

**DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR
DISASTER RECOVERY 2015
FLOOD EVENTS**

AUGUST 18, 2016 PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner, Mayor

**Tom McGasland, Interim Director
Department of Housing and Community
Development**

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1.0 BACKGROUND

During the Memorial Day weekend and the Halloween weekend, 2015, Houston experienced severe flooding from storms that impacted multiple Texas counties. On May 29, 2015 and on November 25, 2015, President Barack Obama declared a major disaster existed in those counties. These disasters, referenced by FEMA as the Texas Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-line Winds and Flooding (DR-4223 and DR-4245), paved the way for federal assistance to the impacted areas.

1.1. Grant Award

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides flexible grants to help cities, counties and states recover from presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations. On February 29, 2016, HUD announced the award of \$66.56 million to the City of Houston to address unmet housing, infrastructure and business needs in the areas recovering from major disasters due to events that occurred in Houston on May 29, 2015 and November 25, 2015.

1.2 Action Plan

The Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) is the City of Houston department that is responsible for preparing an action plan/application that identifies the projects that cover necessary expenses associated with the use of the aforementioned funds. The projects will be related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and/or economic revitalization resulting from major disasters declared in 2015.

The department provides the leadership and financing to make affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization happen in Houston. Currently, HCDD administers over \$100 million annually in various federal, state and local programs. From investing in neighborhood parks, multifamily communities and economic development, to providing first-time homebuyer assistance and funds to serve the homeless, elderly and disabled -- HCDD works to improve the quality of life for Houston's neighborhoods and families.

HCDD has engaged a consulting team to assist with the process of preparing the action plan and engaging the public.

2.0 Public Hearing Information

To make the public aware of the grant award and possible uses of the proceeds, HCDD posted a public notice in the Houston Chronicle, the general circulation newspaper that serves the Houston region. The notice appeared on August 3, 2016, and was written in both English and Spanish.

2.1 Date/Location/Time

The public hearing was convened on Thursday, August 18, 2014. It was held in the City Council Chambers of the City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, in downtown Houston Texas.

The hearing began at 6:00 p.m. and ended at approximately 8:00 p.m.

2.2 Format

Members of the public were registered at a table situated at the entry to City Council Chambers. Attendees desiring to speak were asked to denote same on the sign-in sheet.

Meeting agendas were made available at the sign-in table. The reverse side of the agendas contained general guidelines, sign-in guidelines, and testimony guidelines, along with the web address for the project.

Seated near and around the City Council “horseshoe, were the HCDD Interim Director and other senior staff, along with three members of the Houston City Council Members of the public were seated in rows facing the “horseshoe.”

A court reporter transcribed the proceedings and additional notes were taken by a member of the aforementioned consulting team.

2.3 Attendance

Seventy-three (73) members of the public were in attendance, as per the sign-in sheet. (See **Appendix B.**)

2.4 Order of Proceedings

The meeting proceeded according to the agenda shown in **Appendix A.**

2.4.1 Opening

HCDD Deputy Director Brenda Scott introduced the three City Council members who were in attendance (Council Members Jerry Davis, Larry Green, and Michael Laster), then introduced HCDD Interim Director Tom McCasland and HCDD Assistant Director Keith Bynam.

In addition, Ms. Scott presented background information and disclosed that the department is operating on a condensed timeline. She also indicated that there will be additional community meetings.

2.4.2 Clarification & Purpose

Subsequently, Keith Bynam stated the purpose of the public hearing, called attention to the presence of a Spanish language interpreter, and acknowledged HCDD staff persons that were in attendance. Moreover, he indicated that clarity and short answers would be provided, but that a question and answer format would not typically be followed. Lastly, Mr. Bynam called attention to the presence of subject matter experts there to provide any needed input.

2.4.3 Presentation of Action Plan for Disaster Recovery

After Mr. Bynam completed his remarks, Interim HCDD Director Tom McCasland, aided by a slide show, made a presentation pertaining to the HUD grant award and its proposed uses. (**Appendix D** contains a copy of the presentation.)

Below are the highlights of Mr. McCasland's presentation:

- HCDD wants to identify high impact projects.
- We don't have good data on where unmet needs are.
- The current budget allocation is \$51 million for public facilities, \$10 million for acquisition; \$2 million for planning, and \$3.3 million for administration.
- What is being presented is a draft; there is no money in housing or economic development.
- There is a firm commitment of funds for citywide homeownership projects that can be spent alongside infrastructure dollars.
- We want to have good training and technical assistance for small and minority-owned businesses to do some of the work.
- Fair housing is not part of this particular process, but is something that HUD wants addressed at hearings.
- The next step is to submit the plan to HUD, which has a 45-day approval process. The project list will continue to evolve and HCDD will continue to receive community feedback. Once the projects are in place, requests for proposals will go out.

2.4.4 Remarks by Council Members

Upon completion of Mr. McCasland's presentation, the Houston City Council members who were present thanked the members of the public for attending and made remarks pertaining to the subject at hand. (See Section 3.3 and **Appendix E**.)

2.4.5 Public Comment Period

After remarks by the council members, sixteen of the 17 individuals who signified a desire to make remarks did so, taking turns at the microphone. One of the 17 deferred.

2.4.6 Closing Remarks and Adjournment

After the public comment period ended, Mr. McCasland thanked everyone. In addition, he stated that the public notice issue will be resolved.

Ms. Scott reminded attendees that the purpose of the hearing is to inform the planning process. She asserted that HCDD welcomes data inputs and indicated that there will be opportunities to make amendments going forward. Finally, Ms. Scott informed attendees that all materials prepared in conjunction with the process would be posted on HCDD's webpage and encouraged attendees to send comments by e-mail or USPS mail to the department's mailing address.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

3.0 SUMMARY OF INPUT RECEIVED

Input was received from members of the public and from the three members of the Houston City Council who were in attendance.

3.1 Public Input – Key Points

This section presents a summary of remarks presented by members of the public. Responses that City Council members made to public comments are frequently included

The transcript that appears in **Appendix E** contains the entirety of the remarks made by the members of the public who elected to speak at the public hearing.

In sum, remarks centered on:

- the need for drainage infrastructure improvements and upgrades
- the perceived inadequacy of the City’s “311” system of transmitting complaints by telephone, as a means of identifying patterns of need
- the desire for the Action Plan to focus on the needs of low-moderate income individuals versus low-moderate income neighborhoods
- the desire to have economic development included as a plan focus
- the perception of neglect and disinvestment in some neighborhoods

3.2 Public Comments

Comments received from the members of the public who presented remarks at the hearing are summarized and paraphrased below.

3.2.1 Residents and Civic Leaders

- Move forward with ReBuild Houston
- Water is dumping into neighborhoods, causing residential blight.
- The Westbury Civic Club and Westbury Super Neighborhood Council represent 5,000 homes and Fondren Southwest stormwater flows toward Westbury.
- Homes along the Willow Waterhole flood.

- Westbury wants additional detention to the west of Fondren Southwest because in a big rain event, water can't flow uphill.
- The storm drainage infrastructure (in Westbury) needs updating
- Low-moderate income areas flooded; Westbury has elderly persons (who qualify as low-moderate income).
- People don't want to live where it floods.
- The Brooksmith subdivision (bounded by North Main, Cavalcade, I-45, and Airline) needs storm drainage infrastructure upgrades.
- Storm drains in Brooksmith ceased to drain; they filled to capacity.
- The 100-year old drainage system that services Brooksmith is a hodgepodge and no longer functions.
- The new North Main storm drains seem to be draining into Brooksmith, causing flooding.
- The Brooksmith drainage system may have been under-engineered and under capacity since its inception; it is a working class neighborhood.
- Disinvestment, neglect, and lack of communication (are problems) in northeast Houston.
- Repetitive flooding has caused flood insurance to increase.
- There was poor notice of the public hearing.
- The TIRZ 12 Walter P. Moore study recommended detention ponds.
- Change the detention pond and ordinance; it is antiquated. Community development needs to take a back seat (to infrastructure).
- Need to require developers to put in detention at their expense.

At this point, Council Member Green recognized residents of southwest Houston who reside in his district.

- The City has neglected infrastructure since the 80's and will never catch up with decades of neglect.
- Routine maintenance was abandoned in favor of "311" maintenance.
- Engineers are not always right. Sunnyside Park will be drained, but not the homes across the street.
- Everything before "311" was wiped out and "311" is flawed.

- The July heat is evidence of global warming.
- Global change understanding can move us toward increasing resilience.
- There is a gap between research and practice.

3.2.2 Service Providers

- A speaker representing the United Orthodox Synagogue desires that low-moderate income persons versus low-moderate income neighborhoods assessed for benefits; have seniors, unemployed, veterans, who are low-moderate income in the neighborhood.
- The speaker representing Family Endeavors indicated that: the agency is providing case management for the May flood; that multiple homes are not repairable even though the City said that only two are not repairable; that there is flood damage due to soil erosion and flooding into homes; and finally, that dollars don't adequately reflect unmet needs.
- The speaker representing Family Endeavors indicated that (some) Family Endeavors clients failed the FIT test and FEMA rejected some.
- A speaker representing the Houston Area Urban League (HAUL) stated that HAUL is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency and they get the calls, not 311; HAUL is known and trusted. Moreover, the speaker indicated that HAUL is concerned about how dollars are proposed to be spent and asserted that HAUL is (still) getting home repair calls from 2015.

3..2.3 Management Districts

- The speaker representing the Brays Oaks Management District stated that:
 - The district encompasses 16 square miles and has formed an infrastructure committee due to economic development impact (of flooding).
 - The district has inventoried areas that can be used for future detention; has done some modelling; and has reduced flooding through acquisitions already.
 - The district will submit a comprehensive drainage plan to City of Houston shortly.
- The speaker representing the Greenspoint District stated that the district was not impacted by the Memorial Day floods, but was impacted significantly by the tax day flooding, so the District has been monitoring the process of this particular amount of CDBG-DR funding. This speaker asserted that it is important to spend the money in areas that were impacted by the storm event.
- The speaker representing Houston Southeast asserted that (1) the \$19 million figure is too low and that data must be found;(2) resilience needs to be engineered; and (3) the City

needs to have a mission and fit disasters inside of that mission, for instance there are commercial corridors that have long been abandoned; and (4) the City needs to bounce forward, with a community development master plan and a housing master plan to back up the community development master plan.

- The speaker representing Houston Southeast also indicated that there are abandoned commercial corridors, examples being Dowling, Homestead, and West Montgomery streets, and asserted that economic development money must be found.

In response to the request for a housing master plan, Council Member Davis stated that the new HCDD director is getting a plan together for housing and areas with LARA lots. He also thanked the speaker for supporting District B by making mention of West Montgomery and Homestead.

3.2.4 Non-Governmental Organizations

- A speaker representing Houston Area Realtors (HAR) asked that dollars be used to pay interest on bonds to accelerate projects.

Council Member Green responded that there is no time certainty with regards to reimbursement, citing Harris County Flood Control District projects that are thrown off schedule due to the failure of the federal government to provide timely reimbursement.

- The HAR representative also stated that the organization can help with data on housing costs and housing needs; that there are economically impacted people; and that it's too close to flood events to know impact on values. Lastly, the HAR representative asked that some dollars be held out for helping impacted people, since the full impact is not yet known.
- A speaker representing the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service (TxLIHIS) noted that he was providing five pages of comments that will be supplemented and he also asserted that he wanted his remarks to be made part of the hearing record. Further, the speaker stated that:
 - There is no list of proposed activities in the Action Plan; the City will have to amend the plan and hold another public hearing.
 - The plan should address disinvested communities, as per Department of Justice guidance.
 - TxLIHIS has studied the economics of open ditch drainage and created a map.
 - Using the incidence of "311" calls to determine needs is inadequate. "311" calls from low-moderate income neighborhoods are lower (in number).
 - Disaster Recovery funds should not be used to replace local funds.

Council Member Davis stated agreement with the speaker's remarks, especially as relates to "311" calls and expressed interest in talking to him further.

Council Member Laster asked the speaker to forward a copy of his statement and the referenced report to him. He also stated that poverty is no longer limited to one side of town and that \$30,000 is the average income in District J; with demographics that are 65%-plus Latino and 85% speak a language other than English.

Council Member Green asked for a copy of the speaker's remarks and stated that that the "no replacement of local dollars" comment is of interest.

Brenda Scott stated that all comments and responses will be part of the Action Plan.

- Another speaker representing TxLIHIS stated that:
 - Identifying the pattern of "311" calls is an inadequate means of assessing flooding impacts versus identifying low-moderate income groups
 - 88% of open ditches are in neighborhoods of color.

The speaker displayed a map depicting open ditch drainage and asserted that the map does not show all of the open ditches, just the ones that are inadequately drainage. The speaker stated that an overlay of where actual flooding took place will be prepared and compared to open ditch coverage.

Council Member Green stated that aging infrastructure, as opposed to the pattern of occurrence of open ditches is more relevant than the concentration of open ditches, adding that often, open ditch areas outperform areas with areas where the infrastructure is outdated. He added that he would like to continue the conversation with TxLIHIS.

Council Member Laster thanked the speaker for extra work and asked whether the map would be included in the comments. He stated that while open ditches are of interest due to their prevalence city-wide, but cited infrastructure that has aged in place, including in the southwest area.

3.3 Input from Elected Officials in Attendance

As previously stated, Council Member Jerry Davis, District B; Council Member Michael ("Mike") Laster, District J; and Council Member Larry Green, District K, were in attendance and provided input (and as shown above, feedback to members of the public who spoke at the hearing).

Overall, the three elected officials in attendance at the hearing expressed:

- Appreciation for the fact that members of the public took the time to attend the public hearing
- Concern regarding the amount of notice provided for the public hearing
- Concern about the manner in which the public was notified of the hearing
- Willingness to have helped with the notification of members of the public had they themselves been alerted sooner
- Assurances that there will be additional meetings

A sampling of additional input from the council members in attendance is paraphrased below.

- Council Member Davis indicated his concurrence with some of the information gathered, but expressed strong disagreement with some of the information and the procedure for allocating funds to affected areas; he stated that it is his belief that the funding can be allocated to more than infrastructure and housing.
- Council Member Laster noted that a number of neighborhoods in the district that he represents have been affected over multiple flood events, like to the north of Brays Bayou and to the east of Hillcroft.
- Council Member Laster thanked department heads and HCDD personnel for their efforts and indicated his awareness that the federal government has not provided needed information in a timely fashion.
- Council Member Green expressed his support for a drainage plan that is underway under the auspices of the Brays Oaks Management District.

APPENDICES

**APPENDIX A
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**Public Hearing Notice
for Draft Action Plan for Disaster Recovery–2015
Flood Events**

Please join the City of Houston’s Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) for a public hearing to present and receive comment on the **Draft Action Plan for Disaster Recovery–2015 Flood Events** (Plan). The hearing will be **Thursday, August 18, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, 77002.**

The Plan serves as an application for \$66,560,000 in federal funds to be used for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and/or economic revitalization resulting from major disasters declared in 2015. Major disasters due to severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding were declared on May 29, 2015 and on November 25, 2015.

The venue is accessible for persons with disabilities. For additional information or to request special arrangements (interpreter, sign language, CART for the hearing impaired), contact Paula Jackson at paula.jackson@houstontx.gov or 832.394.6181.

Beginning Tuesday, August 9, the **Draft Plan** will be available for the general public to review for fourteen (14) days. View the **Draft Plan** at the following locations:

- Online at www.houstontx.gov/housing
- Main Public Library – 500 McKinney, 77002
- HCDD Office – 601 Sawyer, Suite 400, 77007 (copies may be obtained at this location)

Public comments may be submitted by email to: mary.itz@houstontx.gov or by mail: HCDD, ATTN: Mary Itz, 601 Sawyer, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77007. Responses to public comments will be available upon completion of the Plan.

Residents with suggestions or concerns regarding fair housing or related items will be provided an opportunity to voice those issues during the public hearing. For specific questions or concerns about fair housing or landlord/tenant relations, please contact Royce Sells at 832.394.6240.

APPENDIX B
Action Plan for Disaster Recovery 2015 Flood Events
Public Hearing
Thursday, August 18, 2016
City Hall Annex 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Sign - In Sheet

	Name	Organization Name	How Did You Hear About The Public Hearing	E-mail	Would You Like To Speak During The Public Comment Period?
1	Ben Willcoxon		Online		No
2	Charlie Duncan	TxCHHS			Yes
3	John Henneberger	TxCHHS	online	john@texashousing.org	Yes
4	Troy Dorman	Tetra Tech	Email	Troy.Dorman@tetratech.com	No
5	BARBARA SCHETTER	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS INC	EMAIL	bschetter@neighborhood-centers.org	No
6	Allison May	Houston Habitat	email	amay@houstonhabitat.org	no
7	Robert Burroughs	Robert F. Burroughs/ISA	client	r.burroughs@rfb-usa.com	no
8	Leigh M Burnett	Buffalo Bayou Partnership	email	lburnett@buffalobayou.org	No
9	Glenda Kizzee	Houston Area Habitat	email	GKizzee@haur.org	yes
10	Keshia Matthews	HDR	email	keshia.matthews@hdrinc.com	no
11	ELAINE VERVER	HDR	email	elaine.verver@hdrinc.com	NO
12	STEPH MYRTZ	Willow Springs	email		
13	Atta Shay	Mehr Group LLC	phone call		
14	Kathy Lord	Bayou Preservation	email		No
15	Robert Muhammad	Southeast Magnet Dist	Email		yes
16	Miracle Turner	Catholic Charities	email	mturner@catholiccharities-us.org	NO

**Action Plan for Disaster Recovery 2015 Flood Events
Public Hearing
Thursday, August 18, 2016
City Hall Annex 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Sign - In Sheet**

(Signature)

	Name	Organization Name	How Did You Hear About The Public Hearing	E-mail	Would You Like To Speak During The Public Comment Period?
1	VIRGINIA GREGORY	SBCA	MAYOR & DISTRICT A E-mail	[REDACTED]	YES
2	Ed Wolff	HAR	Brenda Stading	[REDACTED]	Yes
3	Richard Rodriguez	Browns OVER District	LARRY GREEN	rrodriguez@hhelly.com	Yes
4	Sonyia Colerna	Family Endeavors	Supervisor ^{LTRC}	[REDACTED]	No
5	Karen Preston	Family Endeavors	LTRC	[REDACTED]	No
6	Sheryl Chambers	Family Endeavors	LTRC	schambers@familyendeavors.org	Yes
7	Curtis Bowers	market-consulting	John Buri	[REDACTED]	NO
8	Carole D. Arterbery	Family Endeavors	City	carterbery@familyendeavors.org	NO
9	Donna Rickenbacher	MARKUE	City	DONNA@MARKUECONSULTANTS.COM	NO.
10	James E. Rickenbacher	"	"	[REDACTED]	No
11	Jeff Herman	Resident/Heaman	FB	[REDACTED]	Possibly
12	Tracy Stephens	ACTS - Achieving Community Tasks Successfully		[REDACTED]	
13	Al "Doc" Henson	CGH - HCDD			
14	Robert Koehl		Email	[REDACTED]	Yes
15	Matthias Mackeprang		email/neighbor	[REDACTED]	No
16	Amy Goldstein	UOS	Email	[REDACTED]	Yes

**Action Plan for Disaster Recovery 2015 Flood Events
Public Hearing
Thursday, August 18, 2016
City Hall Annex 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Sign - In Sheet**

	Name	Organization Name	How Did You Hear About The Public Hearing	E-mail	Would You Like To Speak During The Public Comment Period?
1	Lynae Novominsky	Jewish Family Service	Email	LNOVOMINSKY@JFSHOUSTON.ORG	No
2	Alan Egan	East West Neighborhood District	email	eeagan@nwnd.org	no
3	Becky Edmondson	Wesbury Super Neighborhood	email	[REDACTED]	Yes / maybe
4	Brenda Takahashi	HCM	Email	brenda.takahashi@houston.tx	No
5	LENNY WILLIAMS	RESIDENT	FB GROUP EMAIL	[REDACTED]	Yes maybe
6	Juan Soto	Resident	email	[REDACTED]	NO
7	CHRIS CANONICO	ARDURRA Group		[REDACTED]	NO
8	ROBERT FIEDERLEIN	GREENSPONT DISTRICT	E-MAIL	RFIEDERLEIN@GREENSPONT.ORG	YES
9	Antoine Bant	Antoine design group	↓	antoinel@thebantdesigngroup.com	NO
10	Deborah DeGor	Roberta F Burrroughs	EMAIL	[REDACTED]	NO
11	Vickie McBride	Houston Area Jewish Community Center	email	v.mcbride@haveda.org	NO
12	Teri Morgan	HDR Eng	email	tmorgan@hdrinc.com	NO
13	Bob Mironov	BSN 32		[REDACTED]	NO
14	Sue Cox	BVI	neighborhood blog	[REDACTED]	No
15	Tammi Wallace	EnFocus Strategies / Tekny Tech	email	tammi@enfocustategies.com	NO
16	Marsha Towns	Student Conservation Assoc	email	mtowns@thesca.org	NO
17	Stephanie Wright	United Way	email	swright@unitedwayhouston.org	NO

3

**Action Plan for Disaster Recovery 2015 Flood Events
Public Hearing
Thursday, August 18, 2016
City Hall Annex 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Sign - In Sheet**

	Name	Organization Name	How Did You Hear About The Public Hearing	E-mail	Would You Like To Speak During The Public Comment Period?
1	Nateki W Wood	Catholic Charities	Email	nwood@catholiccharities.org	No
2	Kevin Deneig	Dallas Fed - Houston	Email	kevindeneig@dal.frb.org	No
3	TONY COUNCIL	TLC ENGINEERING	"	TONYCOUNCIL@TLC ENR.COM	NO
4	Mayra Bontemps	Houston LISC	email	mbontemps@lisc.org	NO
5	James Donato	The Donato Group	email	james@thedonatogroup.com	No
6	Stan Ledbetter	SLS	email		NO
7	Allison Nimichan	Family Endeavors	email	anmichan@familyendeavors.com	NO
8	BOBBI MAYES		Other		NO
9	Patricia Mayes		Other		No
10	DANIEL PAUL	HOANE	HCDD	daniel.paul@honorlp.com	No
11	BARBARA WITE	DIST K	DIST K	BARBARAWITE@HOUSTONTX.GOV	NO
12	Lisa Myers	Energy Capital Realty	email		No
13	Rogaine Guilabert	Outlook Strategists	email	rogaine@outlookstrategists.com	NO
14					
15					
16					
17					

**Action Plan for Disaster Recovery 2015 Flood Events
Public Hearing
Thursday, August 18, 2016
City Hall Annex 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Sign - In Sheet**

	Name	Organization Name	How Did You Hear About The Public Hearing	E-mail	Would You Like To Speak During The Public Comment Period?
1	Judd Stys	SFA	Emmi	[REDACTED]	NO
2	BROOKE BRACQUETTES	CONGRESSMAN CULBERTSON		BROOKE.BRACQUETTES @ MAIL.HOUSE.GOV	NO
3	Barbara J. Pierce	city			NO
4	Jenn.fer Bartlett	Cesar Chavez foundation	email	jbartlett@chavezfoundatn.org	NO
5	Lisa Plocke	Westbury Circ Club	WCC mtg		NO
6	Chandra Simmons (Gary)	Voicesless, TOP Trinity heies TPAC	TDEI	[REDACTED]	NO
7	Dr A. Barnard	UH-D	E-mail	abarnard2@uh.edu	YES
8	Margaret Dunlap	METRO		md18@ride.metro.org	NO
9	Vickie Garner *	Citizen	email	[REDACTED]	yes
10	Ahmad R. Drumgo	Perpetual Development LLC	KBC CCC	[REDACTED]	NO
11	Stan Ledbetter	SLS	email	[REDACTED]	NO
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					



Agenda

Public Hearing Action Plan for Disaster Recovery – 2015 Flood Events

**Thursday, August 18, 2016 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
City Hall Annex
900 Bagby
Houston, Texas 77002**

Opening **Brenda Scott, Deputy Director**

Clarification & Purpose **Keith Bynam, Assistant Director**

**Presentation of Action Plan
for Disaster Recovery** **Tom McCasland, Interim Director**

3 Minute Break

Public Comment **Brenda Scott, Deputy Director**

Adjournment **Brenda Scott, Deputy Director**



Public Hearing on the Action Plan for Disaster Recovery 2015 Flood Events

Welcome

Thank you for attending the Public Hearing. To ensure equal opportunity for all, and to accommodate the number of people who may wish to speak, general public hearing guidelines are provided below:

General Guidelines

1. Mutual respect, courtesy, and patience are the hearing's guiding concepts.
2. As a courtesy please inform Hearing attendees that you are recording the proceedings.
3. Please do not interrupt anyone while they are speaking.
4. Please remain quiet so others and the transcriber can hear; please leave the room for side discussions.
5. Please refrain from addressing the audience or asking for audience participation.
6. Please turn off cell phones and pagers or set them to vibrate.

Sign-In Guidelines

1. All hearing attendees are asked to register as a speaker at the hearing sign-in table.
2. Attendees wishing to testify should indicate their desire to do so by signing the Speakers List.
3. Attendees testifying on behalf of a group should note the name of the group in the appropriate box.
4. Attendees wishing to testify must personally sign in.
5. The hearing sign-in table will also be the central contact point for any attendees who have questions about the hearing process.
8. Yielding time to another person is not allowed.
9. **Attendees who are unable to fully testify within the 3 minute time-frame are encouraged to submit additional testimony in writing for the record. Written and verbal comments have equal weight in the process.**
10. Testimony will be recorded and transcribed for the record.
11. If time permits at the end of public testimony, a general call for anyone who has not yet testified will be made. This would include those who had signed up and might have missed their earlier call to testify and other persons who had not previously testified.

Testimony Guidelines

6. Those who checked the box to testify will be called forward to speak by the Hearing Officer in the order they signed in.
7. **Each speaker is allowed 3 minutes to testify.**
12. **The hearing is held for the purpose of receiving important testimony. It is not a question-and-answer session. Questions will be referred, as appropriate. Responses to comments will be posted on HCDD's website**
http://houstontx.gov/housing/2015_Flood_Events_Recovery.html

ACTION PLAN FOR DISASTER RECOVERY 2015 FLOOD EVENTS

City of Houston
Sylvester Turner, Mayor

Housing and Community Development Department
Tom McCasland, Interim Director



Public Hearing August 18, 2016

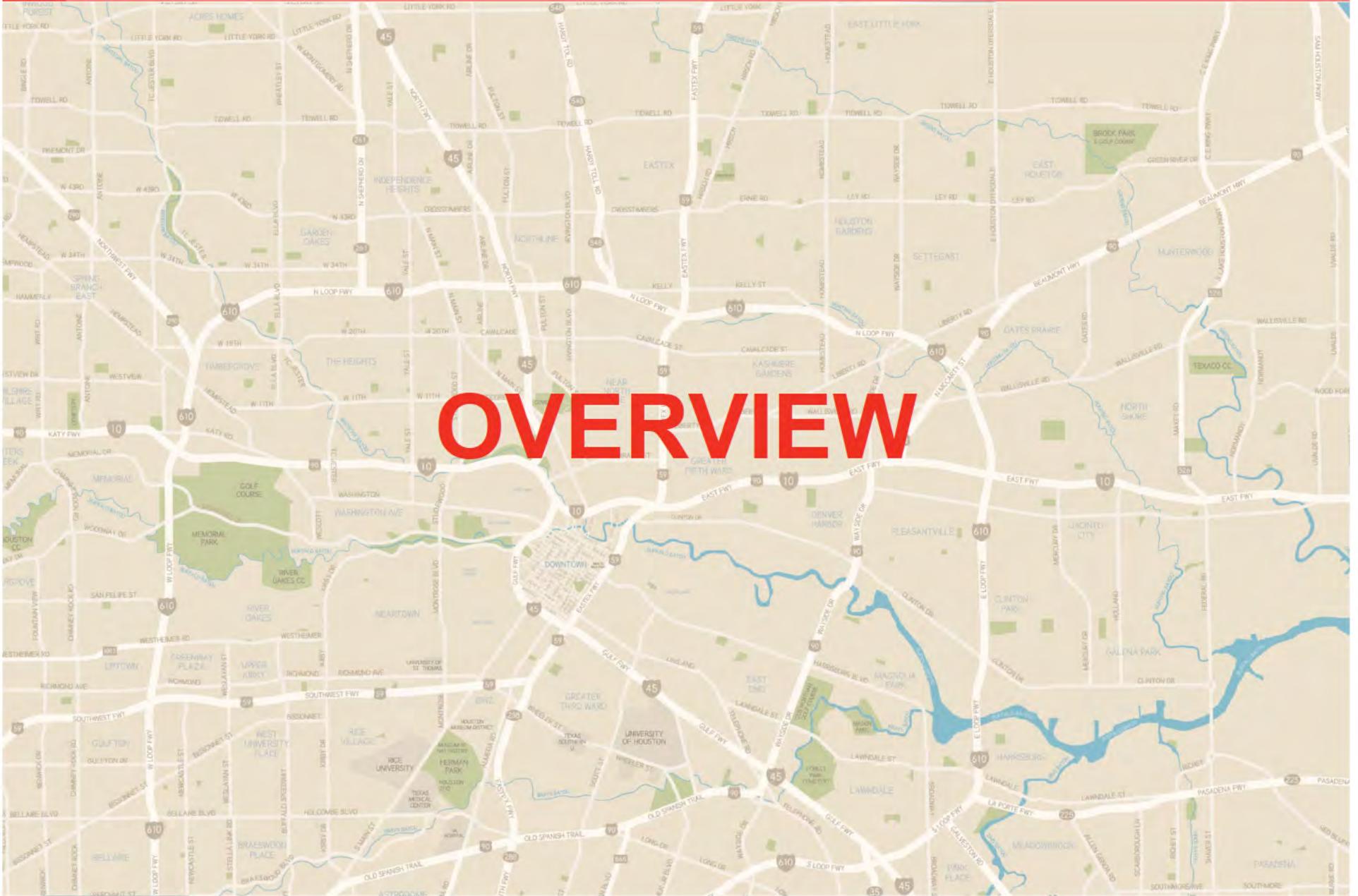
What is the purpose of this Public Hearing?

To give Houstonians the opportunity
to be involved in developing the
Action Plan for Disaster Recovery



Format

- **We present data and information**
- **You give your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions on how to limit future flooding in your community**
- **Your feedback will inform our process**
- **Your comments will become part of Action Plan**
- **Not a Q&A format, but...**
 - **We will provide clarification and short answers where possible**
 - **You may be directed to subject matter experts in the room**



OVERVIEW

2015 Memorial Day Storm – May 31, 2015 Brutal storm system ravages Houston

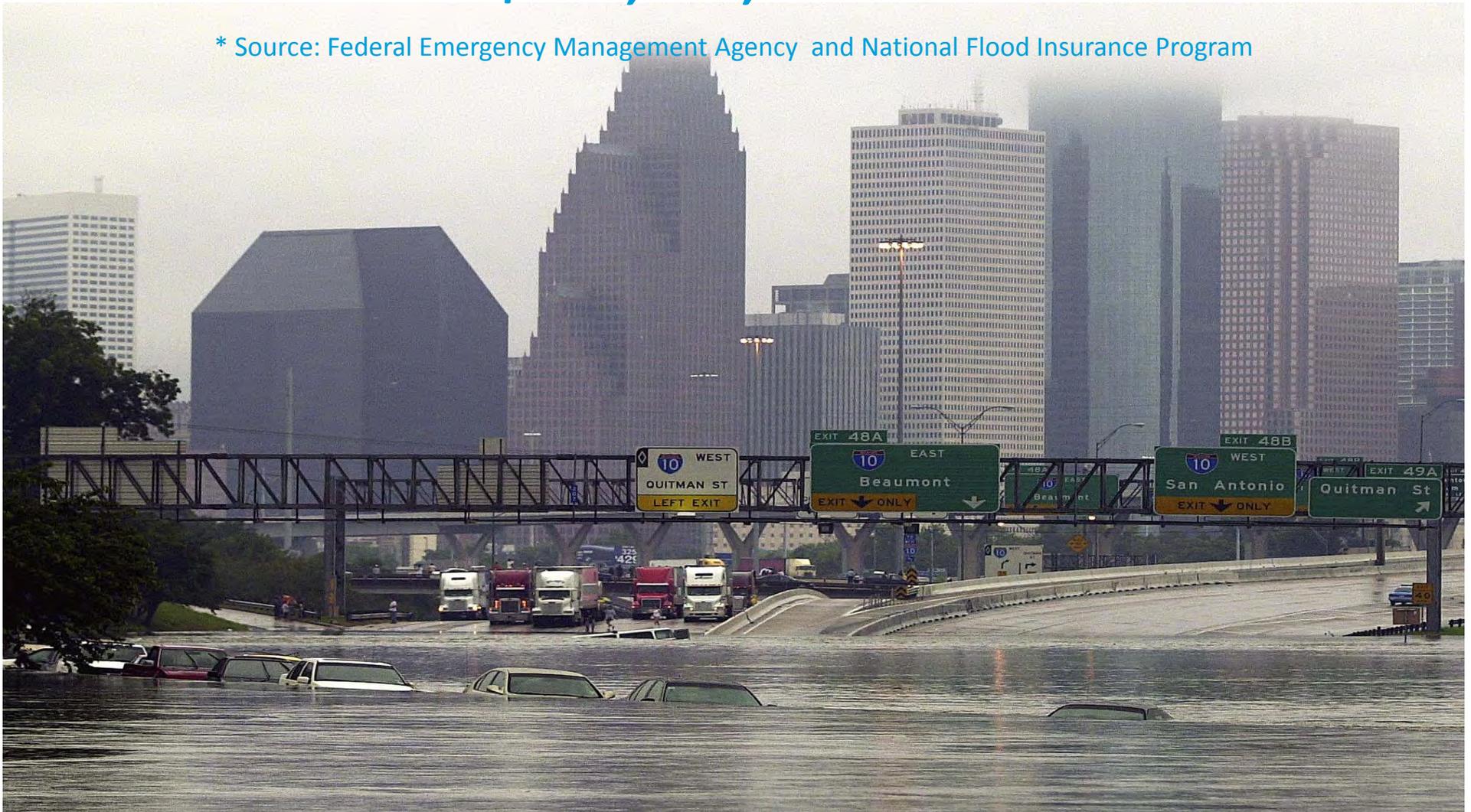


Photo by Matt Aufdenspring/KPRC2

Memorial Day Storm Housing and Infrastructure Impact

\$518,155,041.16*

* Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Flood Insurance Program



2015 Halloween Storm – October 31, 2015

More substantial damage to Houston's built environment



Halloween Storm Housing and Infrastructure Impact

\$27,735,858.42*



* Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Flood Insurance Program

Housing and Infrastructure Impact from Both Floods



\$545,890,899.58

* Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Flood Insurance Program



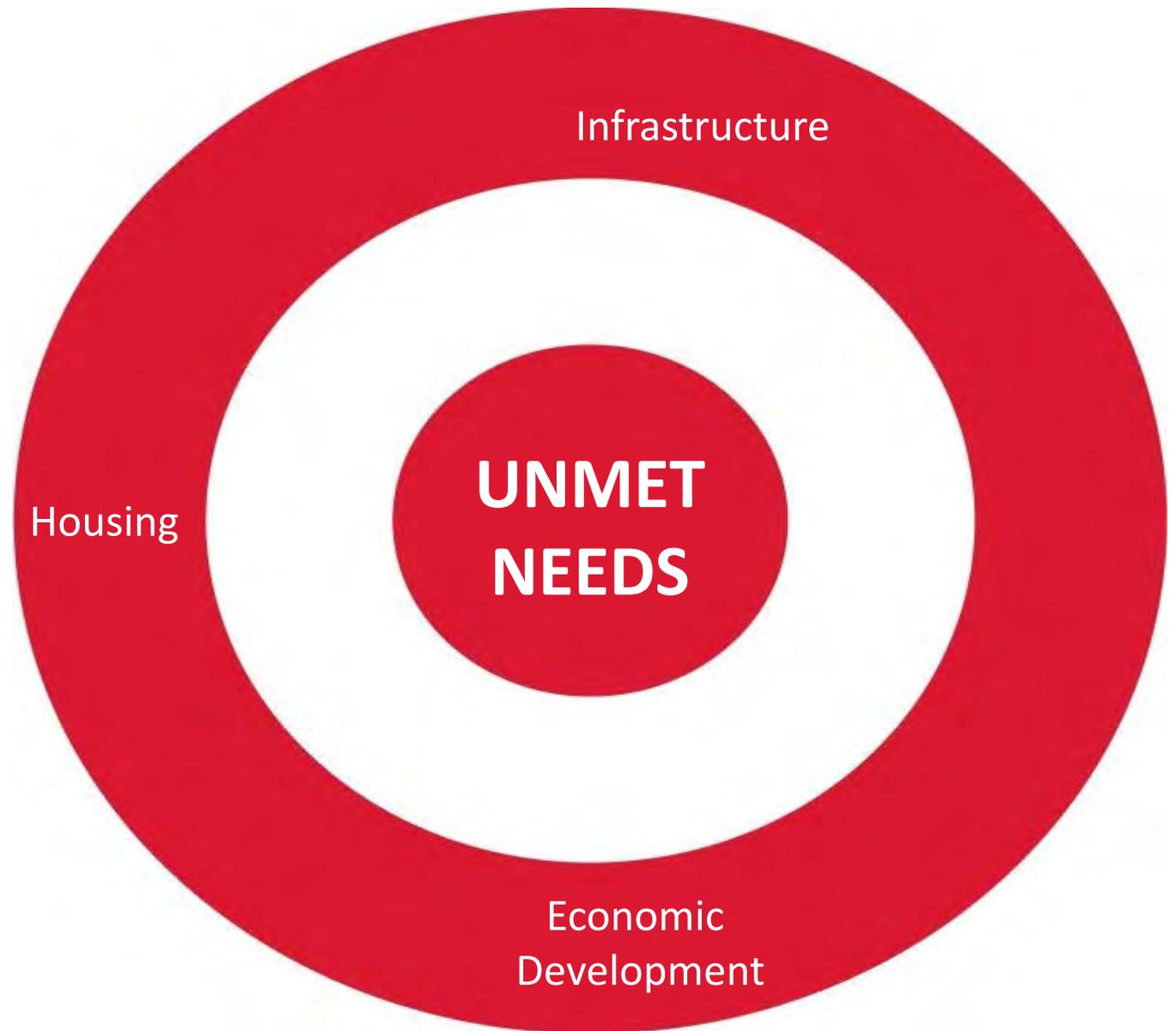
Texas
getting
\$142 million
to address
recovery from
both 2015
storms

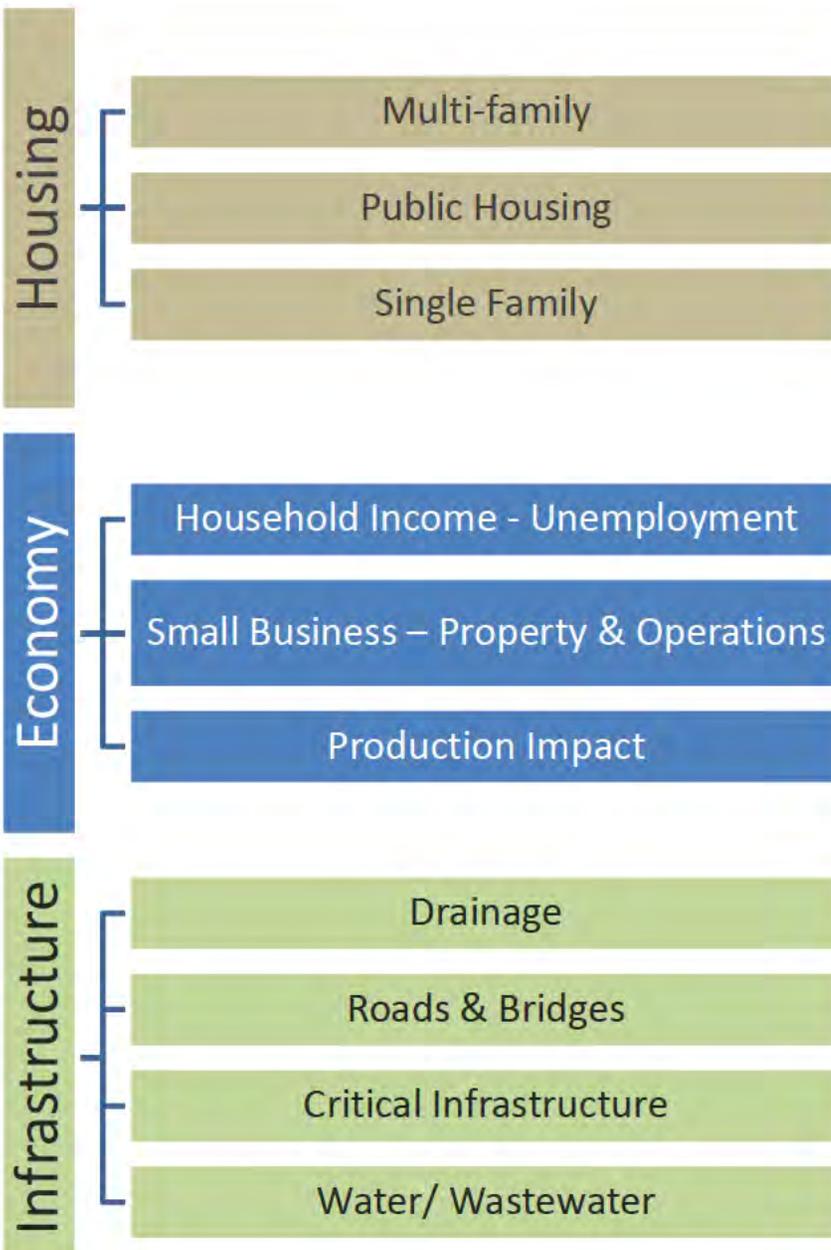
HUD's Allocation of \$142 Million



Houston	\$66,560,000
San Marcos	\$25,080,000
State of Texas	<u>\$50,696,000</u>
Total	\$142,336,000

Potential Uses of Funding

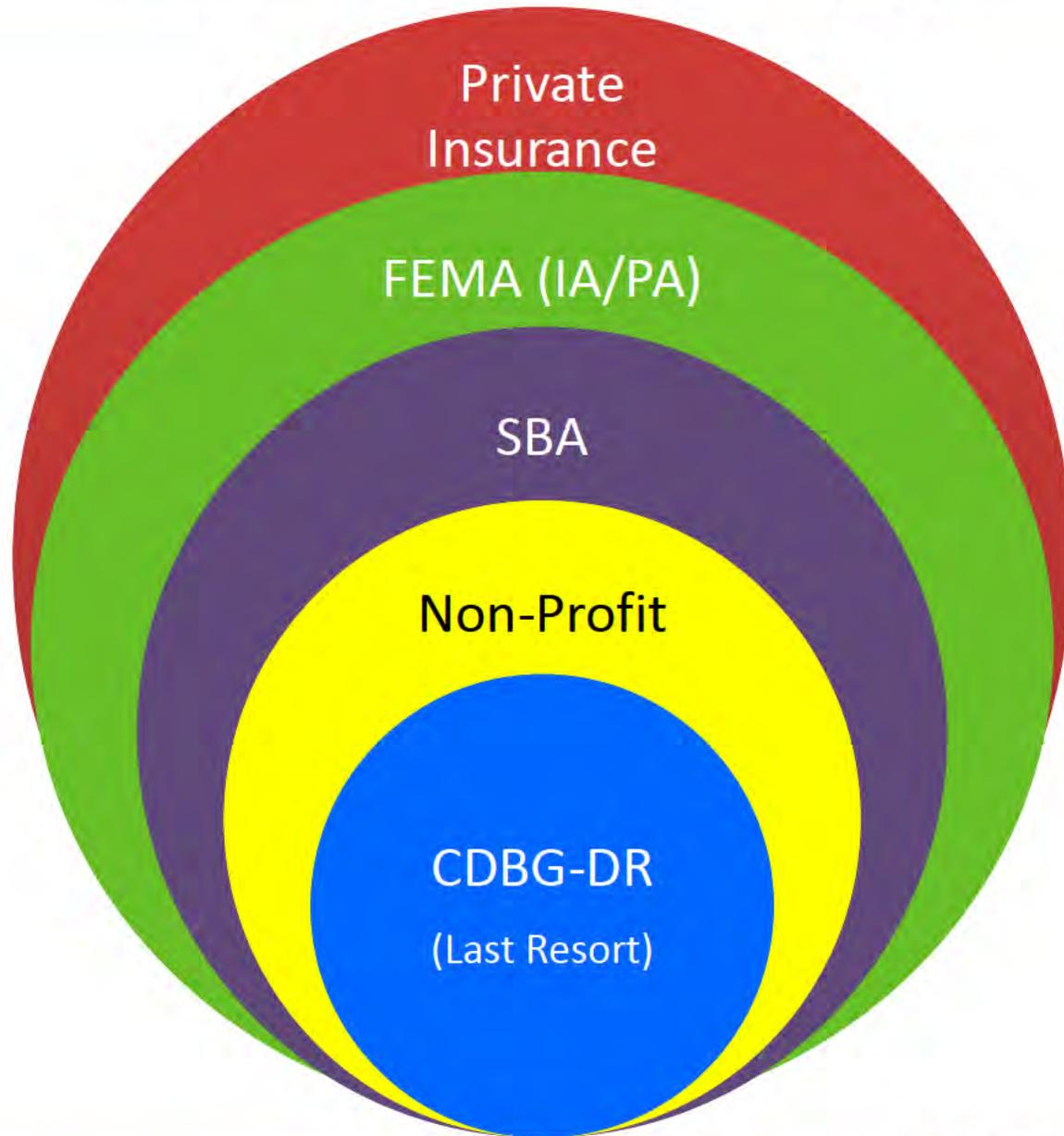




Each sector is assessed for impact and funds made available through:

- Private Insurance
- FEMA
- Small Business Association (SBA)
- Other City or State sources
- Non-Profits

Funding Hierarchy





Unmet Needs

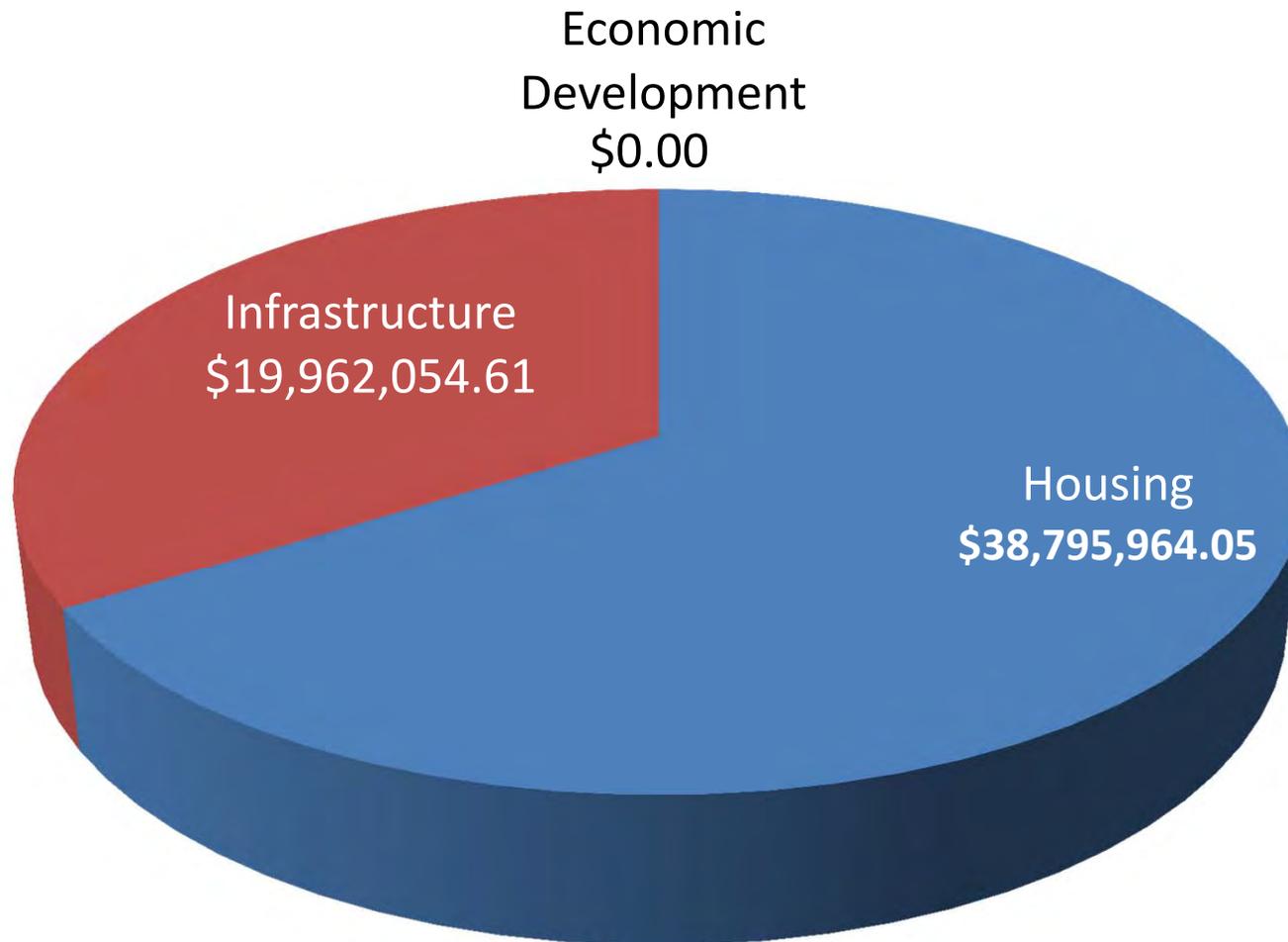
Assessing Unmet Need

- Not a perfect science – based on best available data
- Is required by HUD as part of the Action Plan
- Guides the City through a discovery process to inform program design

Houston's Unmet Needs Assessment

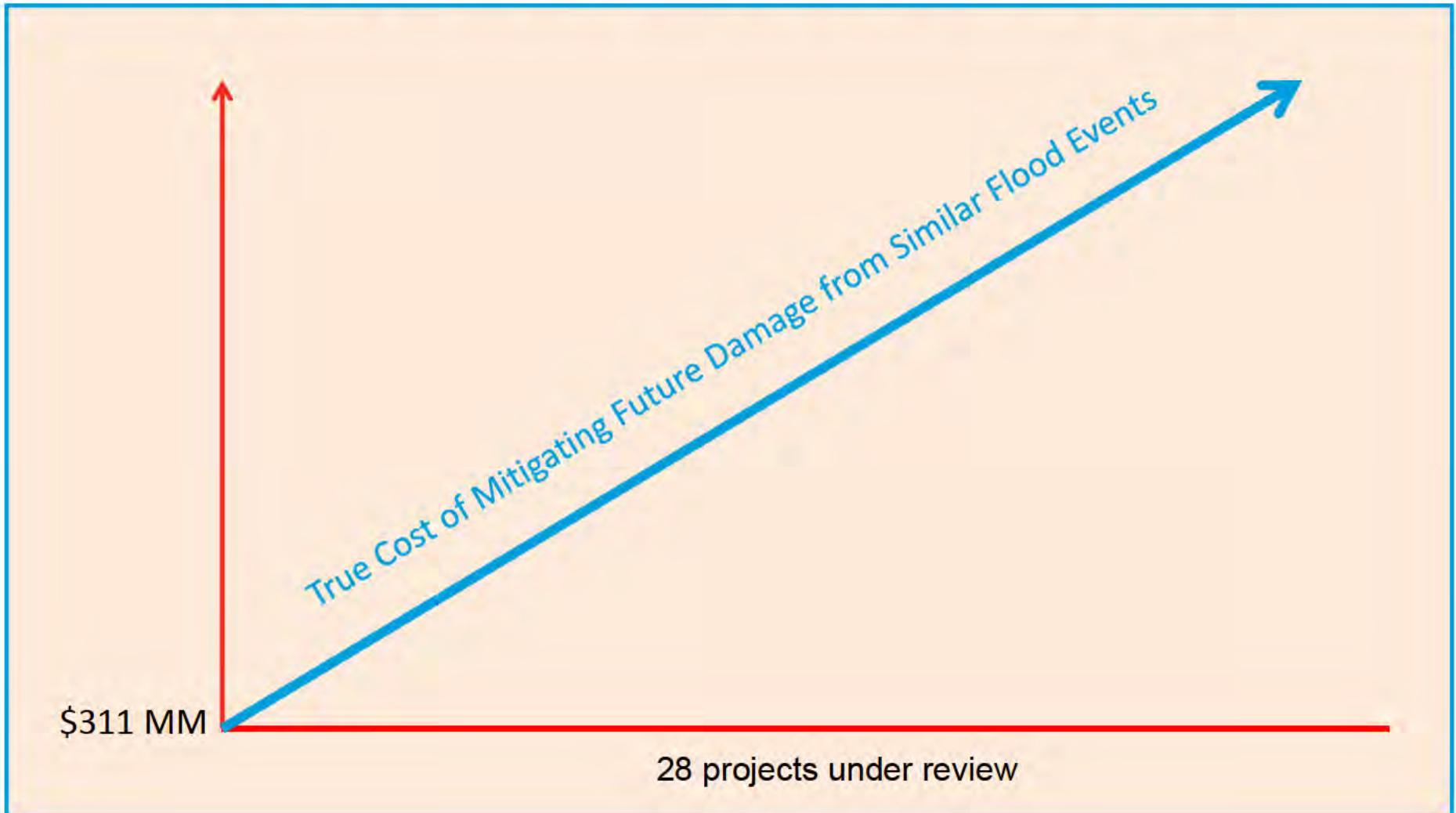
Amount of disaster-related impact
- Assistance received to address impact
Unmet need remaining from disasters

Summary of Unmet Need by Category



Unmet Needs

What We Don't Know



Unmet Housing Needs

Estimated Impact	\$524,689,073.17
Funds Made Available	\$485,893,109.12
Unmet Need	\$38,795,964.05

Numbers subject to change as new data becomes available
(Currently based on FEMA IA, SBA Disaster Loans, National Flood Insurance)

Unmet Housing Needs Details

Housing	
Impact	
FEMA [*] Estimate	\$ 174,454,055.26
NFIP ^{**} Claims	\$ 350,235,017.91
Total Housing Impact	\$ 524,689,073.17
Funds Made Available	
FEMA Assistance & SBA ^{***} Loans	\$ 135,658,091.21
NFIP Claims	\$ 350,235,017.91
Total Housing Funds Made Av.	\$ 485,893,109.12
Housing Unmet Need	\$ 38,795,964.05

*FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

**NFIP: National Flood Insurance Program

***Small Business Association

Unmet Infrastructure Needs

Estimated Impact	\$21,201,826.41
Funds Made Available	\$1,239,771.80
Unmet Need	\$19,962,054.61

Numbers subject to change as new data becomes available
(Currently based on FEMA Individual Assistance, SBA Disaster Loans, National Flood Insurance)

Unmet Infrastructure Needs Details

Infrastructure	
Impact	
FEMA PA* Claims	\$ 21,201,826.41
Total Infrastructure Impact	\$ 21,201,826.41
Funds Made Available	
FEMA PA Paid	\$ 1,239,771.80
Total Infrastructure Funds Made Av.	\$ 1,239,771.80
Infrastructure Unmet Need	\$ 19,962,054.61

*FEMA PA : Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance

Unmet Economic Needs

Estimated Impact	\$4,022,000.00
Funds Made Available	\$4,022,000.00
Unmet Need	\$0.00

Numbers subject to change as new data becomes available

(Currently based on FEMA IA, SBA Disaster Loans, National Flood Insurance, Workforce Commission)



Unmet Economic Needs Details

Economic Development	
Impact	
SBA* Business Claims	\$4,022,000.00
Total Economic Impact	\$4,022,000.00
Funds Made Available	
SBA* Business Claims	\$ 4,022,000.00
Total Economic Funds Made Av.	\$ 4,022,000.00
Infrastructure Unmet Need	\$0.00

*Small Business Association

GRANT PROCESS

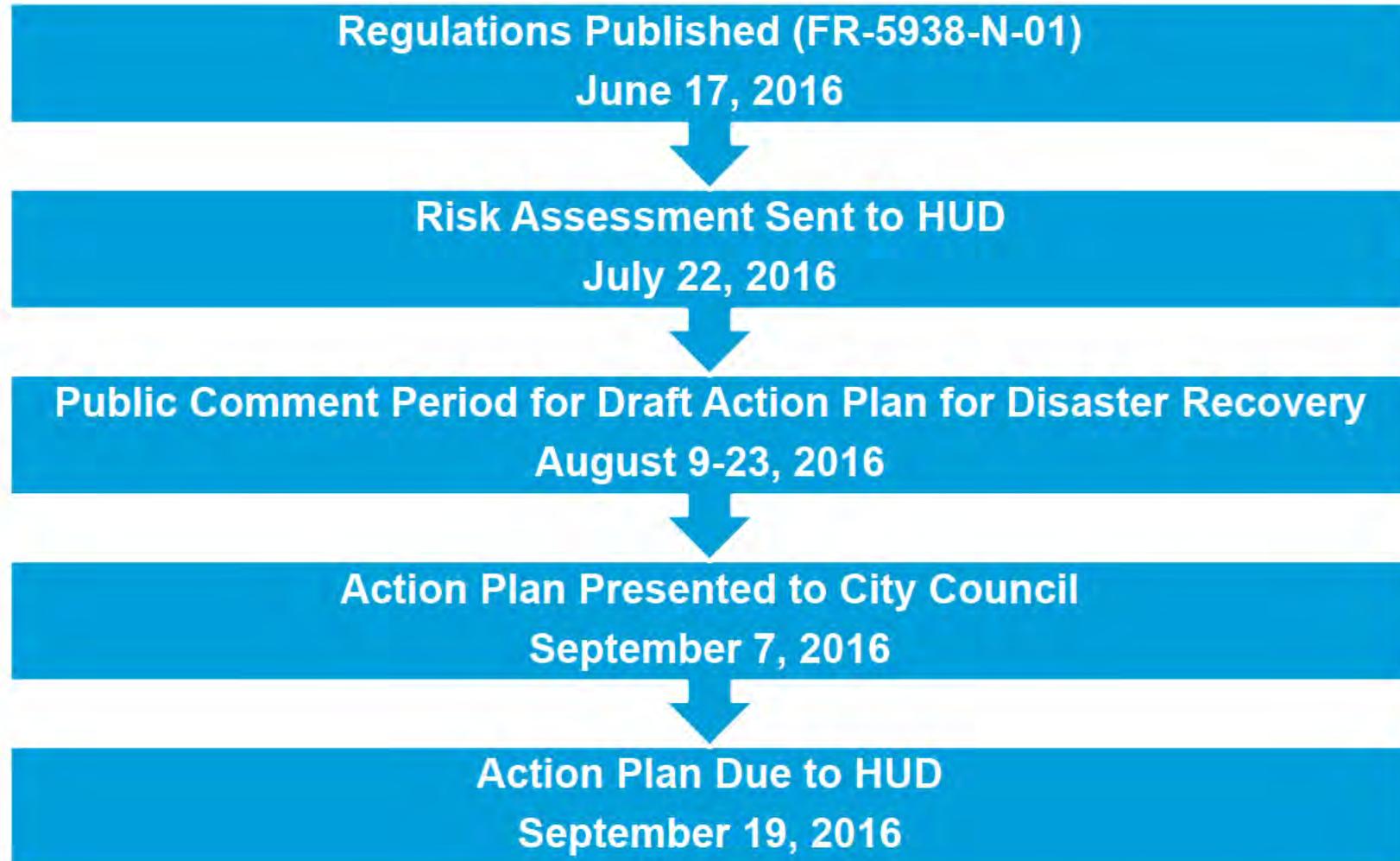


CDBG - Disaster Recovery for 2015 Flood Events

Use of Funds

- Disaster relief
- Long-term recovery
- Restoration of infrastructure and housing
- Economic revitalization

CDBG-DR15 Grant Process



Location of Documents

The screenshot shows the City of Houston website. The header includes the City of Houston logo and navigation links: Home, I Want To, Govt, Residents, Business, Departments, Visitors, and Español. Below the header is a banner image of the Houston skyline with the text "Welcome to the City of Houston eGovernment Center". The main content area is titled "HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT" and "2015 Flood Events Disaster Recovery". It contains several paragraphs of text, including a section for "2015 Flood Recovery Action Plans and Related Documents" with links to "Needs Assessment Draft (coming soon)" and "Action Plan Draft". There are also sections for "KEY HCDD SERVICES" and "HOUSING DEPT. LINKS".

Home I Want To Govt Residents Business Departments Visitors Español

Welcome to the City of Houston eGovernment Center

Home > Housing and Community Development Department > 2015 Memorial Day Disaster Recovery

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

2015 Flood Events Disaster Recovery

During Memorial Day weekend and Halloween weekend, 2015, Houston experienced severe flooding from storms that impacted multiple Texas counties. On May 29, 2015 and on November 25, 2015, President Barack Obama declared a major disaster existed in those counties. These disasters, referenced by FEMA as the Texas Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-line Winds and Flooding (DR-4223 and DR-4245), paved the way for federal assistance to the impacted areas.

On February 29, 2016, HUD announced the award of \$66.56 million to the City of Houston to address unmet housing, infrastructure and business needs in the areas recovering from the 2015 floods. HUD provides flexible grants to help cities, counties and states recover from presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations.

2015 Flood Recovery Action Plans and Related Documents

- Needs Assessment Draft (coming soon)
- Action Plan Draft

2015 Flood Recovery Citizen Participation Opportunities

To ask a question, submit a comment, or request a translation of a document, please contact 832.394.6200 or 2015FloodEvents@houstontx.gov

Para hacer una pregunta, enviar un comentario, o solicitar una traducción de un documento, por favor póngase en contacto al

KEY HCDD SERVICES

- Housing Dept. Home Page
- Disaster Recovery - Hurricane Ike
- Disaster Recovery - 2015 Flood Events
- Home Repair Programs
- Homebuyer Assistance Program
- Homelessness
- HOPWA
- Multifamily Housing Communities
- Public Facilities
- Public Services

HOUSING DEPT. LINKS

- Housing Dept. Home Page
- About the Director
- Communications / Press Releases

- Action Plan
- Needs Assessment
- Other Related Documents

HoustonTX.gov/housing/2015_Flood_Events_Recovery

CDBG-DR15 Funding Requirements

Benefit

- Minimum of 70% of funding must benefit low- and moderate-income persons

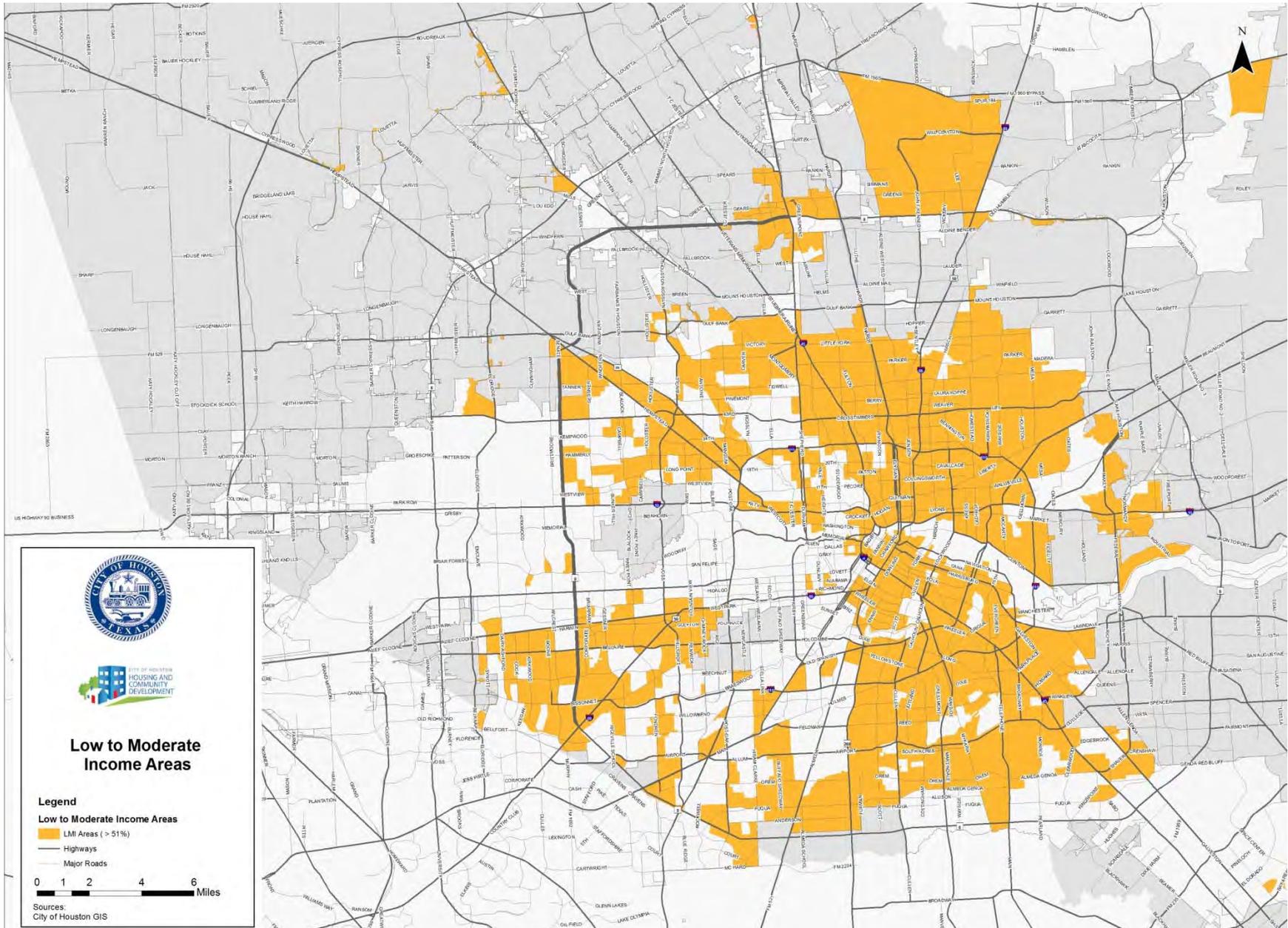
Categories

- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Economic development

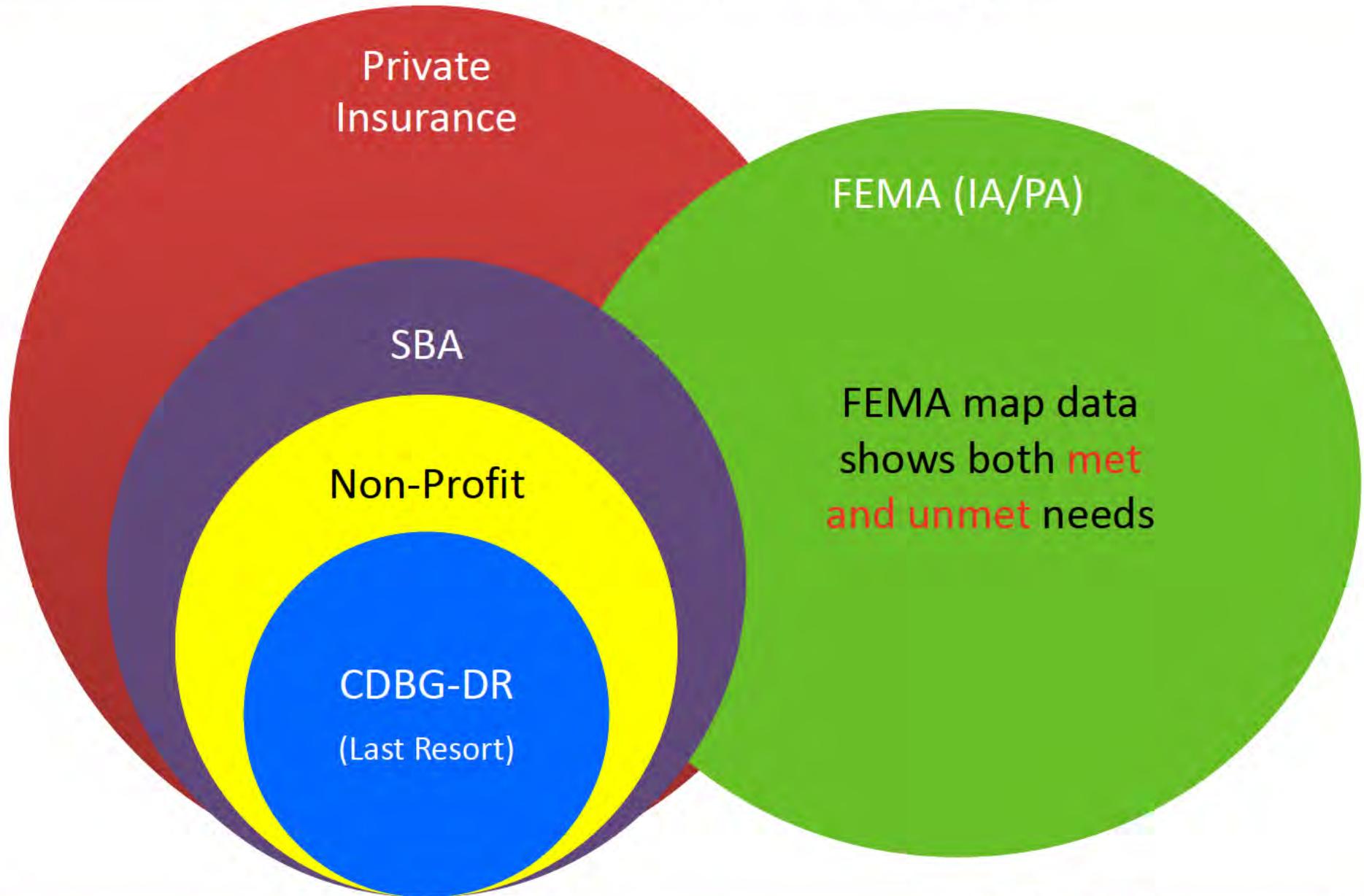
Expenditure

- Must spend 100% of allocation within 6 years

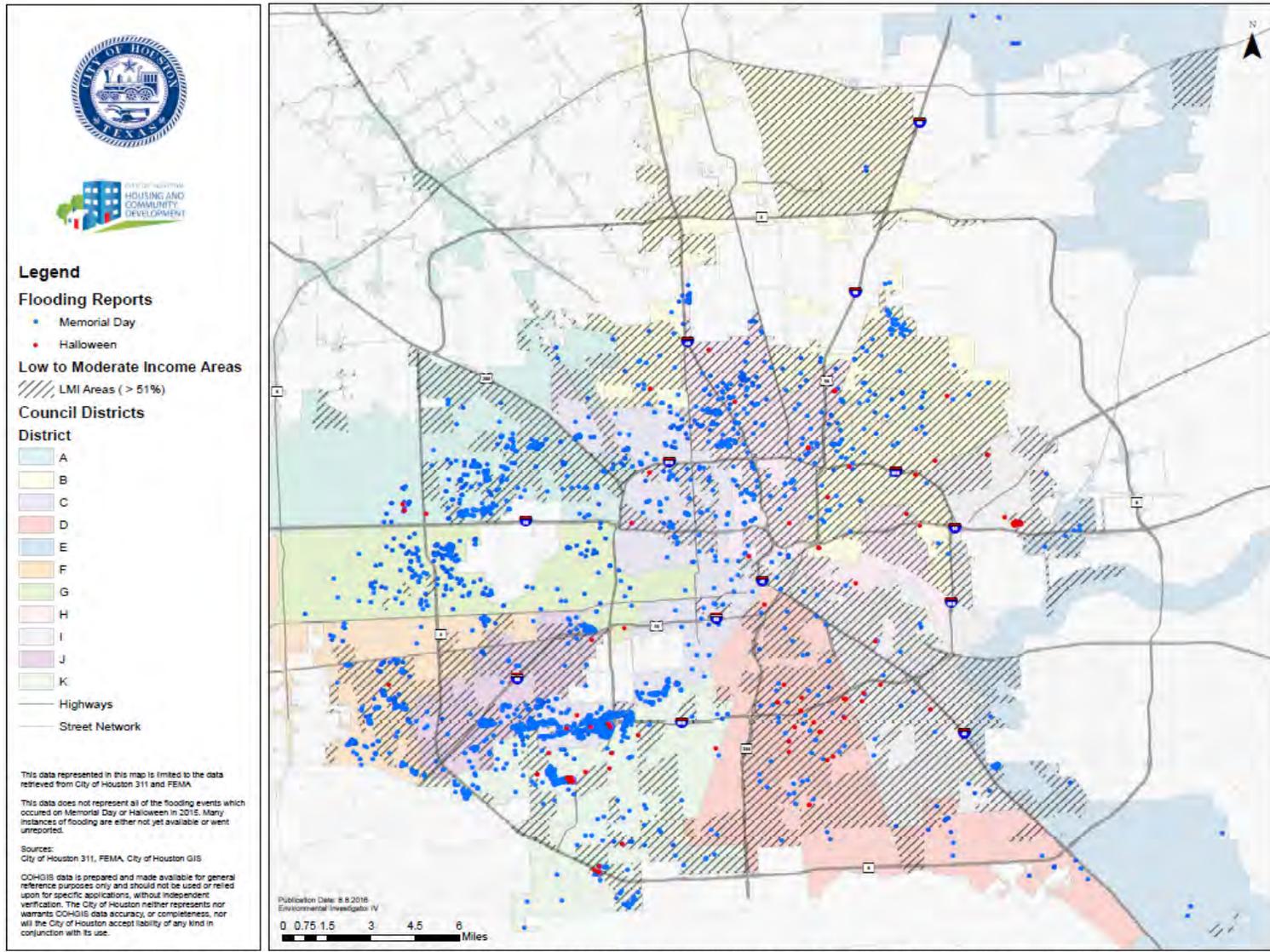
Houston Low- to Moderate-Income Areas



Funding Hierarchy



2015 Memorial Day & Halloween Flooding Reports within LMI Areas and Council Districts





Budget Allocation

CDBG-DR15	AMOUNT
Public Facilities and Improvements / Infrastructure	\$51,232,000
Acquisition	\$10,000,000
Planning	\$2,000,000
Administration	\$3,328,000
TOTAL	\$66,560,000

Possible Projects



Public facilities

- Drainage
- Ditches
- Greenspace
- Green streets / Low impact development



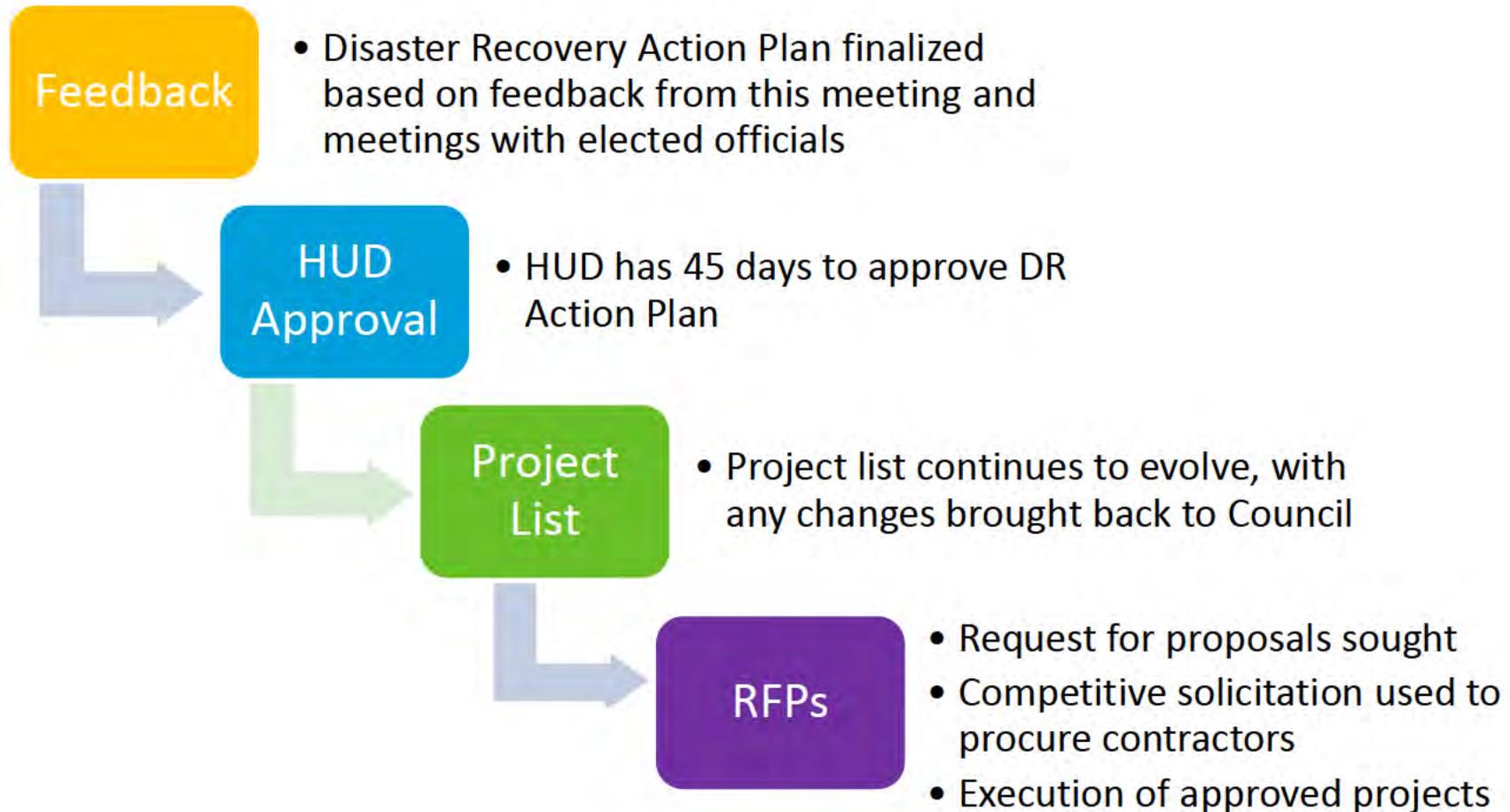
Acquisition

- Buyout and demo of blighted multifamily properties



NEXT STEPS

What Happens Next?



Economic Opportunities

**Small and
minority
owned
contractors**

**Monitor HCDD's website
for economic
opportunities:**

- **Section 3 and other programs**

HoustonTX.gov/housing/2015_Flood_Events_Recovery

City will provide:

- **Training and technical assistance for businesses wishing to participate**

Fair Housing

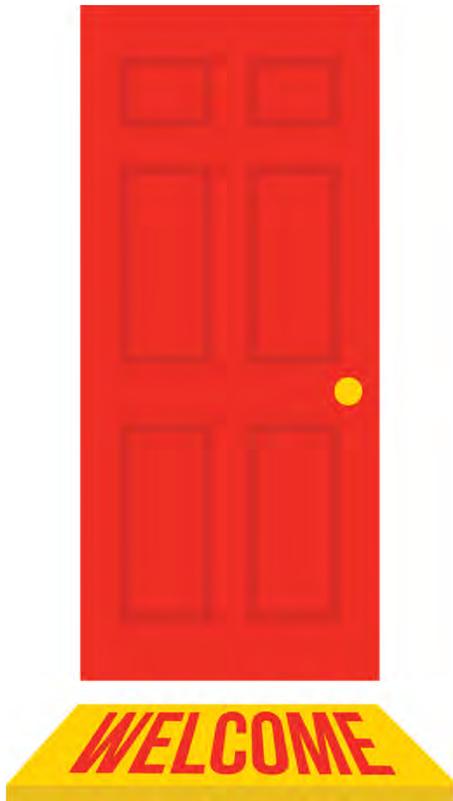


Why Is Fair Housing So Important?



Fair Housing Act

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination against any of the following protected classes:



- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Religion
- Sex
- Familial Status
- Handicap / Disability

Fair Housing Act Prohibits:

Discrimination
in the
rental or sale
of housing

Discrimination
in the terms,
conditions,
privileges,
services or
facilities of
housing

Making,
printing or
publishing
discriminatory
advertisements

Representing
that housing is
unavailable to a
protected class
when housing
is actually
available

Action Plan for Disaster Recovery Public Hearing

Public Comments



Three Ways to Let Your Voice Be Heard

1

Present your
comments at
the Public
Hearing

2

Write a letter to
HCDD, 601 Sawyer,
4th Floor, Houston, TX
77007 Attn: Mary Itz,
Planning and Grants
Management

3

Send an email to
Mary.Itz@HoustonTX.gov

Comments accepted through August 23rd

Testimony and responses to comments will be posted on our website
HoustonTX.gov/housing/2015_Flood_Events_Recovery.html

THANK YOU



CITY OF HOUSTON
HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



@HoustonHCDD

**APPENDIX E
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department.
Public hearing
Action Plan for Disaster Recovery -- 2015 flood events.

NOTE: The following transcript was written for Communication Access Realtime Translation (C.A.R.T.) purposes and is not intended to be a verbatim, certified transcript of these proceedings:

P R O C E E D I N G S

>> MR. BYNAM: Can we get everyone seated, please.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Can I have your attention, please.

If I can have your attention, we're about to start the hearing on this evening. The public hearing for the action plan for disaster recovery for the 2015 flood events.

I'm Brenda Scott, the Deputy Director in the Department of Housing and Community Development for Planning and Grants Management, Compliance and Records Administration.

Seated to my left we have Council Member Laster. We have Assistant Director of Compliance in the housing department, Mr. Keith Bynam. And we have Council Member Green. Council Member Davis is in the audience. And our new Interim Director, Mr. Thomas Tom McCasland. He will be presenting the lion's share of this presentation on this evening. Mr. Bynam will get us started with some clarification and giving us some information on the purpose of this hearing.

I will come back as your public hearing officer, but before I do, we'll take a three minute break. We thank you for coming.

>> MR. BYNAM: Thank you once again. Good evening everyone. I want to thank you on behalf of the Housing and Community Development Department. I want to thank you for coming out and giving us your time this evening. Before we get started I want to tell that you it takes a great amount of effort and work on behalf of our staff to put this event on. So I want to acknowledge all the members

of our staff who had a hand in putting this event on today. Most of them may be out in the foyer getting everyone checked in.

So if any members of the housing and community development are in the room, would you just stand and wave your hands so we can acknowledge your hard work. [APPLAUSE]

>> MR. BYNAM: Thank you. The purpose of this public hearing -- and before I do that -- we also have a Spanish language interpreter, Luis Medina, is here if you need an interpreter. So we do have that available for you.

The purpose of the public hearing is to give Houstonians an opportunity to get involved in the development of the action plan for the disaster recovery. The purpose -- the format that we will be following this evening, we will present data and information.

You will give thoughts, concerns, comments about how the disasters impacted your family and your community. Your feedback will inform our process. Your comments will become part of the action plan. This is typically not a question and answer format. However, we will provide clarity and short answers where possible. You may be directed to subject matter experts in the room. And we have a number of them who'll be here to provide that clarity.

So at this point I will now turn it over to our director, Tom McCasland who will give you an overview of the program.

>> MR. McCASLAND: Thank you, Keith. I think I'm mic'ed. If I stand here hopefully there won't be any reverb. If I do, push me back.

Welcome, and this is an opportunity for us to hear from you, the public, about the comments as we put together an action plan. Later in the program, you will see the very condensed timeline that we are on. So we are coming to you for our formal hearing today. When we have your comments and your suggestions and when we've heard from the public elected officials, we'll be back to you for additional comments. There will be an additional community meeting that goes beyond what HUD requires from us. So we want this to be a back and forth. We want to get as much communication from you, but very quickly we'll get through these slides so we can get to the important part of the meeting which is hearing from the folks who are here today.

As everyone knows, we suffered two major storms in 2015, the Memorial Day flood and -- which if we can progress through these. You can see \$518 million of

damage on that, and then on the Halloween storm flood in October, 27 million, almost \$28 million of damage to both housing and infrastructure is what we've estimated so far. Combined, 545 million, almost \$546 million from both floods. So Texas collectively is getting \$142 million to address recovery from both of these events in 2015. You can see the breakdown of where that money is going and Houston is -- has been invited to apply for \$66.5 million of the money that is coming to Texas.

Potential uses -- and we'll get into more detail as we go on -- these CDBG-DR funds are for unmet needs. The housing, infrastructure and economic development pieces of what we identify as unmet needs. From housing, you have multi-family, public housing and single family. On the economy side, what we're looking for in terms of unmet needs is unemployment caused by the storms, small business damage, production impact caused by the storms and then on infrastructure -- drainage, roads, bridges, critical infrastructure, water and wastewater.

So the funding -- the first step is private insurance that comes in. FEMA comes in after that. The Small Business Association loans come in after that and then you have your nonprofits. That little blue dot in the middle is what we're talking about today, the \$66.5 million of what is estimated to be for unmet needs that have not already been met by the other areas.

So assessing unmet needs, one of the things I've learned -- and in case anyone here doesn't realize, I think two weeks -- not quite two and a half weeks after I got here we actually made our first submission to HUD on this. So I came in. There was a great team in place. I very quickly was trying to get up to speed on everything that was happening around this application.

One of the first things we learned was we don't have a lot of good data on where those unmet needs are. We have to assess that. In the past, we were given money. We were able to go out and find the unmet needs and then spend the money on those unmet needs. In this case, HUD is wanting to know up front where those unmet needs are and where we plan to spend the money. So that is part of the challenge that we are facing in this process. And you are a critical part of helping us solve those problems.

So moving forward, here is how we calculated the amount of unmet need. It's not identifying where it is, but the amount. You have the total disaster-related impact, and this is coming from two different sources that you'll see on the next slide.

And then the assistance that's been received so far. Based upon this calculation, we have currently economic development at zero dollars of unmet need. We'll drill down in the data in a minute. Almost \$20 million in infrastructure unmet need and housing unmet need at just about 39 million dollars.

One of the things that also became apparent is when we're talking about unmet need, it's returning our infrastructure to the point that it was before the storm. And it's returning our housing to the point that it was before the storm. And I think everyone in the room understands that that's not our ultimate goal is getting infrastructure back to the place that it was before the storm. Our goal is getting infrastructure on the ground so that the houses don't flood again next time it rains this way. And that's our commitment. And you will see a little bit more of that going forward.

So where these numbers come from -- the estimated impact on housing, \$524 million, funds made available, 485, which gives you your 38 almost \$39 million. These numbers come -- you can see the sources of that. Here we have the various housing impact. FEMA and then the National Flood Insurance Program is where these numbers are coming from. If anyone wants us to slow us down -- I'll keep rolling through these numbers so we can get through the presentation and on to the hearing process.

So going to infrastructure needs -- estimated impact, 212 million. Funds made available -- 1.2 -- 19, almost \$20 million of infrastructure needs remaining. Similarly, we have the source of the funds -- the FEMA there -- and I'm sorry the PA is public assistance funds. And then the money that's come in so far, so a lot less coming in on infrastructure based upon the numbers that we have. And these numbers may change. We've got a batch of data in today -- was it earlier today, Ms. Scott?

>> MS. SCOTT: We did.

>> MR. McCASLAND: And as we get better numbers, these numbers may fluctuate. I want to be clear about that because we are in the process of collecting this from a variety of sources.

Economic needs -- estimated impact, just over 4 million. Funds made available, just over 4 million. There wasn't much -- there was no discernible difference in unemployment claims based upon the flood. And so if these are bad numbers and you have better numbers for us, this is an opportunity for you to point us in the direction of where we can find better numbers in terms of the flood impact on the

local economy that doesn't relate to the infrastructure and doesn't relate to the housing.

So the grant process -- the use of these funds is for disaster relief, long term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing and economic revitalization. Here is our process: The regulations were published June of 2016. Just about a month later, we submitted our risk assessment. We're in the middle of our comment period now. We're going to have our action plan to city council on September 7th. And we have to have the full plan due to HUD September 19th. So when I say this is a condensed process, this is HUD's process that they imposed on us. It's not ideal, but we're going to do our absolute best to comply with it and do it in a way that makes sure that there is give and take between us and the community.

In terms of -- if you can go back to that slide -- in terms of getting the city council, that's the date we had to be there in order to make sure that we would get the approval by the submission deadline. We're not pushing that up any more than we absolutely have to. Once our plan is in front of city council, we haven't got a location yet, but we're going to schedule another community meeting, not a formal hearing, but another community meeting like this to receive feedback on what has been presented to city council. Because while the folks who are actually going to be making the decisions are sitting behind me, I think it's likely that that actually gets approved on September 14th, not on September 7th. Regardless, even after it's sent to HUD, there is still opportunity for us to continue to make edits and revisions, and for the community to continue to give us feedback on this.

Just so you know, we'll have this information up later. All of these documents relating to the process are on our website and the action plan in its current form is there. The need assessment is there and any other related documents will be there as we move through this process and that's the actual url for where the documents are located.

So a little bit more into the details. One of the requirements from HUD is that 70 percent of these funds -- a minimum of 70 percent of these funds are spent in the low to moderate income persons which means in low and moderate income neighborhoods. What that means is 80 percent area median income and below.

And we'll come back to that. Categories -- housing, infrastructure and economic development we already mentioned. And then a firm deadline -- this is different

from some of the other disaster recovery we've received. A very firm deadline in terms of spending all of the money within six years.

We have a map here that shows you where your low and moderate income areas are. I realize that it's not a zoom in, but if we were to zoom in, and I'm just going to lay something out on the table so that we can all be aware of it and be working around the issues and hearing your feedback on it.

One of the areas that had the biggest impact, which is Meyerland, is not in the low and moderate income neighborhood. And so one of the things we're looking for is how do we spend the money in a way that is in a low and moderate income neighborhood, but also benefits neighborhoods like Meyerland that were heavily impacted in this flood.

And that's a question that we're asking ourselves and a question we'd love to have some feedback on. So the funding hierarchy, we've already talked about. That green dot there is where most of our data is coming from in terms of where met and unmet needs are. So these are FEMA data. It doesn't mean that these are unmet needs, but it's using the FEMA data and there you see the blue dots of where the focus of the impact is scattered throughout the city, but of course the real concentration was up and down Brays Bayou.

So what are some of our priorities? I've already mentioned them, but we want to reduce flooding in neighborhoods. We hope that after this money gets spent, homes that would have flooded don't flood anymore. We want to maximize the benefit for low and moderate income persons because this is an obligation that we're under from HUD. We want to support housing.

We can spend some of these dollars on housing, but if we're spending dollars on housing, and putting them into neighborhoods that are going to flood again, what have we done? Now this is not part of this presentation, but it will be part of our ultimate application to HUD, I'm working on a separate source of funds that will likely total about \$120 million that will be focused specifically on single family home ownership. If we spend all of our money here on infrastructure and we have a similar fund, moving alongside, to work on single family home ownership for low and moderate income neighborhoods, I think that's a way that we can push two programs forward at the same time, but our key is to support housing. It doesn't have to be building the housing, but in here we can be supporting housing to make sure that there is infrastructure in place so that the houses don't flood.

We want to identify high impact projects. Projects that will have the best return for the dollars that we're spending and then to the extent that we can find projects where there is good detention, good flood mitigation opportunities that are tied back to deconcentrating poverty or buyouts of very low level apartment complexes. We're looking for other opportunities as well.

The budget allocation right now as it stands in the budget, we have 51 million in public facilities, 10 million in acquisition, 2 million in planning, 3.3 in administration. My goal is to have projects identified that our planning and administration can be shrunk and more of those dollars can be going into projects but that's the goal we have right now.

This right as it stands is the amount that's allowable by HUD. And I'm always trying to shrink our administrative costs and making sure we're putting more of those dollars into the projects. This is a draft. And I want to be abundantly clear. Right now we don't have money in housing, and we don't have money in economic development. If that's something you think is wrong, come talk to us about it; but know that the only way I'll let this go forward without having money in housing is I have a firm commitment on this other source of funds that can move alongside of the infrastructure dollars that we have going in. The other source of funds is citywide. So I'd be working on single family home ownership citywide using a 120 million-dollar source of funds. Again, not the topic and focus today, but I want you to know that in terms of the dollars and the way this is allocated.

Possible projects -- these are the projects -- the kinds of projects we're looking for and the kinds of projects we want you to be helping us brainstorm about. If there is something up here you think we need to be focused on that isn't up there, let us know. Drainage, ditches, green space -- that should have been detention and green space. Green streets, low impact development, acquisition is on the buyout and demo of multi-family, but doing that in a way that has a positive impact on reducing flooding.

Our next steps -- we're looking for feedback tonight. Feedback from folks who are here and then ongoing meetings with city council members as well as other elected officials who are ultimately going to be making the decision on the plan that moves forward.

Once we have that, we'll be moving the plan to HUD. They have 45 days for the approval process. The project list will continue to evolve through this process because we simply don't -- I can't tell you that the list on September 7 this going to

be the final, final list. But we are going to be working as hard as we can to put that in place and continue to receive community feedback. And once we have those projects in place, our fees go out, the requests for proposals.

Economic development -- of course there is going to be -- someone has to do the work here and one of the things that we want to make sure that we have is opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses to apply and do some of this work. And as a part of that -- and this will likely go into either -- I think its in the administrative line as opposed to economic development line -- we want to have good training and technical assistance for businesses wishing to apply. We know it's a nightmare -- I should not be saying this publicly, put sometimes it's a nightmare to do business with governments, especially when the federal government is involved.

I've been working in government for a while and I know that that's true. So we want to be able to provide as much assistance as possible to the businesses who want to do -- come to the organization -- come to us and do business so make sure they know how to comply with Davis Bacon requirements and the Section 3 requirements and all the other things that are sometimes cumbersome for small businesses to do.

Fair housing -- I understand this is not part of this particular process, but is an important issue and something that HUD wants us to address at all of these hearings. So why is it important to this particular process? All of these opportunities -- all of the opportunities that we want in terms of making our city one city, rather than the two cities that we currently have that the mayor refers to, a lot of that gets started with housing. And the social, cultural, educational and employment opportunities, medical services, recreation and entertainment that surround the communities that we're trying to develop.

We want to be doing that in a way that truly is moving us towards a city with complete communities if we're putting affordable homes into those neighborhoods, making sure that the schools are great.

In terms of the Fair Housing Act, just a reminder for everyone, it prohibits discrimination against the following protected classes, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, handicap and disability.

And then these are the areas that it prohibits, discrimination in rental or sale of housing, discrimination in terms of conditions, privileges or services or facilities of

housing, making, printing or publishing discriminatory advertisements representing that housing is unavailable to protected classes when housing is actually available.

You'll notice that most of those are things that we are not supposed to be doing, and we want to be stopping, but I also want to acknowledge that as a governmental entity, I have an obligation to actively further fair housing and to take steps that furthers that goal, and I'm deeply committed to that as well. So that ends our presentation. And I guess we are going to have a three minute break?

>> MS. SCOTT: We're going to have a three minute break and we'll come back and begin the hearing.

>> MR. McCASLAND: A quick break and then we'll come back for the public comment.

(Recess -- 3 minutes)

(bell ringing)

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. We're about to get started with our hearing. I just want to go over the rules of engagement briefly. When you entered, each of you should have a sheet with the general guidelines. I'm not going to read this, but I will just point out some things that I believe are important here for us to remember this evening.

Please turn off your cell phones or put them on vibrate. If you want to speak, we ask that you sign the speaker's list. Each speaker is allowed three minutes to give their testimony. If you know that you have far more than three minutes of testimony, we ask that you write your comments down and write them down -- we will get you an answer back in writing.

As we stated before we began this process that typically this is not a Q. and A. format, but we will provide clarification and short answers where possible. And we may even direct you to some of the subject matter experts in the room.

Before we begin the actual hearing, we want to allow our council members an opportunity to speak with their constituents beginning with Council Member Green.

>> CM GREEN: Thank you. Can y'all hear me? Good evening. And first of all, let me thank Tom and the housing department for hosting this public hearing. I do appreciate the opportunity to find solutions and to work to see if we can curtail some of the flooding that continues to exist at least in District K.

We've had challenges along South Braeswood as well as the Westbury area and some in the Brays Oaks area. And so I know the Brays Oaks Management District will be providing testimony this evening to talk about solutions. I know that they've hired an outside engineering firm to talk about mitigation, not only for the Brays Oaks area, but also mitigation that will assist Westbury, additional flooding. I think we had how many homes in Westbury that flooded, Becky?

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: 415 in May and another 450 in October.

>> CM GREEN: As you can hear we have challenges with that. I support the Brays Oaks Management District plan that will be submitted and what it will request will be additional detention for the area and also an opportunity to mitigate water flowing into Brays Bayou. As you know, Project Brays is still in construction and not completed and so I know as you gave your presentation looking for an opportunity to mitigate flooding in Meyerland as well as South Braeswood because they are not in those low mod areas is also something that's interesting. We think that providing additional regional detention along the Fondren channel and others will allow us the opportunity to mitigate not only flooding in Westbury, those 400 homes, but also flooding in Meyerland and South Braeswood.

So I believe those residents are here tonight. I believe you'll hear from them. I believe you'll hear from the Brays Oaks Management District on the plans that we will submit on behalf of our residents to you and to the mayor, and we look forward to working with you throughout this process. Thank you.

>> MS. SCOTT: Council Member Davis.

>> CM DAVIS: I just have a question. When was this sent out to the constituents -- the notification about the meeting?

>> MS. SCOTT: The notification -- the notification about this meeting was sent out 14 days ago.

>> CM DAVIS: Did we put it on the city's website?

>> MS. SCOTT: We sent it out through 16 different mechanisms. It was on the housing department's website. It was in the Houston Chronicle --

>> CM DAVIS: So basically business as usual?

>> MS. SCOTT: Actually we had --

>> CM DAVIS: I look in the crowd and I don't see any -- is there anyone from District B here? Okay, I don't see anyone from District B and I've been here for four years saying the same thing. We cannot continue to do business as usual. I looked at the presentation of the data -- and it's data that's probably not going to come from us supporting flooding issues in District B. And so I'm a little bit upset. Let me take that back, I'm very upset and very disappointed because we have, you

know, I just found out about the meeting this week, and we were on a break week this week. And so this is, to me, unacceptable. And I have no one here to voice our opinions. So I'm here to take notes and to make sure we're going to be here for the second meeting since it's not a hearing. Because I concur with some of the information, but I strongly disagree with some of the information and how we're going to put our procedure and putting some of the money towards certain areas because if I'm not mistaken, the federal -- HUD allows more avenues to affect communities than just infrastructure and housing.

[APPLAUSE]

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you, Council Member.

>> CM LASTER: Good evening, my name is Council Member Mike Laster. And I have the honor of serving District J in southwest Houston, District J and K are a boundary to each other. In large part a number of our neighborhoods have been affected over these multiple flood events like to the north of Brays Bayou and to the east of Hillcroft.

I want to welcome you here this evening. I'm glad to see as many of you that could make it on such short notice. I share Council Member Davis' concern about the notice process and how it was administered. All of the Council Members before you today received that information at the very last minute, otherwise, we would have done more. I am heartened in this instance that this is the beginning of the conversation. It's not the end, and it won't be the finality of the conversation.

As you are here this evening or as you may travel back to your respective communities or as Council Member Davis has indicated, there will be other opportunities, I'm told, and guaranteeing at least one -- an opportunity to weigh in and have some additional conversations and information.

The most current planned next meeting that you will have the opportunity to hear this data and say something about it will be this coming Tuesday morning. That will be August the 23rd, at the regularly scheduled Housing and Community Development meeting at 10 a.m. Those meetings are held at City Hall and, again, you are more than welcome to attend those meetings. We do have a public comment section where you'll be able to make a comment at that point in time.

I want to thank all of the respective department heads, the respective department personnel from Housing and Community Development which in large part this burden has fallen upon them to administer this project. To the extent that much of this is information that has been provided to them at the last minute from the

federal government, again, I apologize to you. We will do everything we possibly can to inform the community of what is available and how soon it can be available, and I'm sure the three council members that you see here along with a number of our other colleagues will continue to ask for opportunities for your input into this process. Thank you for being here this evening. We look forward to hearing your comments and your concerns.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you, Council Member. We will start with our first speaker for this evening, Virginia Gregory.

>> MS. GREGORY: Good evening. Good evening, Council Members. I'm glad y'all could make it tonight. Three is better than nothing because of short notice on everything. I was going to tell you -- I was going to talk tonight about Item No. 9 on the agenda. It says how will the funds help protect us from future flooding? And under that category, I would say strategy is the best. If you don't want it to happen again, you stop it and you move forward. And in my case, in my neighborhood, which I'm representing the Spring Branch Civic Association, which is a little over 850 residences, about 250 plus had flood damage to their residences. Some others had damage to their outside structures, the garage, whatever. My suggestion is if you could just solve the problems of what I've submitted to Rebuild Houston, Dale Rudick, and just move forward, we wouldn't be in this position.

But number two, let me tell you something, in my particular area, we've got all these big developers that are doing everything at Memorial City and north and south of I-10, going from the Beltway all the way out to Blalock and isn't it funny, if you are a flood damaged person and you redo a certain amount of your house, you have to redo everything and bring everything up to current standards.

Isn't it amazing if you're a big developer and you bulldoze a former shopping center and you put all new on there, you're grandfathered. You're not required to have detention. You're not required to do this. You can elevate it, so you'll never get wet, so you're dumping all the water on all the residences. So most of the properties that are in the TIRZ 17 were done because they said it was a blighted area. It was not blighted, but the fact is they are turning the blight on us. Thank you very much.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you. Our next speaker is Mr. Ed Wolf.

>> MR. WOLF: Good evening. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. I think y'all have done an amazing job in a short period of time in pulling together the information.

I wanted to just point out two areas that I think we could have an impact on infrastructure. Infrastructure potentially could be impacted through a funding mechanism that would accelerate the projects that are already underway.

Harris County Flood Control District is reimbursing on an annualized basis by the federal government, but those dollars won't come for another five years extended. And the \$311 million that's out there, if a portion of this money could be used for an interest payment on bonds that could be issued to help accelerate those projects, then potentially we could meet the infrastructure needs and at least prevent a large portion of the flooding that would have occurred or would not have occurred had these projects been completed. And so that's one aspect that I'd like you to look into and see if it's a possibility.

The other thing that I was going to offer on behalf of the Houston Association of Realtors if there are areas that you need understanding of value in impacted areas so that we can help with the relocation of individuals that are impacted without the resources of FEMA and SBA and those other resources, we're happy to help you with data in relationship to housing costs, housing needs, and how that's affected. So please feel free to reach out to us in the next I guess week and we'll be happy to try to pull together some of that data for each of you.

And then the one other piece of this puzzle is those that were impacted economically, we may not know the end results of that yet. We're too close to the flood events to tell you that values have or have not been affected in some of these areas. And within the next six months, we'll know. We've got six years to spend this money. I would ask that you potentially reserve some of this money for economic impact, not yet identified. And if we can supply data or information from past flood events on real estate issues that occurred in an area that might need that socioeconomic help, we'll be happy to do that. But we need to look at the past and determine what that impact might be and then anticipate where we could reserve some of those economic dollars to help people in the near future. Thank you.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Wolf.

>> CM GREEN: Can I just respond to one point you said. Thank you and thank HAR for all you do. We appreciate it. One of the issues we have -- with the first point relative to perhaps using the dollars and going after bonds. Right now, the

federal government has not reimbursed Harris County Flood Control District about \$78 million. Okay? And that's been over a period of five years.

And so if we go out to the bond market or look at that, you know, there is no certainty when the feds are going to get their act together and get that money back to us so there is no time certainty, if you will, with regard to reimbursement or whether we will ever be reimbursed. So I appreciate the option, but I do want you to understand and I want HAR to understand that Harris County Flood Control -- had the Feds reimbursed the Harris County Flood Control District, Project Brays would have been completed by now and that's what is throwing it all off schedule. White Oak -- all these Harris County Flood Control projects is because of the stall -- the stall that we had on the federal level.

>> MR. WOLF: It needs to come with a federal commitment. I agree completely.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you. Next speaker, Richard Rodriguez.

>> MR. RODRIGUEZ: Greetings. Thank you fellow -- thank you to the Council Members who are here today. My name is Richard Rodriguez. I'm the Executive Director of the Brays Oaks Management District, comprised of 16 square miles in southwest Houston and we are in both Districts J and K. Just earlier this year, this management district took upon itself to form a new committee, an infrastructure committee, because we recognize that the biggest impact to economic development in our district was flooding. So we feel -- we know that it's detrimental to the future development in our area. Going out with this committee, we hired two consultants, a hydrologist and an engineer to start looking at some of the things that could be improved in the district. We've identified very early on the size of infrastructure was undersized. Our stormwater infrastructure was undersized and we had a lot of subsidence in the area, but along that level we started inventorying those areas that could be used for future detention. It's somewhat serendipitous this opportunity has come along in that we've already started a lot of the legwork that's going to be needed as far as input. We've identified a few areas where -- that meet many of the mandates that were voiced earlier, both very low income multi-family, a vacant area for detention, and all along the Fondren diversion channel and Willow Water bayou trail it serves as a perfect storm in that we could reduce the flow of Brays Bayou in Meyerland and resolve some of the issues in Meyerland, and also because this is the area that we've identified is on the west side of Westbury, reduce the flow of flooding into Westbury because the -- we all know the water drains from the west to the east. So we are working with Council Member Green. We've already modeled some of this area. We're doing some more specific modeling using Harris County Flood Control's numbers to show the

visual impact. Just on our conservative numbers, we've been able to reduce flooding -- we will be able to reduce with these acquisitions flooding by two-thirds in Westbury alone.

So we think we meet the mandate of helping not only Meyerland, but Westbury and also reducing some of the blight of the low profile multi-family, and also serving by adding more regional detention. We look forward to working with council in the upcoming weeks and expect to have a comprehensive plan to you very shortly. Thank you.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Rodriguez. Ms. Sheryl Chambers.

>> MS. CHAMBERS: Thank you, Council Members. I appreciate this opportunity. I represent an agency that's doing long term disaster case management in Houston as well as Fort Bend and Liberty County. We have identified multiple homes that are not repairable. On your statistics here, it says that there are only two homes that were considered demolished. That is not a complete picture of what actually is occurring with these homes.

What we are finding is that the homes, while they appear to be structurally intact, the foundations are severely damaged due to soil erosion, due to water coming in multiple times, and we have houses that are cracking in half. So we have more than two homes that are unrepairable or that would be deemed demolishable.

We also have a concern with these statistics that FEMA and SBA don't -- these numbers don't, I don't believe, adequately reflect the amount of unmet need. Because we have clients that failed the fit test with SBA, which stands for failed income test. So they were not eligible for SBA from the very beginning. We have clients that for whatever reason FEMA said no, you're not eligible, and they still have homes that are damaged, but for whatever reason FEMA said you're not eligible.

So I feel like your unmet need number may be skewed somewhat based on the fact that many of the clients that we're serving never received anything from either of those entities or what they received was very minimal and was nowhere near what they need as far as their shortfall. So I just wanted to bring that to your attention. And I appreciate your time. Thank you.

>> CM LASTER: May I ask a question. Ma'am, would you identify the agency that you're working with if you could, if that's possible?

>> MS. CHAMBERS: I'm with Family Endeavors.

>> CM LASTER: Family Endeavors.

>> MS. CHAMBERS: Yes, we were assigned the disaster case management grant for the May 2015 flood.

>> CM LASTER: Assigned that by whom?

>> MS. CHAMBERS: By the State of Texas, by the Health And Human Services Commission.

>> CM LASTER: And you've left your contact information with the department here today?

>> MS. CHAMBERS: Yes, I have, sir.

>> CM LASTER: Thank you very much.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you, Ms. Chambers. Ms. Becky Edmondson.

>> MS. EDMONDSON: Thank you for this opportunity and thank you, Council Members, for being here. My name is Becky Edmondson, and I'm the president of the Westbury Civic Club and co-president of the Westbury Super Neighborhood. We're a big neighborhood. We have 5,000 homes, and a portion of our neighborhood is along the Willow Water Hole bayou which is in the Brays watershed and much like the Spring Branch -- I don't want to talk about that.

We had a lot of development to the west of us in the Fondren southwest area. Westbury and Meyerland were built in the '50's and '70's and '80's. The Fondren area was developed and their water, like Council Member Laster said, flows downhill towards us. And so we've been really just inundated with all this water. I had 450 homes along the Willow Water Hole bayou flood, not because the bayou overflowed, but all the water moving from the Fondren diversion channel just swept through Westbury. It couldn't get to Brays. Brays overflowed and flooded Meyerland, but it's very much the same thing. So one of the things we're really looking for is additional detention to the west of us in the Fondren area that should have been built in the '70's. I won't go into the Harris County Flood Control creating a dam on the Willow Water Hole bayou so that it flows east and west. It's supposed to flow uphill and in a big rain event of course water can't flow uphill and it floods us. So by adding additional detention in the Fondren area will help keep the water out of Brays, help protect Meyerland because even when Project Brays is through, we'll still have 1600 homes in harm's way. So we're looking for additional detention. We're also looking for storm drain infrastructure improvements. Our infrastructure was put in in the '50's. Thank you. And it's not been touched. We have undersized, collapsed, and so this is such an opportunity and Westbury is a big neighborhood. The part that flooded will be in an LMI area. We have a lot of elderly people. These are people that have been in their homes that are seriously impacted. They flooded 450 on Memorial Day. Those same houses about 120 flooded in October. And I know you're not talking about 2016, but we had another couple dozen tax day and on May 14th, two original residents,

one a widower and one a widow, both flooded again and we just really have to have relief for these people that -- it's -- it really is impacting our neighborhood. People don't want to live where it floods and for the people that are staying behind, they are afraid. They are angry and we need relief. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you. Mr. Jeff Herman. Mr. Jeff Herman?

>> MS. WILLIAMS: He's not going to speak.

>> MS. SCOTT: Next on the list is Lenny Williams.

>> MS. WILLIAMS: I'm not going to speak either.

>> MS. SCOTT: Robert Koehl.

>> MR. KOEHL: Hi. I'm here to discuss storm drains and drainage in the Brooksmith subdivision. I live there. Our Brooksmith subdivision loosely bordered by North Main, Cavalcade, I-45 and Airline needs to have a thorough assessment and revamping of its storm drain infrastructure.

Seven houses flooded in the 500 block of Tabor in the 2015 Memorial Day flood. Flooding also occurred in several other locations in Brooksmith during the 2015 Houston Memorial Day flood.

Although the storm drains on the sides of the streets and the ditches in the 500 block of Tabor were not physically blocked, the storm drains ceased to drain the street. The 12-foot underground storm drain which the street drains are connected to filled to capacity and would no longer allow the street drains to empty.

Our property at 506 Tabor shows that the storm drain right of way running through our property was designated -- designed in 1931. The storm drain appears to be way under capacity for the current demand. Brooksmith currently has a hodgepodge drainage system that no longer functions as it was originally designed over 100 years ago.

Many of the homeowners have filled their ditches in and connections to the large storm drains underground are filled in. This causes water to run off excessively and pool in one area, such as the 500 block of Tabor. The same issue occurs in other areas of Brooksmith, but not necessarily to the same extent. Additionally, it appears that the newly installed storm drains on North Main are feeding into our Brooksmith subdivision, filling our storm drain to capacity and thereby causing flooding in Brooksmith.

I have been told by long-term residents of Brooksmith that there used to be a retention pond near Browning Elementary that got filled in so temporary buildings could be added. I believe this also adversely contributes to the flooding in Brooksmith.

Another justification for assessing the storm drains and drainage infrastructure in Brooksmith is that when Brooksmith was originally designed and bought in 1905 it was built as more of a working class neighborhood, unlike neighborhoods such as Houston Heights and Norhill which were built to attract buyers of more substantial income.

It is very probable that our storm drainage infrastructure has been under engineered and under capacity since its inception. And we've also had many flooding events recorded to 3-1-1 as documented in the draft plan if you look at the map.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you, sir. Amy Goldstein.

>> MS. GOLDSTEIN: Hello. Good evening, Council Members and everyone who is here. I'm here both as a resident of the southwest area -- I watched my neighbors flood and their homes destroyed -- and also on behalf of United Orthodox Synagogues which has a constituency of Willow Meadows and Meyerland. Now, I've gone through the plan, and it's a good plan for infrastructure based on some assumptions that I'd like to revisit. One of those assumptions is the low to moderate income persons versus neighborhoods. And I would like to request that we go back to persons and the Housing and Community Development have a process by which you assess by household and not by neighborhood. Because there are plenty, as we've heard already, seniors and special people who are under special classes who are unemployed, who are disabled, who are veterans, who have all sorts of different other circumstances and are called special classes who cannot afford to repair their homes and recover from the disaster of May 2015 but who don't live in the LMI neighborhood. So that's my first request.

The second one is that you have to have a minimum of 70 percent go to LMI neighborhoods. That leaves a maximum of 30 percent that would go to a project or homes or homeowners in not LMI neighborhoods. And again I would go back to the persons versus a neighborhood because there could be -- and I know that there are -- plenty of people who really can't afford to mitigate to do what they would like to do with their homes. They just don't have the resources.

Another point is that 46 -- there were 46 FEMA grants that were given for elevation, but there were well over 100 applications. And again, this grant could

possibly help those other 100 or so families to elevate their homes or recover from this disaster because they are now paying rent and mortgage. And some of them are teachers, and some of them are seniors, and they don't have that money. And their life savings is dwindling. And in the end, the impact is going to be that they will have no choice but to leave Houston and no longer be a part of our community.

I'm happy to continue to discuss about different ideas with the committee or with the Housing and Community Development. Thank you.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you very much. I think this is Charlie Duncan. Charlie Duncan.

>> MR. DUNCAN: Can I request that John Henneberger is allowed to speak before me? He's on the list as well.

>> MS. SCOTT: Yes, he can. Mr. Henneberger.

>> MR. HENNEBERGER: Thank you, Council Members and department members. Ms. Scott, nice to see you again.

My name is John Henneberger, I'm the co-director of the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service. We're a nonprofit organization that advocates on the behalf of low income communities and low income people and housing community development issues.

I provided Mr. McCasland with our five page comments on this matter. We will supplement that with written materials before the deadline. I'd like to just summarize a few of the points in my prepared remarks.

First of all, I'd like to request that my written remarks be made part of the record of this hearing. Second is that in reviewing the action plan as it's drafted, I believe that an action plan must provide a list of proposed activities, and I don't believe that this draft action plan provides a specific list of activities. And I believe it will be necessary for the city to amend its action plan to include specific activities when it has identified such and that it hold a public hearing to allow the public to comment on the specific activities that the city proposes to undertake before the plan could finally be approved by HUD.

That procedural matter aside, I'd like to address priorities and I would suggest to you that in our opinion the priority is that this plan should address communities that have long been disinvested in terms of public infrastructure and particularly public drainage infrastructure. And I would suggest to you that by and large there is low income communities of color in this city.

In August 16th, the Department of Justice issued guidance to cities and jurisdictions preparing plans such as this, which provides specific guidance related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It speaks directly to the importance of identifying the previous under funded neighborhoods which have been disinvested or not allowed to have adequate infrastructure within their jurisdictions.

The city prepared using Hurricane Ike CDBG disaster recovery funds at the cost of several million dollars a study of open ditch drainage in the City of Houston. In that study, Mr. Duncan, my associate, will present to you a map showing the geographic distribution of open ditch drainage in the city and the relative levels of that open ditch drainage to be able to provide adequate drainage service and infrastructure.

I would suggest to you also that the reliance on 3-1-1 calls as a method of determining need is flawed and inadequate. That there is evidence that particularly among the low income people and particularly among -- within low income communities of color that 3-1-1 calls are disproportionately lower than they are in other areas.

These funds may not be used to replace local funds, and finally I would say that I appreciate Mr. McCasland's remarks about the importance of fair housing and would urge the city to pay very particular attention to its liability under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 regarding its historic failure to fund adequate drainage infrastructure within low income communities of color in the city. Thank you very much.

>> CM DAVIS: I agree with you on all these points about the additional hearing, disinvested neighborhoods and as well as the constituents that don't tend to call 3-1-1 because they feel like, you know what, no one has heard me before. No one is going to hear me now. No one is going to take care of me. The young lady earlier who mentioned about the reject applications from FEMA and so you know what, they just say, you know what, if I call, it doesn't matter. If I don't call, I'll get the same result. So I appreciate you coming in, and I'll be reaching out to you to get more information how we can find that data that will support us working in some of these communities.

>> MR. HENNEBERGER: Thank you, sir.

>> CM LASTER: Mr. Henneberger, thank you for coming down. I think you have my contact information and I'd appreciate it if you could forward a copy via E-mail to me at my office of your report and your statement or your five page letter that you had talked about earlier, if you would, please.

>> MR. HENNEBERGER: Yes, sir, I will do so.

>> CM LASTER: And I think we all are always interested in what you have to say in relationship to fair housing across the city and the county.

I guess I would just potentially caution that the face of poverty and the face of low income housing is no longer limited to one side of town. And there are parts of this city -- in large part outside of the loop of this city, which I have often referred to as the golden bowl of this city, that is enormously economically disadvantaged in multiple different fronts. If you look in southwest Houston in relationship in particular -- and that's the district I happen to represent -- our average household income in District J is \$30,000. That is reflective of a community that has aged in place and a new immigrant community with a population of 65 percent plus of Latino community with 85 different language communities. So the old expectation and the old consideration of where poverty used to be concentrated in this city -- unfortunately we share that across the city's boundaries. But I appreciate your ongoing and current eloquent voice for all of those folks who need a voice at City Hall. So we look forward to seeing your report and working closely with you.

>> MR. HENNEBERGER: Thank you very much.

>> CM GREEN: And I, too, would like to thank you for coming out and your comments and if I, too, could get a copy. I guess -- Mike --

>> CM LASTER: We'll share.

>> CM GREEN: Interesting to read would be the thought of dollars can't be used to replace existing local dollars. So I'd be very interested to read and to see what they say with regard to that.

As you heard earlier from I think the representative from HAR who talked about there is -- obviously we have a plan for infrastructure relative to some of the watersheds, White Oak, Brays, Project Brays and others, those are projects of which they are slated for funding, but funding has not been made available but once completed would actually mitigate. I'm wondering whether or not -- cannot be used for existing local dollars if in fact these new monies went to those type projects would that be considered -- I'd be interested in reading that. I appreciate you coming and bringing that to our attention.

>> MR. HENNEBERGER: We'll provide that information to your office.

>> MS. SCOTT: I would just like to reiterate again that all written comments are made a part of the action plan along with the written response that the city will give.

>> MR. HENNEBERGER: Thank you, Ms. Scott.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you. Mr. Duncan, would you like to come back?

>> MR. DUNCAN: I'm ready.

Good evening. Thanks for the opportunity to speak before y'all this evening. My name is Charlie Duncan with the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service. I work with Mr. Henneberger here.

Like Director McCasland said, the goal in using this CDBG money to address these infrastructure issues and housing issues is to not simply return to a pre-flood state, but to prevent future flooding. So existing infrastructure deficiencies need to be addressed with this.

For those of y'all that have the action -- a draft action plan in front of you, I refer you to Page 8, which shows the low moderate income block groups as well as the 3-1-1 flooding complaints. You can see how those coincide in the general distribution of where those flooding complaints are.

Now, first, what I want to bring to y'all's attention is a couple of places to look for potential projects that need to be addressed I think with this money. The map on your right is from our Rebuild Houston projects, candidate projects, proposed drainage projects, proposed need areas. These are ones that are not in the capital improvement plan but are in some level of engineering planning and have not yet received any funding. And you can see where those are around the city in relation to the low moderate block groups which are in blue.

A more glaring omission I think that John mentioned in the action plan is there is no mention of the open drainage ditch study that was commissioned by HCD in 2014 to look at all the open ditches around the city. Now, 88 percent of these ditches are located in areas of -- are in neighborhoods of color that are predominantly nonwhite and almost half of those were found by the support -- by the study to be inadequate. Meaning, they can't adequately convey water for even a one year event. So people who are relying on these are in theory dealing with flooding issues every year, multiple times a year. And that's what this map shows here. Again, in blue, the low to moderate income block groups and in red -- those are just the ditches that are inadequately functioning right now. That's not even all the ditches. And you can see a lot of them are clustered to the north and northwest and some to the south, Acres Homes, Fifth Ward, Kashmere Gardens, Settegast, these are areas that have seen many decades of disinvestment that John mentioned and that are reliant on this very low income and often under performing infrastructure. So I would definitely look to that.

>> CM GREEN: That map, did it actually show the flooding from the tax day flood? I'm sorry, from the Memorial Day flood or the Halloween flood that these dollars are targeted?

>> MR. DUNCAN: This map I do not have those. This is a map I created with data that we got from the city, and I don't have the dataset of those reports, but I could get it, which I should be able to, I could overlay it with that.

>> CM GREEN: When you get that, because I know you focused on the open ditch, but I think what you will find once you overlay where the actual flooding took place in that area, you'll find the concentration of that and actually not to be the open ditches area, but really the aging infrastructure areas more so than the open ditch areas. But I would love to continue the conversation with you, but a lot of times what we've been finding is that some of the open ditch areas perform much better than some of the infrastructure -- where infrastructure is just outdated.

>> MR. DUNCAN: I think the next step will be definitely to overlay where flood reports were for those storms and compare them to the very extensive open ditch system in the city.

>> CM LASTER: Thank you, Mr. Duncan, for your presentation. Is the map that you have shown us here today -- is that included in your report? So when we get a copy of your report we'll see those maps?

>> MR. HENNEBERGER: The map is included in the written comments that I gave Mr. McCasland, and it will be included in the copy that we provide each of your offices.

>> MR. DUNCAN: I do have several printed smaller version copies of those maps.

>> CM LASTER: I look forward to seeing the maps and again thank you for your extra work on that. I think my colleague, Mr. Green, has called some attention -- clearly open ditches are of interest. We've a lot of them all over the city but sometimes we do have infrastructure that has aged in place that is so small where an open ditch allows for at least even flow, the infrastructure -- and that's what happens with a number of our older neighborhoods in the southwest area. Thank you for your presentation.

>> MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, sir.

>> MS. SCOTT: Mr. Robert Fiederlein.

>> MR. FIEDERLEIN: Thank you, my name is Robert Fiederlein from the timeDistrict up in District B. We were not impacted by the Memorial Day floods, but we were impacted significantly by the tax day floods and we've been monitoring the process of this particular allotment of CDBG-DR funding. And I think it's important to make the point, and I think it's maybe stating the obvious

because I think everybody is assuming it, but I would remind the city and the Council Members if you look at the federal appropriations legislation for this money, it specifically says the money must be spent in the areas that were impacted by the storm event.

Like I said, I think we all assume that's the case, but it's important to remember that the plan to improve infrastructure must be in the areas that were impacted by the event or benefit the areas that were impacted by the event. So I just wanted to bring that to everybody's attention that that was actually language in the federal appropriation. That's all. Thank you.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you, sir. Ms. Glenda Kizzee.

>> MS. KIZZEE: Hello everyone. Thank you so much for having us. Can you hear me now? My name is Glenda Kizzee with the Houston Area Urban League. We are a HUD-approved housing counseling agency as well as a fair housing agency and we have HUD-approved certified housing counselors.

My concern this evening is in regard to the types of activities for CDBG-DR funding. I'd actually like to present to you -- I'll send that in writing -- some proposed activities. As a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, HUD has strongly recommended that we have activities that assist in regard to housing for those low to moderate income families that are already our clientele.

We are already serving those areas. The City of Houston actually has 14 HUD-approved counseling agencies, and we all receive the same mandates. We are probably the first ones to receive calls from folks who have been impacted. It is correct, very few call 3-1-1, but whatever the reason may be, they will contact us because we're already trusted. They already know us. We look forward to working with you, and I will outline that in the presentation.

The next area is the underserved or unmet of those low to moderate income persons. We are currently working in the 2016 long term recovery and what we found is we're also getting calls from folks impacted in 2015. Not only did they not file for FEMA, most are calling because they need home repair. And when they describe what's happened and the dates of when it happened, it's not just home repair. So as a fair housing agency, we are really welcoming the opportunity to work with you so that we can meet the needs of those unmet needs that's not being covered. Thank you.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you, ma'am. Mr. Robert Muhammad.

>> MR. MUHAMMAD: Good evening. I'm Dr. Robert Muhammad. I serve on the Greater Southeast Management District in District D. Let me just say three words: Infrastructure, infrastructure, infrastructure. The 19 million-dollar figure is too low. You've got to find the data. We've got to get that figure up. Two kinds of resilience, one resilience is engineering resilience, which is the ability of a system to absorb and maintain a structure and its function and its integrity. But there is ecosystem resilience which is the ability of a system to adapt and to transform itself to a higher stable state equilibrium. We don't want to bounce back because we already have people who are disadvantaged. We want to bounce forward.

So I'm just having -- and I won't blame Mr. McCasland because he's just getting here -- but I think it's important that we have a bicycle master plan. We have a green space master plan. We have a major thoroughfare master plan, but we don't have a community development master plan and a housing master plan that will back that up.

So in the long term, instead of us chasing money, the department has to have a mission and then fit these disasters inside of that mission. So, for instance, there are commercial corridors that have long been abandoned, whether it be Dowling -- we can forget about Dallas, that is now gentrified. But Dowling Street, West Montgomery, Homestead, these are the streets and these areas have long been abandoned. We need to develop those commercial corridors and we know that rooftops drive retail. Now we have a housing master plan where we're going to put our housing and we should have housing of every price point, not just low income housing.

Lastly what I would say is we have to drill down and find the economic development money, and I say that Meyerland -- I've never seen it flood like that. I've been here since 1980. I've never seen Meyerland flood like that. So whatever we have to do to get the rest of the city together, the city has to come together for our neighbors in Meyerland so we can put the infrastructure in there so that they don't flood like that again because there are poor people and working class people in Meyerland regardless of the AMI, the average median income, the area median income. There are still poor people and working class people and elders and retired people in that area. So we want to see that taken care of.

So lastly, again, we need a master plan; and trust me, don't be afraid to say plan because you know to have a plan doesn't mean you have to have zoning. You just got to have a plan that we can pull it all together. Thank you.

>> CM DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

[APPLAUSE]

>> CM DAVIS: Thank you. Doctor, I appreciate it and I won't blame our director as well.

>> MR. MUHAMMAD: He just got here.

>> CM DAVIS: He just got here. No, he is getting a plan together for housing and certain areas with LARA lots and so on and backfilling some of those vacant lots, but I do agree. Thank you. I didn't think I had any support or representation for District B tonight until you brought up West Montgomery and Homestead.

>> MR. MUHAMMAD: I've got to look out -- it's all one big happy family. We have to take care of that. Thank you.

>> MS. SCOTT: The next name on the list is Ms. Vickie McBride.

>> MS. McBRIDE: I'm with Glenda and she's already spoken.

>> MS. SCOTT: The last name I have here is Dr. A. Barnard. Is Dr. Barnard here?

>> DR. BARNARD: Hi. I'm here to argue that long-term improvement require us to look at the -- to understand long term changes as well. I consider myself to be an anti-uniformitarianist. Uniformitarianism is an idea proposed by Charles [INDISCERNIBLE] in the days when it was cool to be a geologist. He came up with the present is the key to the past. We know now that's not true. There is a consensus among scientific literature that the present is very different than the past. It's very difficult to use historical data to predict anything that will happen in the future. I'm kind of talking on the subject of climate change here. Recently in July we had the warmest year on record since 1880 which is kind of more evidence of these large changes that are happening on a global scale, but I don't really want to talk about climate change here right now because that's not what people are talking about.

What we're talking about here is global change. Global change is the impact these changes have on our local communities, on the infrastructure and the things that sort of result in the impacts, the things that cause us to adapt and the changes that are creating vulnerability in our communities.

If we can further understand these things, we can start getting towards increasing resilience, which is [INDISCERNIBLE]. I work at the University of Houston Downtown. And I'm aware there is a lot of really great data coming out of the city right now, and I'm keen for students and for the university to be involved in the crisis, and I'm very aware because I work inside the academic literature that it takes years for that -- for the information to get from what we're doing in terms of research into the literature and then passed down into communities, and I think strengthening those relationships and getting that information out to the communities quickly through students is a really good way forward.

So I think these long term -- to understand how we can improve over the long term in this city, we also need to consider what the long term changes are going to be and how things are going to be changing in the short term. Thank you for your time.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you very much. It appears that we've gone through all the names on the list.

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: The sign in list when we came in, I submitted my name.

>> MS. SCOTT: So if you could come on up and we will get somebody to write your name down.

>> MR. McCASLAND: I gave you a new list.

>> MS. SCOTT: These names are all on the list -- Robert Muhammad, Becky Edmondson, John Henneberger, Charlie Duncan, Mr. Rodriguez.

>> MR. BYNAM: State your name for the record.

>> MS. GARNER: My name is Vickie Garner. I'm not a member of a community, but I think I'm here to represent many communities. We have been -- my community is Oak Lane Estates and we're over off of Oates Road and we're between Wallisville and Highway 90. We've been working with several Council Members since 2004 trying to get issues in our neighborhood addressed, and I'm disappointed to see that we don't have a red dot on that map.

So while many of the speakers prior to me have brought up issues that are relative to my community, we've had many Council Members -- originally we were split between I. and B. So we started back in 2003 trying to get something relevant done. Our infrastructure is poor. We now have ditches that are four feet deep. We have culverts that don't match. We have industry that's permitted to build up around us, but they don't follow the rules, and we're constantly working with 3-1-1 and being told to call them and records that disappear and people that don't show up. And of course there is a lack of communication obviously between the different departments within the City of Houston that would greatly alleviate some

of those issues including your constituents who don't feel like they are being heard. And again I say we've been trying to work with someone since 2003. And we're diligent. I have a Bible full of E-mails and resolutions and there have been thousands of dollars spent on engineers that have told the city what needs to be done in our area, but the funds have not been applied.

When I moved into my home, I paid for flood insurance. And mind you, we are not in a flood zone. I spent \$200.68 for flood insurance. I now am required to spend \$1,300 for flood insurance because of repetitive flooding.

I've tried everything that the city offered, and I speak for my neighbors when I say I, and our neighborhood is being neglected. And I appreciate Council Member Davis the notice -- the notice was poor. There would have been many more people from my neighborhood here if we had gotten adequate notice. Thank you very much for bringing that issue up.

And some of the other representatives here from neighborhoods that have brought up the blight and the lack of infrastructure in the neighborhood and on the northeast side, they've mentioned some of those. I appreciate that, too. But we need something done. Thank you.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you. Thank you, ma'am. Are there any others?
If you'll come forward and state your name for the record.

>> MR. BYNAM: You already spoke.

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: I had a written statement that I didn't get a chance to pass out. I'm sorry, I didn't know if I could pass it out.

>> MS. SCOTT: Give it to Mary in the back of the room.

>> MR. BYNAM: You're welcome to come up and give your name for the record.

>> MS. MYERS: Certainly. Thank you. Lois Myers. And I didn't think that I was going to speak tonight. I just wanted to come and listen, but I really feel to speak. I'm no stranger to the Council Members. They know me well.

I have been, along with my neighbors and other residents in the Memorial City area, many times speaking about flooding. And it breaks my heart when I listen to all of these other flood victims. I am a flood victim myself. I've flooded three times in the last seven years. I've lost hundreds of thousands of dollars. I couldn't work. I broke my hip. I'm a single woman. I'm a senior citizen. And I'm a member of HAR. I'm a broker member. And I can see the devastation in my neighborhood caused by flooding because of one thing -- y'all know what it is. All this talk -- all of this time, let me reduce it to one common denominator. After I flooded in '09 and I warned the city it would happen where I've lived for almost 40

years. It's going to flood and I said y'all need to work with the county but nobody listened. Walter P. Moore did the original study for TIRZ 17, the Memorial City TIRZ, and said if you don't put in these four detention ponds in these certain places you're going to flood out the surrounding areas.

And that was the basis that made TIRZ 17. A contract was made and signed and thrown away. But I'm here to tell you the one problem and they hid the contract so nobody knew about it. The one thing that needs to be done is that the mayor, whichever mayor it is, needs to put on the city agenda a vote to change the detention and drainage pond laws in this city. And every block by every commercial developer has been prone to do it and that's why residentsagainstfloodinganddrainagecoalition.com is here. We are here now with serious business to say the city needs to change those antiquated, out of date laws, get them on the agenda for a vote by "we the people." The commercial developers need to take a backseat now because "we the people" are speaking. We're not putting up with it anymore. And if we have our way, that city ordinance will change for detention ponds to require the developers to put in detention ponds and pay for them themselves. And there should be checks and balances before any federal government money is given to this city to that effect, and I thank you so much. Please help the people of this city.

Residentsagainstfloodinganddrainagecoalition.com everybody. That's where it is. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

>> MR. BYNAM: Thank you. Ma'am, would you come back.

>> CM GREEN: Not a question. I just wanted to recognize -- I know there are a lot of folks who did not speak but they are from the South Braeswood area, Linkwood, Willowbend, Willow Meadow, Westbury, Meyerland, if y'all could please stand.

I want to thank you, Linkwood. Thank you guys for coming out. We appreciate it.

>> MR. BYNAM: Thank you.

State your name for the record.

>> MR. STEVENS: Tracy Stevens. I used to be a 30 year employee for the City of Houston public works and engineering. And what I would like to say today is the reason why we are in this predicament we are in now is because the city has neglected our infrastructure since the '80's.

I was in street and drainage for almost 30 years. I've seen it happen. I've seen it continue to happen. And we would never have enough money to catch up all those decades of neglect that the city has neglected with our infrastructure.

This from drainage ditches to underground storm sewer to detention to the whole nine yards. When the city got away from neighborhoods to standards and routinely -- doing routine maintenance instead of 3-1-1 driven maintenance, that's our biggest problem.

I've lived from Acres Homes to Greenspoint. I have relatives in Kashmere Gardens, Fifth Ward. I live in Sunnyside myself. There wasn't a dot on that map until I put it on there, and you see how many dots is on that map.

Now, the other problems we have is engineers are not always right. There is an engineer project over by Sunnyside Park right now that they are over half a million dollars that's going to drain the park, but not going to drain the residents' homes across the street that's flooding. Now, as far as the 3-1-1 -- the 3-1-1 system is flawed. 3-1-1 system haven't been upgraded -- the software since they put it into effect. A lot of people don't know when the 3-1-1 software was put into effect, everything before 3-1-1 was wiped out completely. You had to start over with the S. R. numbers, all new numbers.

Right now, today, I try and look at S. R. numbers and track my requests. 3-1-1, when that request goes to the proper department, that department then changes the number. The software do not follow your complaint all the way to the end and even when you go on the Internet to try and see what was done, what type of work was done, what action was used, that information is not on the website. You cannot get it. You have to do an open request to find it.

Now, the other problem, we talk about infrastructure. Infrastructure can mean a lot of things. It can mean streets. It can mean ditches. It can mean sidewalks. It can mean culverts, the same stuff that we pay Rebuild Houston for. It's not working, but we want to steady continue about infrastructure, infrastructure. You got too many entities here in place that's not working that we paying for and we still paying for. So now we are talking about putting all of this money back in. What is it going to do? The study the gentleman talked about --

>> MR. BYNAM: Your time is up. Thank you, sir, your time is up.

>> MR. STEVENS: Thank you.

>> MS. SCOTT: Thank you. Anyone else?

Would you like to have something further to say before we close out?

>> MR. McCASLAND: I just want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. Council Member Davis as well as Council Member Laster, duly noticed on the notice. We will fix the problems. This won't happen again under my watch.

>> MS. SCOTT: And let's be mindful that the purpose of this hearing is to inform what we do. Just remember the purpose of the hearing is to inform what we do. We welcome any data that you have, that you would like to send us. There will be opportunities to amend anything we do going forward.

All of the materials here will be posted on HCDD's web page for disaster recovery at houstonhousing.gov. We ask you to continue to send your comments by E-mail or write us at 601 Sawyer. Please take a handout that contains all that information. Thank you for coming and drive safely.

APPENDIX F
LIST OF PUBLIC COMMENTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

1. Virginia Gregory
2. Ed Wulfe, Houston Area Realtors
3. Richard Rodriguez, Brays Oaks Management District
4. Cheryl Chapman, Family Endeavors
5. Becky Edmundson, Westbury Civic Club, Westbury Super Neighborhood Council
6. Robert Koehl, Brooksmith subdivision
7. Amy Goldstein, United Orthodox Synagogue
8. John Henneberger, Texas Low Income Housing Information Service
9. Charlie Duncan, Texas Low Income Housing Information Service
10. Robert Fiederlein, Greenspoint District
11. Gloria Kizzee, Houston Area Urban League
12. Minister Dr. Robert Muhammad, Houston Southeast
13. Dr. A. Barnard
14. Vicki Garner, Oak Estates resident
15. Lois Meyer, Memorial City area resident
16. Tracy Stephens