning regulation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that all participating jurisdictions have a long range Consolidated Plan that identifies housing, homelessness, and community development needs and resources, and establishes a strategic plan for meeting those needs. In addition, HUD requires all participating jurisdictions provide an annual update to the Consolidated Plan. This one-year plan (Annual Action Plan) must explain how the jurisdiction will address its service area residents' needs, community revitalization efforts, and the goals and objectives of the Consolidated Plan over the next program year. Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) assists low-to moderate income individuals and communities by providing and supporting community programs, facilities, and services through the distribution of HUD Entitlement funds. These include Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funding detailed in the Annual Action Plan. To secure the County's annual Entitlement Grant funds, HUD requires the submission of the Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan (PY2023 AAP).

In detail, the PY2023 AAP describes the activities that will be undertaken between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, and states categorical funding amounts consistent with priorities established in the approved Program Year 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan for Harris County. The PY2023 AAP lists the amount of CDBG, ESG and HOME funds Harris County expects to receive, as well as anticipated program income. Actual funding amounts for PY2023 are not likely to be released before the Commissioners Court meeting; therefore, Harris County may be required to reduce, increase or de-obligate funding to the recommended project allocations should the actual allocation change from the estimated amounts based on PY2022 awards.

Harris County CSD established 12 categorical projects for the PY2023 AAP. The categorical projects will be supported by approximately 34 project activities selected through the PY2023 RFP. This year, HCCSD elected to renew CDBG PS and ESG project activities. For CDBG activities, HCCSD evaluated pre-awarded applications from PY2022 and PY2023. All remaining PY2022 project applications and PY2023 applications were selected for funding for the Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan. The project activities funded to support the categorical activities will assist HCCSD in meeting one or more of the Consolidated Plan's Measurable Objectives. Although there was not a RFP for HOME funds, there were two (2) In-House project activities funded under two (2) HOME categorical projects. The total amount of CDBG, CDBG Public Service, ESG and HOME funds; including program income funds dedicated to non-administrative projects amounts to \$17,109,106. The addition of administration activities brings the total PY2023 AAP amount to \$20,529,484.

It is recommended that the Harris County Commissioners Court approve both the attached PY2023 Annual Action Plan and the submission of the document to HUD once actual funding amounts for PY2023 are released by HUD.

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF HARRIS §

The Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, convened at a meeting of said Court at the Harris County Administration Building in the City of Houston, Texas, on the _____ day of _____, 2023, with the following members present, to-wit:

Lina Hidalgo County Judge
Rodney Ellis Commissioner, Precinct 1
Adrian Garcia Commissioner, Precinct 2
Tom S. Ramsey Commissioner, Precinct 3
Lesley Briones Commissioner, Precinct 4

and the following members absent, to-wit: _____, constituting a quorum, when among other business, the following was transacted:

ORDER TO APPROVE THE PY2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR ENTITLEMENT FUNDS AND AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner _____ introduced an order and made a motion that the same be adopted. Commissioner _____ seconded the motion for adoption of the order. The motion, carrying with it the adoption of the order, prevailed by the following vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Judge Hidalgo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Ellis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Garcia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Ramsey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Briones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The County Judge thereupon announced that the motion had duly and lawfully carried and that the order had been duly and lawfully adopted. The order thus adopted follows:

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, in 24 CFR Part 91, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that all participating jurisdictions have a long range Consolidated Plan that identifies housing, homelessness, and community development needs and resources, and establishes a strategic plan for meeting those needs; and

WHEREAS, HUD requires all participating jurisdictions provide an annual update to the Consolidated Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Community Services Department has established 12 categorical projects for the PY2023 Annual Action Plan to address the areas of need identified in Harris County communities and meet the measurable outcomes outlined in the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan; and

WHEREAS, HCCSD did not have a competitive Request for Proposals for CDBG, CDBG PS and ESG. Instead, HCCSD elected to renew CDBG PS and ESG project activities; and

WHEREAS, HCCSD evaluated PY2022 and PY2023 pre-awarded applications for CDBG funding to support Harris County's Public Facilities and Improvements Program; and

WHEREAS, HCCSD selected 34 project activities to support the 12 established categorical projects for the Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1: The recitals set forth in this order are true and correct.

Section 2: The Executive Director of the Harris County Community Services Department or her designee is authorized to submit the annual action plan and sign all required certifications submitted with the plan and any amendments or revisions on behalf of Harris County to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

PY2023 Annual Action Plan Highlights

The Annual Action Plan (AAP) is part of the five-year Consolidated Plan, which sets forth Harris County's long-term community development goals and strategies. Program Year 2023 (PY2023) is the fifth year of the PY2019-PY2023 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.

Based on PY2022 HUD Award amounts, Harris County will receive \$20,488,884 for use towards community development activities during Program Year 2023, which begins October 1, 2023 and ends September 30, 2024. 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 formula funding, for PY2023 the total HUD Entitlement funding is comprised of \$14,018,830 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$1,215,732 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds, and \$5,254,322 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and \$40,600 in program income for a total of \$20,529,484 in available funding.

Harris County Entitlement Funds, PY2017 - PY2022

Program Year	CDBG	HOME	ESG	Total
2017	\$12,362,968	\$2,979,686	\$1,104,511	\$16,477,065
2018	\$13,385,550	\$4,271,239	\$1,104,804	\$18,761,593
2019	\$13,456,439	\$4,070,904	\$1,135,793	\$18,663,136
2020	\$14,099,985	\$4,529,161	\$1,182,386	\$19,811,532
2021	\$14,462,604	\$4,624,834	\$1,202,486	\$20,285,924
2022	\$14,018,830	\$5,254,322	\$1,215,732	\$20,488,884

As part of the PY2023 Renewal and Pre-award selection process, twenty-seven (27) project activity applications were submitted for review and evaluation to support the ten (10) established county-wide categorical projects for Harris County utilizing \$17,109,106 in CDBG, HOME and ESG funds based on the PY2023 annual allocation from HUD and estimated program income. An additional \$3,420,378 of CDBG, HOME and ESG funding will fund Harris County administrative costs. The Harris County projects and supporting project activities in this action plan address the PY2019-2023 Harris County Consolidated Plan's priority need areas of affordable housing, homelessness, public facilities, infrastructure, public services and other activities.

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

Projects Established to Address Consolidated Plan Need Area	Number of Project Activities	Amount Allocated
Housing	5	\$5,967,090
Homelessness	8	\$1,124,553
Public Facilities and Improvements	7	\$7,712,239
Public Services	13	\$2,105,224
Other*	1	\$200,000
Total Allocations	34	\$17,109,106
Administration		\$3,420,378
Total Funds		\$20,529,484

**Projects classified in the Other category include a demolition/nuisance abatement.*

No additional project activity proposals were evaluated during the PY2023 Renewal and Pre-award selection process. Selected project activities were conservatively chosen due to limited available funding. Thus, viable project activities that can expend funds are pending release of HUD contracts. During PY2023, Harris County may add unsolicited project activities utilizing the procedures in its Consolidated Plan/Action Plan Amendments Policy.

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 PY2023 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.

PY2023 Measurement of Outcomes	Estimated Persons/Units
Direct Homeownership	20
Single-Family Home Rehabilitation/Reconstruction	55
Rehabilitation of owner-occupied LBP housing units	20
Homeless served/Homelessness Prevention	2,200
Services to Youth	835
Services to Seniors	1,180
Crime Awareness/Juvenile Justice	35
Transportation Services	9,665
Services to Abused/Neglected Children	502
Health Services	295
Infrastructure Projects to be Completed	7

Income Targeting

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-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, Texas, HUD Metro FMR Area (a portion of the larger Metropolitan Statistical Area) is \$90,100 for a family of four. *Table 1* denotes HUD MFI limits for FY2022.

Table 1: HUD FY2022 Median Family Income (MFI) Limits*

Income Levels*	% of MFI	Amount
Extremely Low Income	30%	\$27,750
Very-Low Income	50%	\$44,300
Low Income	80%	\$70,850

**Based on a family of four*

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2022/2022summary.odn>

Importance of the Annual Action Plan

The AAP is a public awareness and strategy development document required by HUD for any jurisdiction receiving entitlement grant 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.

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.

Public Comment and Approval

The PY2023 AAP will be published for the minimum 30-day public review period as required by HUD on November 23, 2022 in the Houston Chronicle and La Voz in Spanish. The public comment period will open on November 23, 2022 at 2:00 P.M. and expire on December 30, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. A draft copy of the AAP and attachments will be posted to HCCSD's website for public review. Additionally, the PY2023 Annual Action Plan will be presented during two (2) Public Hearings to give Harris County residents the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2023. The first hearing will be held virtually on December 13, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. The second public hearing will be held during Harris County Commissioners Court on January 10, 2023 at 10 A.M. Commissioners Court is a public hearing and will also serve as a method for residents to comment on the PY2023 Annual Action Plan.

Harris County residents may choose to submit comments by either or all of the three (3) methods listed: email at rfp@csd.hctx.net, by phone or voicemail at (832) 927-4700, or by mail, Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD), 8410 Lantern Point Drive, Houston, Texas, 77054.

Upon release of Harris County's actual funding allocation amounts from HUD, Harris County would have followed the steps in its Consolidated Plan/Action Plan Amendments Policy and the language in the PY2023 AAP public notice published by November 23, 2022 to account for actual PY2023 funding amounts awarded to the county. Actual allocation amounts will be submitted to HUD for approval in May or June of 2023.



PY2023 Annual Action Plan



Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) assists low-to-moderate income communities by providing and supporting community programs, facilities, and services through the distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. Harris County has received \$20,488,884 for use towards community development activities during Program Year 2023 (PY2023), which begins October 1, 2023, and ends September 30, 2024. 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. Harris County must submit a five-year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to HUD for approval to receive these annual grant funds.

The 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and PY2023 Annual Action Plan represents Harris County's vision for improving the quality of life in the low-and moderate-income areas of the county. It is a comprehensive plan addressing the County's housing, homelessness, and non-housing community development needs for the five-year period. The plan contains goals, performance outcome objectives, and implementation strategies for each of the plan's elements. The Annual Action Plan is a one-year plan that describes the activities that the county will fund, implement, and/or support the implementation of PY2023 projects using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Grant funds, prior year funds, and estimated program income. For PY2023 Harris County plans to ten (10) projects utilizing \$17,109,106 of conditionally awarded CDBG, HOME, ESG, prior year and program income funds, and an additional two (2) projects and ESG Administrative funds using \$3,420,378 to fund projects for administrative costs. All projects combined make twelve (12) projects utilizing \$20,529,484.

HCCSD is required to submit a Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to receive funding for program years 2019-2023. HUD provides these funds to Harris County to benefit low-and moderate-income persons, eliminate slum and blight, and provide for urgent needs within the County.



2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

The community needs in Harris County are largely driven by continued difficulties in the housing market, limited opportunities in employment sectors, aging infrastructure, and shifting population trends, as noted in the Consolidated Plan's needs assessment. Population size and location are dependent upon a number of factors. These include but are not limited to a community's ability to provide quality infrastructure such as roads and bridges, satisfactory levels of basic public services and facilities, such as police, fire, public health, and emergency medical services, schools, and utilities. All of these impact the natural environment and affect the quality of life for residents and visitors. Furthermore, Harris County continues to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and try to explore the best ways to assist the community.

The county's increasing population and location of residents depend on several factors. These factors include but are not limited to a community's ability to provide quality infrastructure, flood and drainage mitigation measures in vulnerable low-to-moderate income neighborhoods, satisfactory levels of basic public services and facilities, such as schools, police and fire, and the ability to bring high-speed, reliable broadband access to low-to-moderate income communities in Harris County. All of these affect the natural and built environments and affect the quality of life for residents and visitors.

Many communities within the Harris County service area lack the necessities for a suitable living environment. There continue to be significant deficits in affordable housing options, supportive services for special needs populations, available homeless facilities, education and job training opportunities, and necessary or modern infrastructure. Unfortunately, statistics regarding changes in the Harris County population indicate that the need for community services and facilities is likely to grow. Recent disasters and their impacts have increased this need, while the ability to cover rising costs, especially those related to construction, may shrink. As seen in the Houston/Harris County Homeless Point in Time Count conducted in early 2022, approximately 3,223 homeless persons were in the area. As indicated in the PIT results, the amount of homeless persons in the area on January 24, 2022 reflected a 19% decrease in overall homelessness in the area since 2020, and a 64% decrease since 2011. One out of eight people experiencing literal homelessness cited COVID-19 as the reason for their homelessness. To address the ongoing need for housing and supportive services for those experiencing homelessness, Harris County, through a collaborative planning process, continues to develop goals and measurable objectives in coordination with community partners or implementation during the coming years of the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan in Housing; Homeless; Public Facilities; Economic Development; Infrastructure; and Public Services.



3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

The Harris County Program Year 2021 (PY2021) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is the fourth year of the annual performance report which describes progress made in PY2021 from March 1, 2021, to February 28, 2022, towards the goals set forth in the PYPY2019 -2024 Consolidated Plan goals. In PY2021, Harris County expended \$15,137,202 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds on over 100 projects.

Housing

Assisted 10 homebuyers with direct homeownership assistance expending \$335,562.60 of HOME funds. Abated 21 lead-contaminated housing units occupied by low-income persons expending \$280,279.35 of CDBG and HOME funds. Provided 32 units of Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and 45 Permanent Supportive Housing renter-occupied housing units for the chronically homeless expending \$780,808.35 of HOME funds.

Homelessness

Assisted 5,622 homeless individuals and families with shelter, homeless prevention, rapid rehousing, case management and supportive services expending \$838,221.97 in ESG and \$1,559,022.58 in CDBG funds.

The Way Home Continuum of Care submitted the FY2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) collaborative application to HUD through a community ranking process that included dividing new and renewal projects into two separate tiers. The requested funding is for costs including leasing, rental assistance, supportive services, operating costs, and HMIS. In addition, the projects provide permanent housing, consisting of permanent supportive housing for homeless persons with disabilities and their families, and Rapid Re-Housing for homeless families with children. The plan funded all Tier 1 projects and two (2) projects from Tier 2 for FY2021. The total renewal amount for FY2021 CoC projects in Houston/Harris County jurisdiction amounts to \$45,243,794 for a total of 47 projects.

Public Services

Assisted 6,623 low-income persons and expended \$1,917,468.31 in public service projects for youth and seniors, transportation services, and services for abused and neglected children.



Public Facilities and Infrastructure

Served 11,796 low-income persons with two completed water and sewer improvements projects. Due to COVID-19 and delays in construction, 2 public facility projects were funded and expected completion in PY2021.

Other Improvements

Assisted local communities by clearing 13 abandoned homes that contributed to slum and blight in the county.

Other Non-Entitlement Program Accomplishments

Harris County has also received Federal Economic Recovery and Stimulus Funds through the Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA), including the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP1) and the Dodd-Frank Reform Act (NSP3). The County also received CDBG Disaster Recovery Hurricane Ike and Dolly, 2015 and 2016 Flood Allocations, 2017 Hurricane Harvey (CDBG-DR) Program funds, CARES Act funds, and HOME-ARP funds. These grant funds helped stabilize and stimulate the local economy and recover from federally declared disasters and recessions. The following is a summary of the accomplishments of the specific recovery programs administered during PY2021:

- **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP1) – In PY2021, the program sold two (2) homes to eligible NSP homebuyers and no properties were acquired. The amount expended for the NSP1 Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) was \$100,192.36. This program has exhausted the initial HUD award of \$14,898,027 and currently operates on program proceeds captured in a revolving loan fund.**
- **2015 Flood Allocation CDBG-DR Funds – In PY2021, the housing program expended \$124,706 and demolished (1) home, and provided replacement home incentives for (1) applicant, and the non-housing program expended \$1,763,736 on (1) infrastructure project, engineering and construction costs.**
- **2016 Flood Allocation CDBG-DR Funds - In PY2021, the housing program expended \$593,712 on (2) homeowner assistance households, (2) buyout households and home replacement incentives, and the non-housing program expended \$8,877,680 on (6) infrastructure projects, acquisition, engineering and construction costs.**
- **2017 Hurricane Harvey CDBG-DR Funds (1st Allocation) – In PY2021, the housing program expended \$4,406,862 on (28) buyout properties and (10) replacement home incentives.**
- **2017 Hurricane Harvey CDBG-DR Fund (Round 1) - In PY2021, the housing program expended \$100,893,100 on (11) affordable rental housing projects, (9) single-family new construction projects, (17) homeowner assistance households, (212) housing reimbursement households, and (92) buyout and home replacement incentive households. The non-housing program expended**



\$21,015,864 on (33) infrastructure projects, environmental and engineering costs, and \$8,044,925 on (22) planning study projects, and \$3,678,686 on administrative costs.

- **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES ACT) Funds –** In PY2021, HCCSD received special allocations of CDBG-CV and ESG-CV funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) through the CARES Act. The County received \$4,081,138.82 in CDBG-CV1 funds, \$586,701.17 in CDBG-CV3 funds, \$939,963.95 in ESG-CV1 funds, and \$2,721,207.08 in ESG-CV2 funds, for a total special funding award of \$8,329,011.02. In PY2021, CDBG-CV expended \$6,469,028.59 on administration and project costs, and ESG-CV expended \$3,147,875.32 on administration costs.

As indicated by program accomplishments, Harris County continued to make strides in promoting affordable housing and providing a suitable living environment for its low-income citizens during PY2021.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The Citizen Participation Plan emphasizes the involvement of low-income residents, including non-English speaking persons and persons with mobility, visual or hearing impairments. The plan outlines how the public can access general information, receive technical assistance, provide comments on critical issues, and receive timely responses to questions raised. The County offers multiple opportunities for participation during the drafting of the Annual Action Plan (AAP) and Consolidated Plan and the renewal application and Pre-awarded applications process. These opportunities include public hearings, public notices, website postings, social media posts, and emails to HCCSD's Interested Parties List.

During Harris County's PY2023 Annual Action Plan project selection process, Harris County opted to renew PY2022 Public Service and ESG projects if the applicants wanted to renew their project. HCCSD received 18 renewal applications in response to the notification of the renewal process for PY2023 CDBG Public Service and ESG funds and 9 pre-awarded applications selected from the PY2019-2023 pre-application process performed in the PY2019 RFP. The proposals represented possible project activities for the fifth year of the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan.

Harris County notified the public of its intent to renew PY2022 CDBG PS and ESG projects for PY2023 and not release a RFP for CDBG Public Facilities and Improvement projects. The Public Notice was available in two languages, English and Spanish, per the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, and placed on HCCSD's website, sent to interested parties via email, and displayed in HCCSD's office. On July 6, 2022, HCCSD emailed the Public Notice: Program Year 2023 AAP Project Renewals: CDBG PS/ESG to an "Interested Parties" list that comprises of non-profits, for-profits and Harris County residents that may be interested in PY2023 entitlement funding. The Renewal Public Notice was also posted on the CSD website on July 7, 2022.



Technical Assistance for the pre-awarded project applicants occurred from July 14-19, 2022, before the August 1, 2022, RFP submission deadline, for applicants that needed additional assistance with their proposal or had project-specific questions.

The Draft PY2023 AAP/PY2023 AAP public notice of categorical projects, CDBG, HOME, and ESG projects will be published for public comment on November 23, 2022. The project activities supported under the categorical projects have been published to the HCCSD website. The public review period will end on December 30, 2022 and all comments/suggestions were able to be recorded and considered before bringing the Action Plan before Commissioners Court for approval. During Commissioners Court, the second public hearing, citizens will have a second opportunity voice their opinion and provide any comments pertaining to the PY2023 AAP. Meanwhile, Interested parties/the public were able to view the Draft PY2023 AAP posted on HCCSD's website and submit comments via phone, written letter, email, or in person. All comments recorded during the public review period and public hearings are logged and, if applicable, added to the Final Annual Action Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

Public comments will be able to be received during the public comment period. Citizens can submit comments to HCCSD by phone, email, written letter, or in-person by visiting the HCCSD office at 8410 Lantern Point, Houston, Texas 77054. Citizens may visit the HCCSD website Annual Action Plan page (<https://csd.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/AnnualActionPlan.aspx>) during the public comment period to review the Draft PY2023 Annual Action Plan. The public may offer comments by attending two public hearings. The first public hearing will be held virtually via TEAMS and the second public hearing will be held at the Harris County Commissioners Court Meeting at 1001 Preston, 9th floor, Houston, Texas 77002. The virtual public hearing details will be posted on CSD's website at <https://csd.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/AnnualActionPlan.aspx> and via an email blast. Harris County staff will conduct the public hearing in English; however, Spanish and sign language interpreters will be available upon request. Requests will be accepted by HCCSD Development staff 48 hours before the public hearing. For more information on the Annual Action Plan or requesting special accommodations, please contact the HCCSD Development staff at (832) 927-4700 or rfp@csd.hctx.net for assistance. Harris County has not received public comments regarding the PY2023 Annual Action Plan. HCCSD will provide reasonable accommodations for persons needing special accommodations when notified within the required time frame. No public comments were received pertaining to the PY2023 AAP.

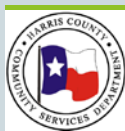


6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

There are no public comments or public views received during the PY2023 AAP process. Therefore no public comments or views have been considered.

7. Summary

The PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and the PY2023 Annual Action Plan represent Harris County's vision for improving the quality of life in the county's low- and moderate-income areas. The PY2023 Annual Action Plan is based on the Consolidated Plan's elements that identify housing, homelessness, community, and economic development needs, available resources, and establishes a strategic plan for meeting those needs. In its completed form, the Consolidated Plan aids decision-makers in creating strategies and documents like the PY2023 Annual Action Plan that address such issues as adequate streets, water, sewage, and drainage systems, proper and useful education and employment, parks, and green spaces, community facilities, quality health care, and safe, peaceful, productive neighborhoods to persons living in low-income communities. The completed Consolidated Plan guides the county's distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for each Annual Action Plan over all five years from the beginning from PY2019 (March 1, 2019), to the end of PY2023 (September 30, 2024).



PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Table 1 - Responsible Agencies

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	HARRIS COUNTY	
CDBG Administrator	HARRIS COUNTY	Harris County Community Services Department
HOME Administrator	HARRIS COUNTY	Harris County Community Services Department
ESG Administrator	HARRIS COUNTY	Harris County Community Services Department

Narrative (optional)

The PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and PY2023 Annual Action Plan contain plan elements that will address long-term goals and objectives for improving the quality of life for low and moderate-income residents and communities within Harris County. The plan describes the activities the County will fund, implement, and/or support using its annual federal allocation of CDBG, HOME and ESG funds. It provides useful information about current conditions within the county, identifies its strengths and weaknesses on community development issues and the actions taken to address identified conditions and concerns.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

For questions regarding the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, contact the Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) Planning and Development Section by phone at (832) 927-4700, by email at plancomments@csd.hctx.net or submit your comments in writing to Attn: Planning Manager at Harris County Community Services Department, 8410 Lantern Point Drive, Houston, Texas 77054. HCCSD office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

Harris County is committed to obtaining input from citizens, professionals, community stakeholders, non-profits and other governmental entities. Input from these groups is of utmost importance not only during the development of community plans but also as part of the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan process. Effectively planning for a community would be difficult, if not impossible, without the support of its residents, especially low-income citizens directly affected by community development projects and programs. For these reasons, citizen participation is strongly encouraged throughout the processes of community revitalization planning, disaster recovery planning efforts, short and long range departmental planning, plan implementation, and assessment of plan effectiveness.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(l))

Harris County performed various consultation efforts with residents and local housing, health, mental health, disability and service agencies through the participation in the Community-wide COVID 19 Housing Plan that involves the City of Houston, Coalition for the Homeless and numerous organizations dedicated to increasing the volume of shelter beds and affordable housing units in the Houston/Harris County area.

Harris County also consulted with the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) about broadband access for low- and moderate-income consumers. The program is federally funded and exists to help those who are low income have broadband access. According to FCC, there is an awareness that those who are low-income struggle with being able to afford internet which is now necessary for many people to do look for jobs, work, participate in school, and basically communicate with other members of society. Furthermore, the Harris County Broadband Strategy and Office, approved by Commissioners Court, will coordinate Harris County's efforts to expand broadband access throughout the county. This will include planning investments in broadband infrastructure, securing funding from state, federal, and private partners, and implementing targeted projects with quantifiable and durable benefits to the county and its residents.

Harris County consulted with H-GAC's Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning Department about mitigation efforts in Harris County and unincorporated Harris County. H-GAC directed CSD to Harris County's Homeland Security & Emergency Management Department and the Harris County All Hazard Mitigation Plan that is being developed to examine projects identified as hazard mitigation. The consultation informed CSD on best practices for hazard mitigation and what project activities to support that would address hazard mitigation efforts for PY2023. In addition, FEMA offered many suggestions and



information on hazard mitigation through its YouTube Channel that offered many videos on hazard mitigation. All information gathered through consultations were considered when developing the PY2023 AAP. For a look at CSD's Notice of Broadband Access and Resiliency go to <https://csd.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/AnnualActionPlan.aspx> and click on Draft of PY2023 AAP.

Harris County also coordinates with the Cities of Houston, Baytown, Pasadena, Fort Bend County, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD, local Worksource, local Housing Authorities, and numerous service/housing providers on the Continuum of Care Steering Committee. This committee meets monthly in a public meeting to discuss strategies to end homelessness in the region. HCCSD through its Housing and Community Resource Center (HCRC) works with local landlords to discuss housing needs, provides information on fair housing, identifies vacant affordable housing units, and holds housing fairs for low-income and homeless households. The county also works with the Harris County Housing Authority to assist Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) families with homeownership activities and the Houston Housing Authority with case management services for formerly chronically homeless families in the HCV (Section 8) program.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

In 2014, the local CoC became known as The Way Home CoC in order to reflect the community's collaborative model for preventing and ending homelessness (The Way Home). Goals of The Way Home include building a system in which no one has to be homeless for more than 30 days. To meet these goals, the community has expanded its Rapid Re-Housing system by aligning funds, through the formation of the Rapid Re-Housing Funders Collaborative (which includes Harris County and other entitlement communities within The Way Home CoC), and standardizing service delivery, through the separation of service components into Financial Assistance and Housing Stabilization Case Management (overseen by two intermediaries). Efforts are also being made to increase available funds within the Rapid Re-Housing system that will be dedicated toward ending youth homelessness and families that are homeless, especially those with children. Harris County has established the Harris County Rapid Re-housing Program to support this effort and other rapid re-housing projects that can quickly house homeless persons.

With the announcement in June 2015 from the Harris County community, stating that it has effectively ended Veteran homelessness, Harris County continues to be involved in maintenance of efforts. The County currently has a Veterans Assistance Program which provides financial and utility assistance services through its Veterans Services Office and Social Services Office. The County has been fortunate to receive a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission that allows it to provide services that include one-time emergency rental assistance and utility assistance for Veteran households.



Harris County also works to assist chronically homeless persons by funding project activities administered by HCCSD Office of Social Services, SEARCH, Covenant House and participation in The Way Home CoC. These activities provide rental assistance in the form of rapid rehousing, case managers to assist chronically homeless with housing stability case management services. Case managers work to obtain all benefits and income a household may be eligible to receive. Households assisted also receive a housing choice voucher in partnership with the Houston Housing Authority to provide rental assistance and perform housing unit inspections.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS

Harris County regularly consults with the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, the lead agency for the Houston/Pasadena/Harris County/Fort Bend County/Montgomery County Continuum of Care (CoC) structure. Through consultation efforts with the Coalition and other CoC members, Harris County aligned the priorities of the County's homeless strategies with the Continuum-wide priorities for homelessness. The CoC members also continue to serve as a workgroup to address COVID-19 impacts on homeless and vulnerable households which resulted in the creation of Community COVID-19 Housing Program. Harris County continues to participate in the CCHP endeavor with the most recent exercise in identifying and suppling permanent housing units and supportive services for families and individuals still recovering from the impacts of COVID 19. Harris County is working with the CoC to utilize ESG-CV and CDBG-CV funds allocated during PY2020 and PY2021 to help expend the remaining funds allocated from the CARES Act.

For many years, the Coalition for the Homeless has been a recipient of Harris County's ESG funds for the operation and staffing of the HMIS as they are the system administrator. The Coalition also assists in the evaluation of projects requesting ESG funds by providing input on the quality and timeliness of an applicant's HMIS data entry. The CoC members, including Harris County, meet regularly to discuss strategies, the availability of resources and develop standards for homeless programs and local standards/benchmarks. Entitlement communities within the CoC formed the Rapid Re-Housing Funders Collaborative and Street Outreach Workgroup which supports the community's Rapid Re-Housing and Street Outreach system. As a member of the Collaborative, Harris County dedicates ESG funds to be utilized for rapid re-housing and Street Outreach services. Members of the CoC also meet to establish and update coordinated ESG Standards as reflected in Harris County's ESG Written Standards.



2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities



Table 2 - Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS OF HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Harris County attends meetings and work groups to address needs of the homeless and implement the Coordinated Access System. The Coalition provides input on the HMIS data quality and performance of applicants. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	HARRIS COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	HCHA staff is consulted regarding the placement of Low Income Tax Credit developments, ensuring consistency with the Consolidated Plan, the Housing Choice Voucher Program and community housing needs. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Health Agency Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Lead-based Paint Strategy Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Public Health (formerly Public Health and Environmental Services) provides Harris County with Lead-based Paint information and data. The county provides the department with CDBG funding for lead-based paint abatement efforts and neighborhood nuisance abatement to improve area safety and remove blighted structures. HCCSD has also worked with PH staff to collect data on the built environment, fair housing concerns, surveys for community health impact assessments and feedback on proposed distribution of disaster funding. Organization was asked to review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	HOUSTON AREA URBAN LEAGUE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff has consulted with HAUL representatives to discuss fair housing issues, training and outreach events and feedback on planning efforts. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-homeless Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consultation through review of data, CoC steering committee and meetings as well as feedback on funded projects with the organization. Anticipated outcome is improved services to homeless persons. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-homeless Services-Health

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The organization was contacted to provide data regarding the individuals living with AIDS and/or HIV within the county. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	SEARCH Homeless Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-homeless Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consultation through review homeless and case management data, CoC steering committee and meetings as well as feedback on funded projects with the organization. Anticipated outcome is improved services to homeless persons and improvements to system efficiency. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.

8	Agency/Group/Organization	Baker Ripley
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	BakerRipley was consulted regarding community efforts to provide education, employment, and community activities to low-income youth, seniors, and low-income residents. The organization was funded during PY2020 and 2021 to provide rapid rehousing, bridge to permanent supportive housing through rental assistance, and case management as a response to COVID-19 for those who are homeless and seeking housing stability.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	YWCA Houston
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The YWCA provides information regarding their home delivered and congregate meal program for seniors and program for housing young women that have aged-out of foster care.

10	Agency/Group/Organization	Lone Star Legal Aid
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Lone Star Legal Aid was consulted regarding fair housing concerns; relevant issues faced by those with a fair housing complaint and attended disaster recovery public outreach events throughout the county. They also provided data and feedback to inquiries on the types of complaints they are assisting within the county. Lone Star Legal Aid also provided comments on proposed disaster recovery efforts.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Houston Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	HHA staff is consulted regularly through meetings and email to provide information on resources and strategies for housing homeless, coordination of activities and other housing needs by low-to-moderate income households within the county. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.

12	Agency/Group/Organization	COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING HOUSTON CENTER
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan, provide data regarding fair housing issues for persons with disabilities, participate in surveys and held a focus group with Harris County staff.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	NAACP
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education Service-Fair Housing Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	NAACP Housing Committee provided input on current fair housing concerns in the community and issues faced after multiple disasters and attended meetings. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	AIRLINE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Business and Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The district provided feedback on revitalization efforts, community impact from disasters and projects funded by Harris County within their boundaries. Consultation aids coordination on future projects and serves as a model for others areas in the county facing similar difficulties.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	HCCSD requested H-GAC staff review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan. Outcomes expected are improved coordination and administration of services throughout the county.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	THE CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTER FOUNDATION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims Health Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The CAC provides data on their services and children served as well as feedback on their Harris County funded project. Data was also collected from annual reports and the organization's website. The anticipated outcome is improved coordination in providing services to abused/neglected children throughout Harris County. HCCSD contact CAC regarding funding availability and application submission requirements to be eligible for funding to support their population.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AUTHORITY OF HARRIS COUNTY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Services-Health Health Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Renamed as The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD, the agency was consulted about facility needs and methods to improve and create more resilient services throughout the county and participate in surveys. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan and participate in planning and funding opportunities.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	Harris Health System
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Health Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	HCCSD collected information on healthcare needs for homeless and community needs for services to low income residents throughout the county that are served by Harris Health clinics. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	HARRIS COUNTY PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Child Welfare Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Adult Welfare Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Review of data and correspondence with staff regarding continuing community needs related to youth and special needs populations in the county. HCCSD requested the organization review and comment on a draft of the Annual Action Plan.
20	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF HOUSTON
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Major Employer

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	<p>Housing Need Assessment</p> <p>Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless</p> <p>Homeless Needs - Families with children</p> <p>Homelessness Needs - Veterans</p> <p>Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth</p> <p>Homelessness Strategy</p> <p>Non-Homeless Special Needs</p> <p>HOPWA Strategy</p> <p>Anti-poverty Strategy</p>
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	<p>Harris County coordinates homeless strategy and funding priorities (entitlement and disaster recovery) with the City of Houston. Harris County also advises the City on their HOPWA Strategy and has worked with the City on joint permanent supportive housing projects. County staff attends numerous meetings, conference calls and conducts email exchanges with City of Houston staff on many issues of joint interest. Consultation results in better service to residents, coordinated funding efforts, and better awareness of each entities efforts, projects and available resources.</p>
21	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Pasadena, Texas
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	<p>Housing Need Assessment</p> <p>Homelessness Strategy</p>
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	<p>Harris County coordinates efforts with city staff regarding homeless strategy, transportation options, and fair housing efforts within the city. The city is also part of disaster recovery efforts and included in the Method of Distribution for multiple years of disaster recovery funding.</p>

22	Agency/Group/Organization	TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Other government - State
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Correspondence regarding housing market, HTC data, and the annual QAP for the HTC process. Staff also attends training opportunities offered by TDHCA and coordinates to develop tax credit supported, affordable housing projects.
23	Agency/Group/Organization	TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Other government - State Non-Housing Infrastructure
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Disaster Recovery
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Harris County continues to work with the General Land Office regarding disaster recovery efforts and funding related to 2015, 2016 and 2017 Hurricane Harvey flooding events. Funding is utilized for disaster recovery projects and to reduce the burden on entitlement funding resources.
24	Agency/Group/Organization	Housing and Urban Development - Houston Field Office
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Victims Other government - Federal

What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis
Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	FHEO Office consultation to discuss data and complaints for better understanding of fair housing issues. Staff also attended fair housing and community planning and development events coordinated by HUD FHEO/CPD Houston Office.

Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

Harris County has contacted numerous agencies and organizations through e-mail, phone calls, meetings, surveys, and postings to social media and HCCSD's website to solicit their input and participation in the planning process for both the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and PY2023 Annual Action Plan. Harris County thinks that all critical agency types were notified/consulted and provided an opportunity for comment during the public participation and consultation process in the development of the PY2023 Annual Action Plan and PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Coalition for Homeless of Houston/Harris County	Harris County aligned the priorities of the county's homeless strategies with the Continuum-wide priorities for homelessness and participates in The Way Home collaborative model to prevent and end homelessness.
Regional Transportation Plan	Houston-Galveston Area Council	The goals of Harris County's Strategic Plan overlap with the Regional Transportation Plan by improving transit services particularly to under-served and low-income communities
Fair Housing Equity Assessment	Houston-Galveston Area Council	Harris County's goals and the FHEA both work to further fair housing in the region through activities supported by disaster recovery, entitlement and other funding sources.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Regional Plan for Sustainable Development	Houston-Galveston Area Council	The goals of Harris County's Strategic Plan overlap with the RPSD by improving the quality of life for county residents. The goals of both plans include increasing the availability of affordable housing, improving social equity, and improving the region's economic competitiveness balanced with environmental concerns, potential impacts, and conservation.
Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing	Harris County	The goals of Harris County's Strategic Plan work to address the impediments identified in the analysis and overcome them through selected projects and funding.
Social Equity Profile	Houston-Galveston Area Council	Harris County's goals and the Equity Profile overlap to further social equity with economic, education and quality of life improvements to low-income residents.
City of Houston Consolidated Plan	City of Houston	Harris County and the City of Houston have many overlapping goals to address homelessness, provide affordable housing and improve the quality of life to under-served and low-income communities.
PHA Plan	Harris County Housing Authority	Harris County's Strategic Plan and the PHA Plan goals include increasing the availability and supply of affordable housing, improving the quality of life for residents, promoting economic improvements/vitality, promoting self-sufficiency and asset development of low-income families and affirmatively furthering fair housing throughout the county.
Healthy Living Matters	Harris County Public Health	Public Health and HCCSD both have goals to improve under-served and low-income resident's health, such as reducing childhood obesity through collaborative efforts to create a better environment and access to health services.
2017 CDBG-DR Method of Distribution	Harris County CSD	The State of Texas Annual Action Plan, Harris County's Supplemental Action Plan and the Method of Distribution both work to identify needs in the county through consultation and feedback to provide benefits to low-to-moderate income residents impacted by the provisionally declared disaster (Hurricane Harvey).
Annual Qualified Allocation Plan	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs	Harris County's multi-family affordable housing goals overlap with the QAP as it guides the annual allocation Low Income Housing Tax Credits which are a major source of funding for affordable multi-family housing projects in the county that often seek Harris County HOME funding.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan	Houston-Galveston Area Council	The Harris County All Hazard Mitigation Strategic Plan goals overlap with the H-GACs Regional Hazard Mitigation Plans which work to identify projects that will mitigate flooding and other hazards to infrastructure created by natural disasters.

Table 3 - Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

Regional collaboration and coordination are facilitated by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) which covers a thirteen county region of southeast Texas and includes Harris County. The county works with H-GAC and surrounding counties and communities on transportation, population growth, sustainability, water quality, environmental sustainability, disaster recovery, and many other issues.

Harris County actively works with the Houston/Harris County/Ft. Bend/Montgomery County Continuum of Care (CoC) to improve coordination and quality of services to the area's homeless population. Members of the Continuum of Care developed a process for providing Certifications of Consistency for agencies seeking funding through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to ensure that state funds are aligned with local priorities.

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

The Citizen Participation Process for the development of the PY2023 Annual Action Plan utilizes elements from Harris County's PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan Citizen Participation Plan and process which includes public notices, public hearings, website postings, social media outreach, and community/organization meeting attendance by staff and email notifications to interested parties registered with HCCSD.

The primary goal of the Citizen Participation Plan is to provide all citizens of the community with adequate opportunity to participate in an advisory role in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans. The Citizen Participation Plan details the proposed use of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and other funding sources.

The Citizen Participation Plan also sets forth policies and procedures for citizen participation, which are designed to engage and maximize the opportunity for citizen participation in the community development process. Special emphasis has been placed on encouraging participation by persons of low-income, residents in target areas, residents in affordable housing developments, and residents of areas where community development funds are utilized. Additionally, emphasis was placed on encouraging participation from local housing authorities, residents of subsidized housing, non-English speaking persons, minorities, and persons with disabilities or special needs. Participation was also solicited from county residents who live in blighted/and or identified low-to-moderate income neighborhoods to participate in the planning effort.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
1	Internet Outreach	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>PY2022 applicants eligible for renewal</p>	<p>PY2023 Notice of Renewal Application process was posted to HCCSD's website notifying returning and new applicants that only renewal project applications would be considered for ESG and CDBG Public Service funds. No RFP was released for Public and Facility Improvement projects.</p>	<p>Harris County CSD sent emails using the Interested Parties contact list of several hundred individuals and organizations to notify them that there would not be a RFP process for PY2023.</p>	<p>No comments were submitted.</p>	<p>https://csd.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/FundingOpportunities.aspx</p>

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Email to Interested Parties	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community	Harris County CSD sent out Public Notice emails using the Interested Parties Contact List of several hundred individuals and organizations to notify them of intent to renew PY2022 CDBG PS and ESG projects and no release of PFI Request for Proposals for PY2023.	No comments or inquiries about available funding or the PY2023 Renewal application process was submitted. HCCSD received 18 renewal applications and 9 Pre-awarded project applications for evaluation.	No comments were received.	https://csd.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/FundingOpportunities.aspx

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	PY2023 Public Notice of the Annual Action Plan Projects in the Houston Chronicle on November 23, 2022.	HCCSD received no comments.	No comments received.	https://www.legalnotice.org/pl/chron/landing1.aspx
4	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish	PY2023 Public Notice of Annual Action Plan Projects in La Voz on November 23, 2022.	HCCSD received no comments.	No comments received.	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
5	Internet Outreach	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community	PY2023 AAP Public Notice of PY2023 Annual Action Plan projects posted to HCCSD website in English and Spanish.	HCCSD received no comments.	No comments received.	https://csd.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/AnnualActionPlan.aspx
6	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Draft of PY2023 AAP and attachments posted to HCCSD website for public review and comment.	HCCSD received no comments.	No comments received.	https://csd.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/AnnualActionPlan.aspx

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
7	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Harris County held a virtual public hearing for Draft PY2023 AAP on December 13, 2022 at 10:00 am. No members of the public attended.	No comments were submitted during the public hearing.	No comments received.	https://csd.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/AnnualActionPlan.aspx
8	Internet Outreach	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community	Harris County sent out an email to its Interested Parties Mailing List that the Draft PY2023 AAP was posted to HCCSD's website and available for review and comment.	No comments were received as a result of the emails sent out.	No comments received.	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
9	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Harris County held a public hearing for the PY2023 AAP on January 10, 2023, at 10:00 am at Harris County Commissioners Court that was open to the public.	No comments were received.	No comments received.	https://agenda.harriscountytexas.gov/

Table 4 - Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) administers CDBG, HOME, and ESG funding for Harris County. HCCSD holds an annual Request for Proposal (RFP) process to allocate funding according to the priorities, goals, and objectives of its current Consolidated Plan. HCCSD also coordinates with the Harris County Housing Authority on the Authority's projects for low-income tax credits and partners with the Houston Housing Authority to extend HUD resources to rapidly house the homeless. Harris County also acts as a sponsor for several Continuum of Care (CoC) applicants and is a steering committee member of the CoC.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	14,018,830	2,400	0	14,021,230	28,272,278	Harris County Community Development Priorities in public services, public facilities and infrastructure improvements.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	5,254,322	38,200	0	5,292,522	8,291,823	Improve the affordability of Affordable Housing for homeless and/or low-to-moderate income families.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	1,215,732	0	0	1,215,732	2,331,426	Assist homeless persons and persons at-risk of becoming homeless with necessary services, including use of HMIS by providers, to regain housing stability in permanent housing.
Continuum of Care	public - federal	Rental Assistance Services	993,826	0	0	993,826	0	Continuum of Care funds are used for rental assistance and services for clients at permanent supportive housing projects.
Other	public - federal	Other	0	0	0	0	0	ESG-CV funds (Rounds 1 and 2) to be used to prevent, prepare and/or respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
Other	public - federal	Public Improvements Public Services	300,000	0	0	300,000	300,000	Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding is used for the operation of Harris County Transit services and installation of bus stops and shelters.
Other	public - state	Acquisition Admin and Planning Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Housing Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership Public Improvements Public Services Services	0	0	0	0	0	Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding from HUD to the State of Texas and allocated to Harris County for the recovery of housing and infrastructure / non-housing projects affected by Hurricane Ike/Dolly, 2015 Flood Events, 2016 Flood Events and 2017 Hurricane Harvey Flood Event.

Table 5 - Expected Resources - Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The HUD funding received by the county is used to leverage additional dollars for transit services, social services, homeless programs, and economic development. HUD requires that participating jurisdictions provide a 25 percent match for all HOME funds and 100 percent for ESG funds. HUD's match requirements for HOME and ESG are passed to the county's sub-recipients of HUD funding. While there are no federal match requirements for CDBG, HCCSD requires that those projects applying for CDBG Public Services funding provide a minimum of 25 percent leveraging and CDBG General a minimum of 25 percent leveraging for the proposed project. HCCSD also coordinates with the Harris County Housing Authority (HCHA) in the authority's projects applying for low-income housing tax credits. Harris County also acts as the applicant for one Continuum of Care (CoC) project. HUD funding will also assist in expanding available State and Federal transit funding to serve low-income areas of the county.

If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan

This section is not applicable to Harris County.

Discussion

Harris County verifies all leverage and match documentation submitted by subgrantees for prospective match or leverage. The range of resources leveraged to support Harris County projects is broad and includes local and national foundations, the United Way, State and Federal Agencies such as TDHCA, Health and Human Services, Texas Department of Agriculture, Area Agency on Aging, Texas Veterans Commission as well as private donations from individuals, both cash and volunteer services.



Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Homeownership for Owners	2019	2024	Affordable Housing		Housing	HOME: \$250,000	Homeowner Housing Added: 4 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 13 Households Assisted
2	Single-family Home Rehabilitation Owners	2019	2024	Affordable Housing		Housing	CDBG: \$800,000 HOME: \$700,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 22 Household Housing Unit
3	SF Lead Based Paint Abatement Owners	2019	2024	Affordable Housing		Housing	CDBG: \$400,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit
4	Acquisition and/or Rehabilitation Renters	2019	2024	Affordable Housing		Homelessness Housing	HOME: \$2,567,090	Rental units constructed: 50 Household Housing Unit Rental units rehabilitated: 50 Household Housing Unit
5	Homeless Street Outreach	2019	2024	Homeless		Homelessness	ESG: \$120,000	Other: 1432 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Homeless Emergency and Transitional Housing	2019	2024	Homeless		Homelessness	ESG: \$314,339	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 622 Persons Assisted
7	Rapid Re-Housing	2019	2024	Homeless		Homelessness	ESG: \$676,575	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 150 Households Assisted
8	Water/Sewer Improvements	2019	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Infrastructure	CDBG: \$708,324	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Persons Assisted
9	Sidewalks/Pathways	2019	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Infrastructure	CDBG: \$327,750	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 60577 Persons Assisted
10	General Public Services	2019	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Services	CDBG: \$308,317	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted
11	Senior Services (Special Needs Population)	2019	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Services	CDBG: \$748,983	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1180 Persons Assisted
12	Youth Services/Child Care	2019	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Services	CDBG: \$137,503	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 835 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
13	Health Services	2019	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Services	CDBG: \$70,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 295 Persons Assisted
14	Transportation Services	2019	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Services	CDBG: \$700,371	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 9665 Persons Assisted
15	Abused and Neglected Children	2019	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Services	CDBG: \$140,050	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 502 Persons Assisted
16	Clearance and Demolition	2019	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Other	CDBG: \$200,000	Buildings Demolished: 15 Buildings
17	Planning	2019	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Other	CDBG: \$2,803,766	Other: 0 Other
18	Homeless Prevention	2019	2024	Homeless		Homelessness	ESG: \$13,638	Homelessness Prevention: 40 Persons Assisted

Table 6 - Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Homeownership for Owners
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide individuals and families with the opportunity for homeownership through financial assistance to prospective home buyers.
2	Goal Name	Single-family Home Rehabilitation Owners
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide single-family reconstruction, major or minor rehabilitation assistance to low-to-moderate income homeowners, including senior and disabled households.
3	Goal Name	SF Lead Based Paint Abatement Owners
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to assist in abatement of lead-based paint hazards in owner-occupied single-family housing units.
4	Goal Name	Acquisition and/or Rehabilitation Renters
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide financial assistance to aid in the acquisition and or construction or improvement of multi-family affordable housing units in the Harris County service area to supply decent housing to low-to-moderate income households.
5	Goal Name	Homeless Street Outreach
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to perform engagement activities with homeless individuals to assist in accessing emergency essential services, housing resources and/or urgent care resources.
6	Goal Name	Homeless Emergency and Transitional Housing
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide homeless persons with emergency shelter, transitional housing (youth and domestic violence only) and case management services.
7	Goal Name	Rapid Re-Housing
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide rental assistance and case management services to homeless individuals and families.

8	Goal Name	Water/Sewer Improvements
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to make improvements to water and sanitary sewer systems in Harris County.
9	Goal Name	Sidewalks/Pathways
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to make improvements and/or construct parks and pathways to improve mobility and safety in Harris County
10	Goal Name	General Public Services
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide services to low-moderate income persons that improve their quality of life and access to opportunities.
11	Goal Name	Senior Services (Special Needs Population)
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide services to seniors that improve their quality of life.
12	Goal Name	Youth Services/Child Care
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide services that improve area children's health, well-being and educational opportunities.
13	Goal Name	Health Services
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide services that improve the health and well-being of low-to-moderate income, senior, disabled or homeless persons.
14	Goal Name	Transportation Services
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide transportation services to low-to-moderate income persons including homeless persons, seniors and individuals with disabilities.
15	Goal Name	Abused and Neglected Children
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to provide advocacy services, counseling, therapy and case management for abused and neglected children.

16	Goal Name	Clearance and Demolition
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to demolish dilapidated and/or unsafe structures located in low-to-moderate income areas of Harris County to improve neighborhood integrity.
17	Goal Name	Planning
	Goal Description	Funds will be used for administrative activities
18	Goal Name	Neighborhood or Social Service Facilities
	Goal Description	Provide improvements and/or construction of neighborhood or social service facilities benefiting low- and moderate-income areas
19	Goal Name	Homeless Prevention
	Goal Description	To provide housing relocation and stabilization services and rental assistance to prevent households from experiencing homelessness

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

For PY2023, Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) proposes to fund a total of (10) qualifying projects. At the same time, the remaining two (2) are CDBG and HOME Administrative projects. ESG Administration is established within Harris County ESG Homeless project.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Harris County CSD-CDBG Administration
2	Harris County CSD-HOME Administration
3	Harris County Clearance and Demolition Program
4	Harris County Home Repair Program
5	Harris County Rehabilitation Program: Lead Based Paint
6	Harris County Public Facilities and Improvements Program
7	Harris County Public Service Program
8	Harris County ESG Homeless
9	Harris County HOME Buyer's Assistance Program
10	Harris County HOME Multi-family Housing Program
11	Harris County HOME Rehabilitation Assistance Program
12	Harris County HOME Single Family Program

Table 7 - Project Information

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

For the PY2023 Annual Action Plan, Harris County opted to renew eligible PY2022 Public Service and ESG projects for organizations interested in project continuation. Projects pre-awarded in the 2019-2023 Pre-application process were included in the project activity selection for Program Year 2023. HCCSD received 17 renewal applications in response to the notification of the renewal process for PY2023 CDBG Public Service and ESG funds and 9 pre-awarded applications selected from the PY2019-2023 pre-application process performed in the PY2019 RFP. The proposals represented possible project activities for the fifth year of the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan.



Categorical projects and supported project activities selected for funding will address at least one of the measurable objectives identified in the Consolidated Plan. There are no high priorities identified for PY2023. Instead, HCCSD is focusing on providing continuation of services for public services and homeless projects while, funding the remaining pre-awarded public facility and infrastructure projects identified in 2019.

Harris County's Downpayment Assistance Program (DAP) identified that there is a need for low-to-moderate-income DAP participants to obtain more affordable mortgages for single-family homeownership as costs for housing continue to rise. Harris County is working to overcome this obstacle of meeting more stringent credit requirements for affordable mortgages and reducing the housing costs burden on residents. Through its Minor Home Repair, Health and Safety Home Repair, and Major Rehab/Reconstruction Programs the county is working to address this obstacle.



AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Harris County CSD-CDBG Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Planning
	Needs Addressed	Other
	Funding	CDBG: \$2,803,766
	Description	Funding to be used for CDBG program administration.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	N/A
Planned Activities	Not applicable.	
2	Project Name	Harris County CSD-HOME Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Planning
	Needs Addressed	Other
	Funding	HOME: \$525,432
	Description	Funding to be used for HOME program administration by Harris County.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	N/A
Planned Activities	N/A	



3	Project Name	Harris County Clearance and Demolition Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Clearance and Demolition
	Needs Addressed	Other
	Funding	CDBG: \$200,000
	Description	The Harris County Clearance and Demolition Program will identify, investigate, and abate abandoned structures in an effort to aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight within Harris County.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The number and type of families benefiting from activities are not applicable. Will identify at least fifteen (15) nuisance structures to be abated that are abandoned and unoccupied.
	Location Description	County-wide
Planned Activities	Clearance or demolition of abandoned buildings identified as neighborhood nuisances in Harris County.	
4	Project Name	Harris County Home Repair Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Single-family Home Rehabilitation Owners Senior Services (Special Needs Population)
	Needs Addressed	Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$800,000
	Description	The Harris County Home Repair Program provides assistance with costs of minor home repair for low-and moderate income households in the form of grants or deferred payment loans. Eligible repairs include, but are not limited to, roof repair/replacement, handicap accessibility improvements, mechanical, electrical, water wells and septic systems and plumbing improvements.
	Target Date	9/30/2024



	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Activities benefit approximately 21 low-income and elderly (62 years or older) households.
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	Rehabilitation of single-family homes for low- and moderate income senior, disabled Harris County resident.
5	Project Name	Harris County Rehabilitation Program: Lead Based Paint
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	SF Lead Based Paint Abatement Owners
	Needs Addressed	Housing Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$400,000
	Description	Harris County Rehabilitation Program: Lead Based Paint will reduce lead-based paint hazards in twenty (20) single-family housing units in Harris County. Project activities include community outreach and education, blood testing for lead, program coordination with medical institutions, risk assessment, relocation, lead-safe work project design and oversight, and lead clearance testing.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The project will benefit approximately 20 low- and moderate-income households.
	Location Description	County-wide
Planned Activities	Housing rehabilitation to remove/reduce lead or lead-based paint hazards and educate families of lead-based paint risks.	
6	Project Name	Harris County Public Facilities and Improvements Program
	Target Area	



	Goals Supported	Neighborhood or Social Service Facilities Water/Sewer Improvements Sidewalks/Pathways
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$7,712,240
	Description	Harris County Public Facilities and Improvements Program will include the rehabilitation and construction of neighborhood facilities, parks, and other improvements to facilities and infrastructure in low- and moderate-income areas or facilities serving populations primarily consisting of low- and moderate-income individuals or populations with special needs. Facilities may include parks, medical facilities, and community centers.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Activities will benefit up to 100,000 low- and moderate-income Harris County residents.
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	Activities include rehabilitation and construction of various public facilities and infrastructure within Harris County's target and service areas.
7	Project Name	Harris County Public Service Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	General Public Services Senior Services (Special Needs Population) Youth Services/Child Care Health Services Transportation Services Abused and Neglected Children
	Needs Addressed	Homelessness Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$2,105,224 Federal Transit Administration: \$300,000



	Description	Harris County Public Service Program will provide funding for public services for homeless services, childcare, youth services, senior services, transportation, HIV/AIDS related services, services for those with disabilities and all other general public services for low- and moderate-income Harris County residents. Projected CDBG program income in the amount of \$2,400 is estimated to be used for public service activities.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Activities will benefit up to 14,000 low- and moderate persons.
	Location Description	County-wide.
	Planned Activities	Activities will benefit up to 14,000 persons assisted with public services that includes; but not limited to, transportation, youth services, abused and neglected children services, senior services, services to those living with HIV/AIDS, disabled and low- moderate income. 4,000 persons assisted with public services that involve housing stability for the benefit of reducing homelessness.
8	Project Name	Harris County ESG Homeless
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Homeless Street Outreach Homeless Emergency and Transitional Housing Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-Housing
	Needs Addressed	Homelessness
	Funding	ESG: \$1,215,732 Continuum of Care: \$993,826
	Description	ESG Administration: \$91,180 Rapid Re-housing activities: \$676,575 Shelter activities: \$314,339 Street Outreach activities: \$120,000 Homeless Prevention: \$13,638 Total ESG: \$1,215,732.00
	Target Date	9/30/2024



	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Projects will benefit approximately 2,200 homeless or formerly persons through proposed direct ESG shelter/service/prevention/outreach/RRH activities. All project activities will require participation in the HMIS system and will benefit from the HMIS services and system management provided.
	Location Description	Scattered sites - County-wide activities.
	Planned Activities	Activities include homeless prevention, rapid rehousing, street outreach, shelter services and operations, HMIS services and other ESG eligible activities.
9	Project Name	Harris County HOME Buyer's Assistance Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Homeownership for Owners
	Needs Addressed	Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$250,000
	Description	Harris County HOME Buyer's Assistance Program will provide down payment assistance, closing cost and principal reduction (if needed by home buyer) to 13 eligible low to moderate-income home buyers in the Harris County Service Area.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Activity expected to benefit 13 low-to-moderate income families
	Location Description	County-wide.
	Planned Activities	Financial assistance to eligible households to assist with the purchase of single-family homes.
10	Project Name	Harris County HOME Multi-family Housing Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Acquisition and/or Rehabilitation Renters
	Needs Addressed	Housing



	Funding	HOME: 2,567,090
	Description	Harris County HOME Multi-family Housing Program will provide financial assistance to aid in the acquisition and or construction or improvement of multi-family affordable housing units in the Harris County service area to supply decent housing to low-to-moderate income households.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Activity expected to benefit 100 low- and moderate income households.
	Location Description	County-wide.
	Planned Activities	Acquisition and/or construction or improvement of multi-family affordable housing units.
11	Project Name	Harris County HOME Rehabilitation Assistance Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Single-family Home Rehabilitation Owners
	Needs Addressed	Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$700,000
	Description	Harris County HOME Rehabilitation Assistance Program will provide eligible households financial assistance needed for home repairs in the form of a grant, deferred payment loan, or an interest-only deferred loan, to facilitate substantial rehabilitation or reconstruction (including demolition and/or elevation) of up to 6 single family structures owned and occupied by low-income persons for the purpose of Major Rehabilitation/ Reconstruction deemed unsafe or severely defective.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Up to six (6) low-to-moderate income, senior or disabled families will benefit from this activity.



	Location Description	County-wide.
	Planned Activities	Activities include major rehabilitation or reconstruction of owner-occupied single-family homes.
12	Project Name	Harris County HOME Single Family Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Homeownership for Owners Single-family Home Rehabilitation Owners
	Needs Addressed	Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$1,250,000
	Description	The Harris County HOME Single Family Program will support the development of new single family home construction and single-family home rehabilitation.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Activities will benefit up to 5 low- and moderate income households.
	Location Description	County-wide.
	Planned Activities	Activities will expand affordable housing in Harris County through acquisition and development of single family homes to expand affordable housing within Harris County.



AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

Harris County does not use geographic target areas as a basis for providing funding, but requests that all proposals submitted through the annual Request for Proposals process identify the geographic boundaries and specific target areas each project will serve. For PY2023, Harris County has a total of 12 cooperative cities and a total of sixty-five (65) named target areas. All projects will serve Harris County and will be county-wide projects. Individual activities may include specific target areas but the projects listed in the Annual Action Plan for PY2023 will serve Harris County and its 12 cooperative cities.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Cloverleaf	
Aldine	
Bammel	
Barrett station	
Bordersville	
Bough-Lincoln Green	
Champions Point	
Channelview	
Clear Creek	
Crosby	
El Dorado	
Galena Park	
Granada	
Greenbranch-Gatewood	
Greensbrook-Verde Forest	
Humble	
Jacinto City	
Katy	
La Porte	
Linus	
Maple	
Marwood-DeZavalla	
McNair	
Northington-Kenwood	
Oakhollow	
Ranch Country	



Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Riverwood	
Sherwood Place	
South Houston	
Tomball	
Wayforest	
Webster	
Airline	
Deer Park 1	
Alief 6	
Braeburn Gardens	
Breen	
College Park	
Copperfield	
Cypress Valley-Northpark	
Danish	
Deer Trails	
Emerald Forest	
Fairbanks Railway	
Grant Mills	
Highlands	
Kleinwood	
McDougle	
Mercer	
Normandy Crossing	
North Belt	
Parkway	
Pine Trails	
Seabrook	
Sheldon	
Waterford	
Westborough	
Westpark	
Windfern	
Deer Park 2	

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

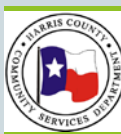


Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Harris County does not prescribe a specific percentage of funding to target areas. The established projects will serve all Harris County service and target areas. The PY2023 RFP solicited proposals for project activities that may be located in a specific target area. However, the Harris County's projects will serve Harris County at large and includes the 12 cooperative cities. The CDBG, ESG and HOME funding will serve the Low-to-Moderate Income clientele, facilities or organizations. Furthermore, project activities will support one or more of the Harris County projects and will be located in target areas within the county that have 51% or greater low- to moderate-income population. For the Public Facilities and Improvements Harris County will assist through project activities areas that have aging infrastructure. The priorities set forth in the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan will continue to govern how Harris County selects project activities to support the established projects through the yearly Annual Action Plan.

Discussion

The County is mindful of the location of service activities and seeks to ensure equitable distribution of funding to serve families in need across the County. Although target areas have been identified that are 51% or greater LMI population and are in need of revitalization efforts, Harris County has selected county-wide project activities that will support the categorical project serving Harris County and the 12 cooperative cities. The county allocates funding based on priorities identified in its Consolidated Plan and proposals for project activities submitted in its annual Request for Proposals process.



Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The lack of quality, affordable housing choices can be an impediment to fair housing. To foster decent, safe, affordable housing, and ensure residents have equal access to the housing of their choice, Harris County will continue to collaborate and partner with local non-profit housing developers, for-profit builders, the Harris County Housing Authority and the residents of Harris County to measure the needs, discuss the issues and find solutions to problems of the county's housing market. Through these programs Harris County will work to foster and maintain decent and affordable housing for low-income residents of Harris County through homeownership, rehabilitation/reconstruction programs, and new construction projects.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	150
Non-Homeless	7
Special-Needs	48
Total	205

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	150
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	55
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	205

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

During PY2023, Harris County anticipates providing 205 households assistance to address barriers to affordable housing. These may include accessibility, adequacy, services, and long-term affordability. Approximately 150 households will receive rental assistance to ensure a rapid transition from homelessness into permanent housing including services for housing stability case management. Through down-payment assistance, rehab/reconstruction of eligible single-family residences, and lead-based paint abatement HCCSD expects to assist 55 low-income families in achieving homeownership or improving the quality of their housing. HCCSD also expects to repair and improve accessibility or safety of existing single-family homes for 48 special needs low-income households including elderly and/or disabled persons.



AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Harris County Housing Authority (HCHA) does not own public housing projects but partners with developers to sponsor properties that provide affordable housing opportunities. As of this Action Plan, HCHA has partnered in eight multi-family housing developments over the past 10 years. HCHA also supplies housing choice vouchers to assist low income residents of Harris County accessing affordable housing options throughout the county.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing

The Harris County Housing Authority (HCHA) does not manage or own public housing projects but partners with developers to sponsor properties that provide affordable housing opportunities. As of this CAPER, HCHA has partnered in (10) ten multi-family housing developments totaling 1,378 units. HCHA does supply housing choice vouchers to assist low-income residents of Harris County accessing affordable housing. While the HCHA does not own public housing, it administered 4,121 housing choice vouchers in PY21. These vouchers included: Homeless Veteran Vouchers (VASH), Single-Room Occupancy (SRO), and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) programs. The HCV Program helps low-income households choose and pay for quality housing in the private market by paying a portion of their rent. Harris County Community Services Department will continue to collaborate and partner with HCHA to measure the needs of low-income residents, discuss the issues they face, and find solutions to problems of the Harris County permanent housing market.

During PY23, Harris County has worked with HCHA to discuss the need for additional affordable rental housing units utilizing the county's CDBG-DR funding. HCHA is currently developing five properties in partnership with developers using CDBG-DR funds. A sixth CDBG-DR project is under development in partnership with the Houston Housing Authority (HHA).

Harris County Community Services Department and the Housing Authority have a formal partnership to link eligible HCHA residents to the Community Services Department's Downpayment Assistance Program (DAP). Eligible HCHA voucher recipients can use their voucher as a source of income applied to their mortgage payment while HCCSD's DAP assists with a downpayment on a single-family home allowing voucher recipients to become homebuyers. During PY22, HCCSD DAP will have assisted two (2) housing choice voucher clients to convert from renting to homeownership. HCCSD will continue to collaborate and partner with HCHA to evaluate the needs of LMI residents, discuss the issues they face, and find solutions to problems of the Harris County permanent housing market. Harris County Community Services Department will continue to collaborate and partner with the Harris County Housing Authority to evaluate the needs of low-income residents, discuss the issues they face and find solutions to problems of the Harris County permanent housing market.



Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership

While HCHA does not own public housing, it does sponsor and works with multi-family development partners. Currently, HCHA has two (2) future multi-family developments in the planning or construction phases. HCCSD and the HCHA do work with private affordable housing developers on tax credit projects to expand the number of affordable rental housing in Harris County. HCHA also encourages families to apply for the Homeownership Program, which provides qualified Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) to families with the opportunity to own a home. Families can purchase a single-family home, townhome, condominium, or cooperative anywhere within HCHA's jurisdiction.

HCCSD will continue to work HCV recipients through its DAP program to convert recipient household from rental to homeownership.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance

Not Applicable

Discussion

The Harris County Housing Authority has established a leadership and management team that continues to evaluate the agency's priorities and move forward with addressing the housing needs of county residents. Harris County Community Services Department plans to continue its partnership with the Housing Authority and support new initiatives through seeking potential partnerships for downpayment assistance, development of additional affordable multifamily projects and other grant opportunities that arise.



AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)

Introduction

Harris County has worked with the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, as well as other entitlement grantees receiving ESG funding throughout the community, to align priorities and funding across the continuum for programs addressing the needs of Harris County residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

Harris County has established the Harris County ESG Homeless Program. This program will provide support to agencies that perform street outreach for the purpose of connecting literally homeless individuals and families with secure housing, basic needs and supportive services. Harris County has identified two project activities that will carry out the street outreach goals for Harris County. The project activities will be carried out by Covenant House and HTX H.O.P.E. Haven and will provide street outreach to homeless youth, ages 18-21, which will address youths' needs for food, clothing, shelter, service information, referrals to other service providers, and follow-up support as well as homeless persons and families living in encampments in unincorporated Harris County.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Harris County has identified project activities that will support the Harris County ESG Homeless program by carrying out the goals and of objectives of this program. The project activities will be carried out by three organizations: Bay Area Turning Point, Houston Area Women's Center, The Salvation Army and The Bridge Over Troubled Waters. The services provide emergency shelter for domestic violence victims, childcare within the shelters and supportive services. Harris County will use \$297,977 in ESG funds to support the program and estimate that approximately 622 homeless persons will benefit from the program.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again



Harris County is a member of the Houston/Harris County Continuum of Care (CoC). The CoC developed and adopted the community plan, The Way Home, which sets a path to end all homelessness. For the CoC, one of the ways to end homelessness includes expanding the use and effectiveness of rapid re-housing. Harris County has come together with other entitlement communities within the CoC to form a rapid re-housing funders collaborative which changed the way the CoC funds and delivers rapid re-housing services. The re-designed rapid re-housing system is intended to reduce the length of shelter stays and provide housing with intensive short-term assistance and connections to resources for long-term stability. Harris County will provide \$676,575 in ESG funds for Rapid Re-housing services. A portion of funding will go towards the provision of case management services only. The remaining funding will be used for financial assistance. Harris County will also provide \$351,139 to assist chronically homeless persons being served by HCCSD Housing Stability Case Management by HCCSD Social Services and \$221,160 for Housing Stability Case Management services conducted through SEARCH. These projects provide housing stability case management services to 120 households receiving housing choice vouchers from the Houston Housing Authority. In addition, Harris County will provide rental assistance and case management for 53 Permanent Supportive Housing clients through the Northline CoC Scattered Site Project.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

For PY2023, HCCSD is working with the Coalition for the Homeless through the CCHP 2.0 initiative to assist with preventing homelessness. This compliments other homelessness prevention services offered at Harris County and local agencies through other funding sources as they are available. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) grant, also operated by HCCSD Social Services, provides one-time rental assistance and one-time utility assistance to eligible county residents to further reduce the need for true homelessness prevention services.

Discussion

Harris County continues to work closely with the Coalition for the Homeless and other ESG grantees within the Continuum to develop continuum wide strategies to end and prevent homelessness for the region's most vulnerable populations. As part of the strategy, Harris County Community Services Department requires all agencies providing services with HCCSD ESG funds to participate in HMIS and the Coordinated Access System, which uses a common assessment tool to ensure the most vulnerable populations receive prioritization and are matched to appropriate housing interventions. Additionally, Harris County operates the Hay Center which assists youth transitioning out of foster care with services and rental assistance.



AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)

Introduction:

Harris County Community Services Department is committed to affirmatively furthering fair housing and overcoming identified barriers to affordable housing. These efforts have resulted in the creation of a Fair Housing Plan, the development of specific goals and objectives to overcome barriers to affordable housing, and support for projects that counter the negative effects of public policies.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

Harris County, limited in authority by State law, cannot create land-use controls or zoning ordinances beyond those areas of health and safety prescribed to it under the Texas Government Code. The county has developed Affordable Housing Standards to comply with HUD requirements and promote improved building standards and high-quality construction.

Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) has three (3) projects in the PY2023 Annual Action Plan that work to ameliorate the negative effects of public policies. The projects are as follows: Harris County HOME Buyer's Assistance Program which will serve 13 households, Harris County Home Repair Program which will serve 21 senior households, and Harris County HOME Rehabilitation Assistance Program which will serve 6 households.

Additionally, HCCSD has completed and updated the county's Fair Housing Plan, part of the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan process, which has identified barriers to affordable housing and strategies to overcome these barriers. Information about the Fair Housing Plan is included as an appendix to the Annual Action Plan and contains a list of local fair housing enforcement contacts. HCCSD staff has also completed multiple fair housing trainings offered by HUD, community organizations and affordable housing advocates in the region.

Discussion:

HCCSD has developed specific goals and objectives that address the housing needs of low- to moderate-income populations within the county's service area. These housing goals are aimed at creating the opportunity for adequate, affordable, accessible housing for extremely low-, very low-, and low-income persons through eventual elimination of lead based paint hazards, encouragement of homeownership, minor home repair, rehabilitation/reconstruction of single-family housing, rehabilitation of multi-family housing, provision of rental assistance, new construction, and development of partnerships. In its PY2019-2023 Fair Housing Plan that is part of the Consolidated Plan, HCCSD identifies possible barriers to housing choice and affordable housing which are in violation of the Fair Housing Act and strategies to overcome



these barriers. With all projects established for funding, Harris County places a high priority on projects serving seniors and persons with disabilities.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Harris County has established projects in PY2023 that will meet the needs of the underserved through public services and community infrastructure improvements, will improve and maintain affordable housing, prevent homelessness for extremely low-income families, reduce lead-based paint hazards, eliminate neighborhood nuisances and increase coordination among public and private housing and social service agencies.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Harris County Community Services Department established 12 projects in the areas of housing, homelessness, infrastructure, public services and other to address the varying needs of the underserved. The Community Services Department (CSD) will continue working with the Harris County Engineering Department (HCED), Harris County Public Health (HCPH), local non-profits as well as the County Commissioners' Precincts on projects. Efforts with the Engineering Department will continue in order to develop and implement strategies to address the capital improvement efforts in the County's underserved areas. CSD will fund and coordinate infrastructure improvement activities with Fresh Water Supply Districts (FWSD), Municipal Utility Districts (MUD) and Water Control & Improvement Districts (WCID) that serve target area and low-to-moderate income populations.

Coordination with Public Health and community healthcare providers will continue to provide much-needed health care services to low-income residents of Harris County. The Community Services Department and other county departments or active social groups with a focus on community development will continue to meet with residents, especially in the communities participating in neighborhood revitalization programs, to ascertain the needs and desires for clinics, libraries, community centers and other county facilities within those communities. HCCSD will also continue to work with the Commissioners' Precincts to provide funding to implement community development projects and social service programs.

Harris County will support non-profit organizations, Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) and Community-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs) that serve low-to-moderate income, socially vulnerable, and under-served populations in the county. HCCSD will actively recruit eligible organizations to become CHDOs and CBDOs. In addition, the department will continue to offer regulatory training to these organizations in order to ensure a better understanding of CDBG, ESG, HOME and Fair Housing rules.



Harris County will support the Harris County Housing Authority's efforts to expand the availability and choice of affordable housing units to county residents. The county will also continue to coordinate with the Houston Housing Authority on efforts to provide rental assistance to prioritized groups of eligible county residents, such as homeless and youth aging out of foster care.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The lack of quality affordable housing choices can be an impediment to fair housing. Issues such as the continued rise of average monthly rents while wages remain relatively stagnant or when wages have been completely lost are a challenge. The recent impacts of COVID-19 have resulted in a regional increase in demand for rental housing and to further raise average monthly rents. To foster decent, safe, and affordable housing, Harris County will continue to collaborate and partner with local non-profit housing developers, for-profit builders, the Harris County Housing Authority, and the residents of Harris County to measure the needs, discuss the issues and find solutions to problems of the Harris County housing market. Harris County will work to foster and maintain decent and affordable housing for low-income residents of Harris County through homeownership, rehabilitation/reconstruction programs, and new construction projects. It will also continue efforts under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) of acquiring, improving, and reselling affordable homes to qualified homebuyers.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

To reduce lead-based paint hazards, Harris County Community Services Department established the Harris County Home Rehabilitation Program: Lead Based Paint project that is supported by Public Health's PY2023 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program Project. The program will reduce lead-based paint hazards in an additional 20 single-family, residential homeowner housing units in Harris County during PY2023. Project activities include community outreach and education, blood lead testing, program coordination with medical institutions, relocation, risk assessment, lead safe work project design and oversight, and lead clearance testing.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Many Harris County residents are currently living at or below the federal poverty level, with many being homeless or at risk of becoming homeless because of insufficient income. There is a great need among these individuals to expand their opportunities for education and employment, thus improving their quality of living. The Annual Action Plan's activities support the Consolidated Plan's comprehensive collection of goals, programs, and policies which work to reduce the number of poverty-level families, develop affordable housing, and coordinate with other programs and services to increase education and economic opportunities. Harris County has joined with other local jurisdictions and the Coalition for the Homeless to develop housing programs with wrap-around case management services. These programs seek to assist homeless and extremely vulnerable families through increased income and stabilization. These programs include but are not limited to HCCSD's Social Services chronic and rapid re-housing case



management activities, veterans services office, transportation programs, support for affordable housing developments, home repair/reconstruction programs and homeownership assistance programs.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

HCCSD would like to build upon the existing partnerships with organizations such as the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) and the Texas General Land Office (GLO), as well as create new partnerships with public, private, non-profit, philanthropic, and non-profit organizations. With respect to specific gaps, HCCSD will continue to research and develop a linking of services between institutions such as jails, mental health institutions, foster care, etc., and programs such as The Way Home (homeless system) and Hay Center (services for youth exiting the foster care system). With the continued uncertainty of public support dollars, HCCSD has been and will continue to expand its partnership with private funding foundations in the community and coordinating funding systems. Harris County along with its partners in the regional homeless system have made great strides in closing gaps in service in the Rapid Re-Housing Program by coordinating with housing providers but additional work is needed.

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies

Harris County will continue to support non-profit organizations, Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) and Community-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs). The Department will actively recruit eligible organizations to become CHDOs and CBDOs. In addition, the department will continue to offer regulatory training to these organizations in order to ensure a better understanding of CDBG, ESG, HOME and Fair Housing rules.

The Harris County Housing and Community Resource Center (HCRC) provides unique coordination opportunities for local multifamily housing providers and the public via a website that provides updated listings of the available rental units, links to community homeownership programs that seeking assist first-time homebuyers, and provides information on fair housing issues and resources. In addition to the website, the HCRC has a phone line to access Resource Navigators that provide one-on-one services for those seeking housing, financial assistance and other community resources.

Harris County also works closely with the City of Houston, Harris County Housing Authority and the Houston Housing Authority to coordinate funding and other resources to develop affordable housing, particularly permanent supportive housing (PSH). Harris County also works the Coalition for the Homeless, the Continuum of Care, local non-profits and the Houston Housing Authority as part of the rapid re-housing funding collaborative.



Discussion:

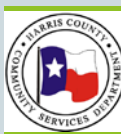
Harris County Community Services Department addresses these needs through project funding, but supplements projects with other services to provide resources for low income residents and neighborhoods. These include:

The Housing and Community Resource Center, a virtual gateway to affordable housing and community resources throughout Harris County with updated housing listings provided by the Harris County Housing Authority, the local real estate community and our own neighborhood stabilization program for first time homeowners called H.O.M.E. (Home Ownership Made Easy).

Coordination efforts with the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County to streamline the funding and service models for improved efficiency of funds and staff time while working to assist more clients in need. The Coalition also works with philanthropic organizations to bring in private funding to further leverage local, state, and federal funding, including funding received from Harris County.

The Harris County Housing Finance Corporation (HCHFC) works with Harris County to provide financing opportunities to affordable housing providers. Their actions support the creation of new single and multi-family housing units as well as homebuyer programs, which serve to expand the supply of affordable housing units in the county.

Several times a year, Harris County provides information and training opportunities to county staff, housing providers, non-profits, financial institutions and other interested parties on topics such as grants, fair housing and social service programs. The information is provided via emails to over 500 registered organizations, postings on HCCSD's website, and through trainings and conferences.



Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(l)(1,2,4)

Introduction:

Harris County continuously works to comply with all program specific requirements for CDBG, HOME and ESG Programs. In addition, the department will continue to offer technical assistance to subrecipient organizations in order to ensure a better understanding of program specific CDBG, ESG and HOME rules.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	2,400
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	2,400

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	99.02%



**HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)**

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

The Harris County HOME Buyer's Assistance Program assists eligible, low-income Harris County residents in attaining affordable housing by providing financial assistance for downpayment and closing cost assistance. Funds for assistance are made available as deferred forgivable loans. Harris County utilizes HOME affordable homeownership limits for our area released annually by HUD. The Harris County HOME Buyer's Assistance Program utilizes recapture for this HOME funded program as required by 24 CFR 92.254(a).

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

The Harris County HOME Single Family Program is designed to assist eligible, low-income applicants to purchase decent, safe, and sanitary housing with financial assistance for the downpayment, closing cost, and mortgage assistance. These funds for assistance (which constitute the “direct HOME subsidy”) are made available in the form of deferred and forgivable loans. Deferred and forgivable loans are loans that do not need to be repaid until the end of the affordability period. If the homebuyer complies with the affordability requirements (described below), then the loan is forgiven at the end of the affordability period.

The length of the affordability period for a HOME-assisted homebuyer unit under a recapture provision is determined by the amount of the direct HOME subsidy provided to the homebuyer as required by 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) Periods of Affordability and reflected in the below table.

Table: Periods of Affordability

To be eligible, both the housing and potential homebuyer must meet program requirements set by HUD and HCCSD. The homebuyer must occupy the home as his/her principal residence throughout the affordability period. Recapture, per 24 CFR 92.254(a)(5)(ii), is triggered by any transfer of ownership, either voluntary or involuntary, during the established HOME period of affordability. These requirements are outlined in a written agreement between the homebuyer and Harris County and enforced via a lien on the property. The written agreement is a HOME program requirement and includes all provisions specified in the HOME regulation 24 CFR 92.504(c)(5)(i). The County recaptures the full amount of the direct HOME subsidy to the homebuyer when there is a voluntary or involuntary transfer of the property before the period of affordability is complete, provided that the net proceeds are greater than or equal to the full amount of the direct HOME subsidy to the homebuyer.



If the net proceeds from the sale of the home are not sufficient to recapture the full HOME subsidy loan amount, Harris County will collect only what is available from net proceeds. The amount recaptured will never exceed the net proceeds.

To ensure awareness of the recapture requirements involved in receiving a HOME subsidy loan through the Downpayment Assistance Program, Harris County staff will meet with all applicants and discuss the recapture provision, written agreement, Deed of Trust, and Note.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

Recapture, per 24 CFR 92.254(a)(5)(ii), is triggered by any transfer of ownership, either voluntary or involuntary, during the established HOME period of affordability as outlined in the written agreement between the homebuyer and Harris County and enforced via a lien on the property. The period of affordability is based upon the HOME subsidy to the homebuyer that enabled the homebuyer to purchase the unit. To ensure awareness of the recapture requirements involved in receiving a HOME subsidy loan through the Downpayment Assistance Program, Harris County staff will meet with all applicants and discuss the recapture provision, written agreement, Deed of Trust, and Note.

The County will enforce the provisions through an agreement with the homebuyer, a recorded Deed of Trust and Note. HCCSD conducts an annual mail-out to all homeowners still under the affordability period. Each homeowner must confirm residency/primary occupancy of the home purchased with federal funds. Any homeowner found to no longer reside in the unit because they have transferred ownership during the period of affordability will be found to be non-compliant under the county's recapture provisions. In addition, any homeowner found to have rented the unit or vacated the unit during the period of affordability will be found to be noncompliant with the principal residency requirement. These instances will be referred to the Harris County Attorney's Office to pursue recapture in the case of a transfer of ownership or full repayment of HOME funds in the case of non-compliance with the principal residency requirement.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

Harris County does not plan to utilize HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds.



**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Reference 91.220(I)(4)**

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

Harris County's ESG Written Standards are included as an attachment.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

The Coordinated Access System (CAS) utilizes a uniform and standardized assessment process, uniform guidelines, priorities for accessing homeless assistance, and referral policies and procedures to provide coordinated and strengthened access to housing for families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Several roles play a part in the operation of the Coordinated Access System. These roles include: the Coordinating Entity, which is responsible for the daily administration of the Coordinated Access System (The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County serves as the Coordinating Entity); the Project Manager (staffed by the Coordinating Entity); Assessment Hubs, which are selected agency sites that provide prompt access to intake and assessments; Housing Assessors, who complete the Coordinated Access Housing Assessment using HMIS; Housing Navigators, who begin the process of securing an identified, available unit; Receiving Programs, which are all Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and Transitional Housing programs and have responsibilities that include reporting vacancies to the Coordinating Entity and responding to referrals from the Coordinated Access System; and Authorized User Agencies, which are housing providers that choose to or are required to participate in the Coordinated Access System and have access to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database.

Assessment Hubs are located at several agency sites. Hours for intake and client assessment operations are available on weekdays and weekends, but vary by hub location. In the future, a call center will also be established at one of the Assessment Hubs.

All households who meet the HUD definition of homeless and have annual incomes below 50% AMI are the target population for the CAS. Applicant households will be ranked according to level of vulnerability (using vulnerability indices assessment tools) with the most vulnerable households being given top ranking. Also, three separate assessment tools (targeting youth, families, and singles) will be used to prioritize households for which Rapid Re-Housing is determined to be the best housing intervention. Depending on availability of units clients may be placed on a waitlist.

The pathway through the Coordinated Access System includes the following five steps:

1. Connecting to the Coordinated Access System/Initial Requests for Services



2. **Housing Assessment**
 3. **Housing Match**
 4. **Housing Referral**
 5. **Housing Navigation**
3. **Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).**

Harris County chose to renew PY2022 ESG projects for PY2023 ESG funding. Applicants were notified of the opportunity to renew their projects through a Public Notice posting on CSD's website, an email blast and an email to the organizations with existing projects. Applicants then submitted a renewal application to Harris County Community Services Department. The applications were submitted electronically, logged, and downloaded to hard drives for HCCSD's review. The applications were reviewed and evaluated by HCCSD staff. The County coordinates with other local ESG funders within the CoC to provide continued support of a single, collaborative Rapid Re-housing System that is responsible for the administration of financial assistance and case management services. The County's rapid re-housing funds ultimately contribute to the community's Rapid Re-housing System which is continuing to expand and focus its resources in PY2023 to serve more youth and any residents made homeless by the continued impacts of COVID-19.

4. **If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.**

Harris County ensures that every agency funded through ESG has a homeless or formerly homeless individual in a position to make recommendations on policies and services funded under ESG. In addition, Harris County has a policy committee that includes a formerly homeless individual. Harris County is also part of the CoC Steering Committee, which includes representation from the Consumer Advisory Council.

5. **Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.**

In consultation with the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County and other Emergency Solutions Grants grantees with the Continuum, Harris County has developed the following performance standards for Emergency Shelters, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing, and is developing standards for Street Outreach and HMIS activities.

For all standards, the initial data collection will be used to establish baseline data. The progress towards outcomes will later be used to establish the community standard for achieving those outcomes. Emergency Shelters performance will be based on the community outcomes below.



- Number and percentage of people exiting to a known place
- Number and percentage of people assisted in overcoming a specific barrier to obtaining housing
- Number and percent of people who increase income from entry to exit in emergency housing programs

For Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing, the Continuum has decided to use the same performance standards to help measure the success of these interventions for the community. The County recognizes that clients who receive Rapid Re-Housing assistance will have a separate set of needs and likely higher barriers to maintaining permanent housing, so the outcome goals will be different, even though the measures for both programs are the same.

- Number and percentage of households exiting to each housing type or unknown place
- Number and percentage of people who increase income from entry to exit in emergency housing programs
- Number and percentage of households permanently housed 30 days after exiting the program
- Number and percentage of households who reappear in the shelter system

Harris County and other ESG grantees in the Continuum of Care have been and will continue working together to develop standards for performance, collaborative funding efforts and service delivery. As part of increasing coordination among providers, the CoC/The Way Home CoC Steering Committee is the primary decision making body for the CoC and all those that participate within its structure. Numerous workgroups focusing on the categories of the System, Chronically Homeless, Veterans, Families and Youth are actively meeting, planning/reviewing activities and providing feedback to the Steering Committee for implementation. Harris County participates in many workgroups including but not limited to the Coordinated Access Workgroup, ESG Funders Workgroup and PSH Pipeline Committee. The workgroups are facilitated by Coalition for the Homeless staff.

The CoC invites agencies that provide related services as it becomes aware of them. The group's planning and decision-making roles include targeting clients, developing service standards and performance measurements, coordination of funding sources and training, in conjunction with the Consumer Advisory Council, and input from mainstream providers. The group's Service Coordination role includes implementing coordinated assessments to direct clients to the most appropriate provider, linking people with subsidized permanent housing, and system and program-level performance improvement through training and data analysis.

