

American Rescue Plan Act

Signed on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a \$1.9 trillion measure designed to address the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.

The American Rescue Plan will deliver \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and replace lost revenue for governments.

Congress has allocated Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to tens of thousands of eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments, including \$45.6 billion for cities.

The Act states that funding can be used to:

- Respond to public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts,
- Provide premium pay to workers performing essential work during COVID-19 public health emergency,
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to COVID-19 public health emergency,
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
- Additional funding for the Houston Airport System, Emergency Rental Relief, stimulus checks, and tax credits are also part of the ARPA.

Like most state and local governments across the nation, the City of Houston faced record revenue loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic; this lost revenue would have funded critical services for many Houstonians. Fortunately, the City of Houston received \$607.8 million in Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) from the ARPA Funds for the provision of government services due to revenue losses during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to maintain and sustain critical services. Additional priority projects that address homelessness, behavioral health, and solid waste are being considered.

Website Address: houstontx.gov/arpa/



Dear Houstonians,

The coronavirus pandemic caused personal and fiscal hardships for many of us. Fortunately, the City of Houston will avoid a massive budget shortfall thanks to more than \$600 million in State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from President Biden's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

But for the dollars being made available by Congress and the President, there would have been major budgetary cuts and layoffs. Without this needed influx of federal funds, the city would have had to close a \$201 million budget gap in fiscal year 2021-2022.

The ARPA funds are helping protect the salaries of our first responders, including police, EMS, health, and solid waste workers who continued to work every day and are critical to our struggle with COVID-19. And yes, finally, we were able to give our firefighters an 18 percent raise over the next three years.

The overall budget for this fiscal year will represent a five percent increase over last year. Most of the federal funds will go to replace revenues lost due to COVID-19 and associated drops in sales tax collection in the General Fund, but we expect to have a small amount left over for some priority projects outlined on this website.

Unfortunately, the pandemic still has not run its course. We'll continue to be mindful next year, and the year after next, because we will still be impacted by the coronavirus and there will still be impacts on our tax revenue. The Biden Administration recognizes this as well, so the Fiscal Recovery Funds will be distributed in two tranches. The first tranche of \$303.8 million was received in May. The second tranche of \$303.8 million will be delivered in May of 2022. This site will help provide transparency on how, together with City Council, the City of Houston looks to recover. With your help, we will come back from the coronavirus pandemic stronger than ever.

Figure 2 – American Rescue Plan Act Documents page

Houston Recovers

Following the devastation from Hurricane Harvey, the City of Houston created a webpage to help Houstonians affected by flooding. Houston Recovers is a focal point for information on debris cleanup, repair permits, mold prevention, mosquito control, flood risk reduction, housing assistance, donations, volunteer opportunities, business recovery resources and much more. The City teamed up with local and non-profit entities to give citizens a powerful resource during difficult times. The *Harvey by the Numbers* section provides interactive maps that illustrate the catastrophic impact of Hurricane Harvey on Greater Houston. This webpage also includes links to local, state, and federal resources for those impacted by the February 2021 Winter Storm. Visit Houston Recovers to find out more.

Website Address: HoustonRecovers.org

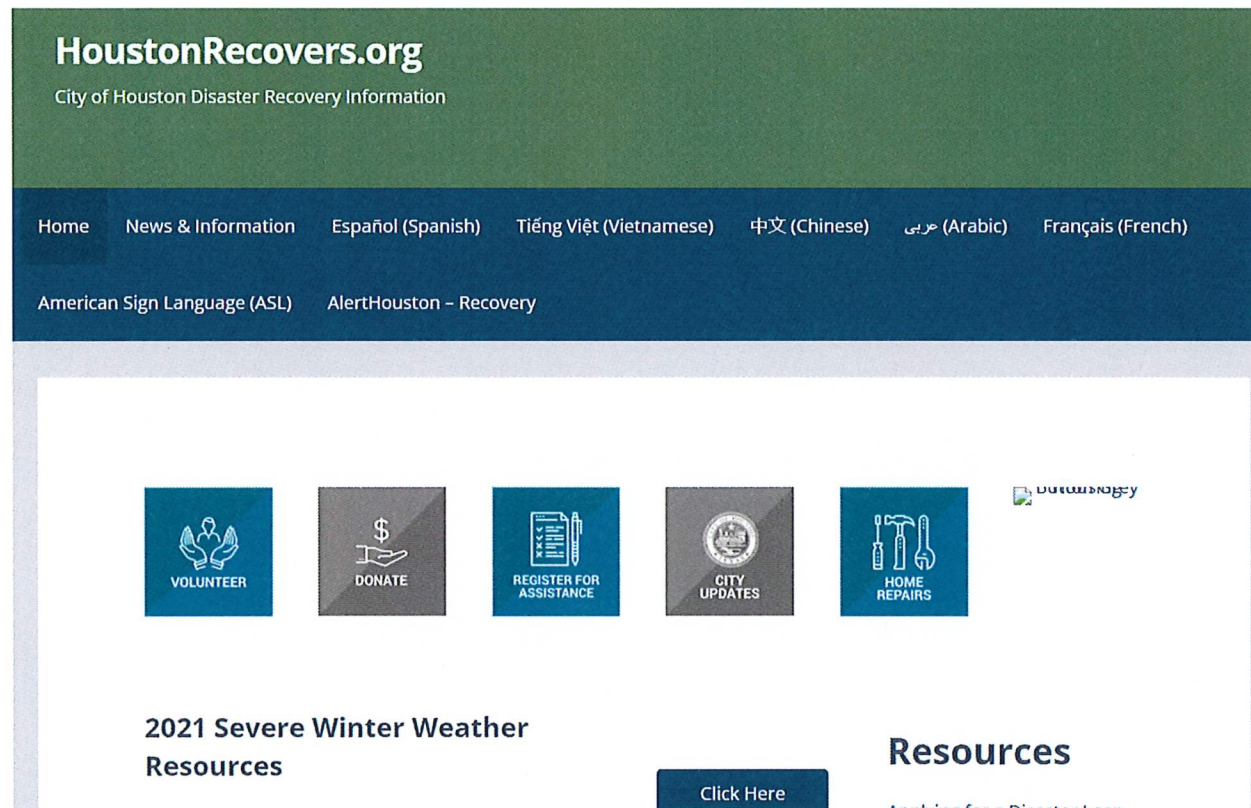


Figure 3- Houston Recovers Homepage

Open Finance

In April 2021, the City of Houston created the Open Finance initiative to provide more transparency about the City's finances. This initiative includes publishing relevant, accessible datasets about the City's budget, checkbook, and payroll. It also provides simple data visualizations to help the public explore the City's financial activities. Houstonians can benefit from data that helps measure policy efforts, increase government operational and process efficiency, provide deeper analytical insights, and increase citizen participation. Increased transparency through open data initiatives enhances the collaboration between residents and their elected leaders. These efforts empower residents to get involved and understand the City's financial activities.

Website Address: data.houstontx.gov/pages/openfinance



Open Finance



This portal provides detailed information about the City of Houston's finances. You can visualize the allocation of these funds, or you can explore the raw data. If you have questions about the data or this website, please contact the [City of Houston Finance Department](#).

Traditional Finances

The City of Houston is dedicated to financial transparency by providing citizens with centralized access and disclosure of financial information related to the City's fiscal activities.

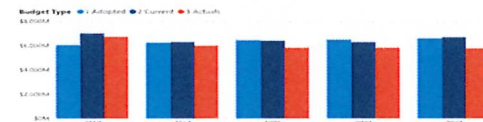
[Explore](#)



Budget

The City of Houston has an annual operating budget of over \$5 billion. This portal contains budget information from 2018 to present.

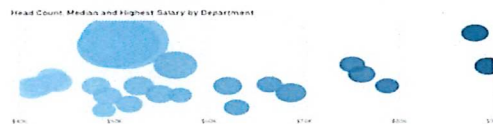
[Visualize](#) [Explore](#) [Watch Video](#)



Payroll

There are over 20,000 employees working for the City of Houston. This portal contains payroll information from 2018 to present.

[Visualize](#) [Explore](#) [Watch Video](#)



Checkbook

The checkbook contains information on payments to the City's vendors. This portal contains checkbook information from 2018 to present.

[Visualize](#) [Explore](#) [Watch Video](#)

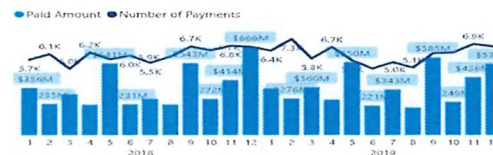


Figure 4 – Open Finance Homepage

Budget Bootcamp

Budget Bootcamp is a city website application that provides an interactive experience with city budget information through an easy-to-use dashboard. Budget Bootcamp was created during Houston's inaugural Houston Hackathon and was the first project officially launched. Budget Bootcamp provides citizens with an educational walk-through of the City's budget data – both for the most recently adopted budget, as well as all adopted budgets since Fiscal Year 2010. Check out this data visualization tool below to gain a better understanding of the City's finances.

Website Address: houstontx.gov/finance/budgetbootcamp.html



Welcome to the City of Houston's Annual Operating Budget Bootcamp.

Budgetary numbers include the Annual Operating Budget numbers (not actuals contained in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) and include all Intra- and Inter- fund transfers. If there are any problems, you can link directly to the dashboard by visiting [this link](#). *Quick Tip:* If you get lost in the filters, click the reset button at the bottom of the dashboard.

Note: Budget Bootcamp presents the cost center names as they appear in the most recent budget for which the cost center number appears. This allows for easier grouping of cost centers names, but this name may be different for past years if the cost center was recently re-assigned.

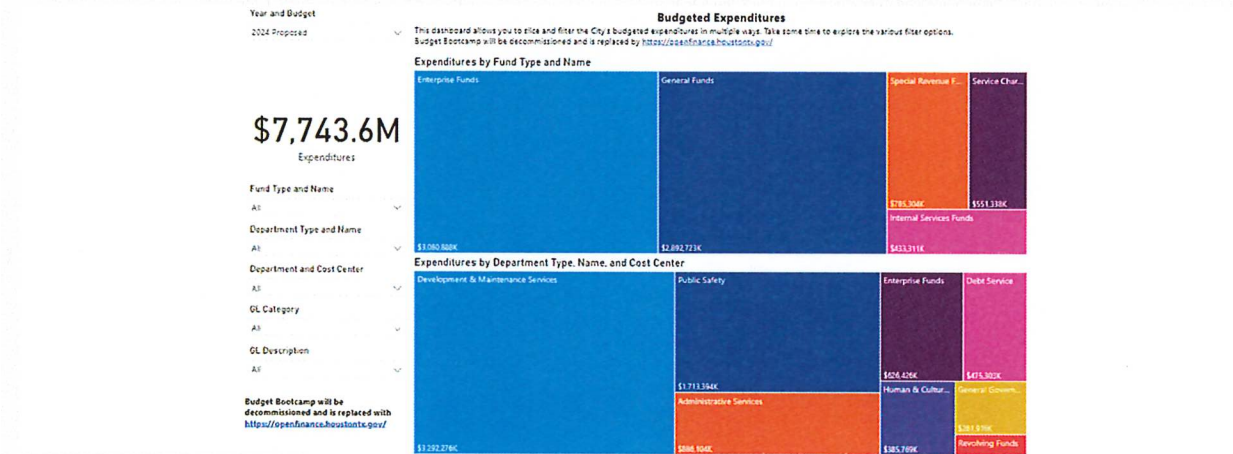


Figure 5 - Budget Bootcamp Homepage

Houston Airports Passenger Website

The Houston Airport System fly2houston.com is the go-to website for IAH and HOU passengers, as well as for friends and family transporting passengers to and from each airport. The website includes a flight search feature and TSA wait times; parking availability, rental vehicle rates and reservations; airport maps and lounge directory; security and international travel information; airline information and a list of non-stop destinations worldwide; a complete searchable guide to dining (with menus) and shopping; ground transportation; the airport art collection and Harmony in the Air live concert schedules; and a list of nearby hotels with airport shuttles. There is also a link to provide online feedback, as well as a newsroom for the media.

Website Address: fly2houston.com

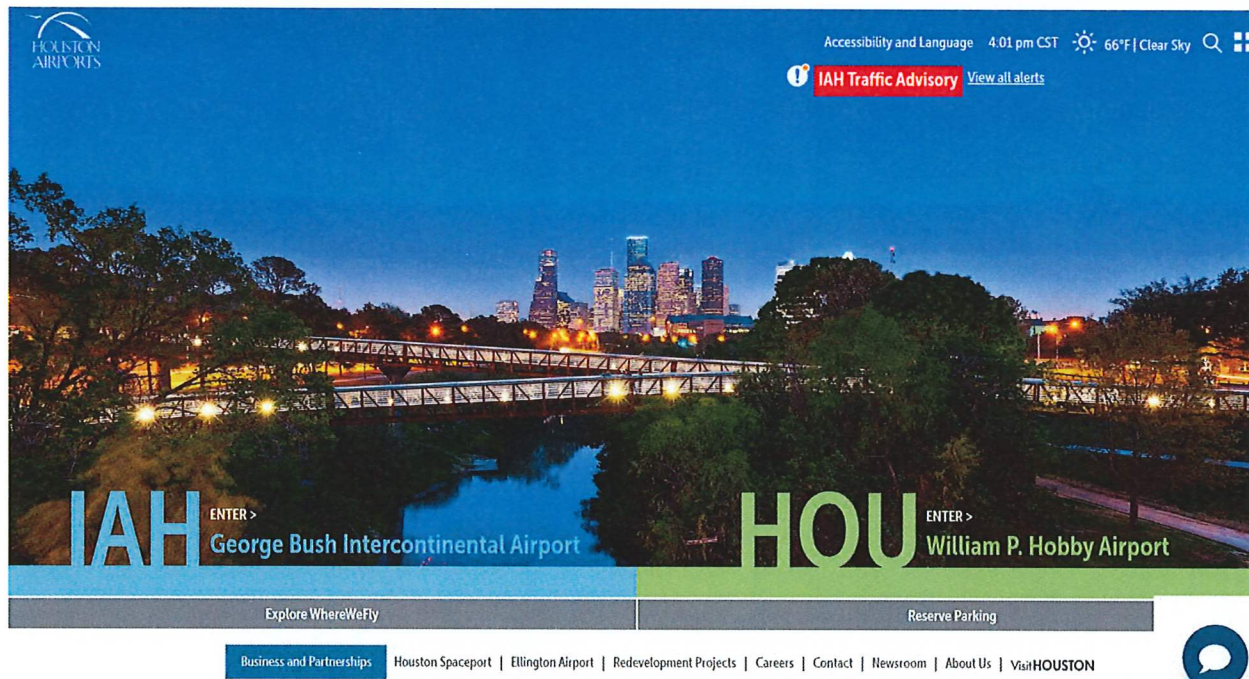


Figure 6 - Houston Airports Systems Main Page

IAH & HOU Interactive Maps

The Houston Airport System's IAH & HOU browser-based interactive maps (app download not required) provide turn-by-turn wayfinding, including walking time estimates, between any two points at the airport for passengers. Find your way from curb to gate and back with ease. Each website provides a convenient search tool for restaurants, cellphone charging stations, shop listing and many other activities.

IAH Website Address:

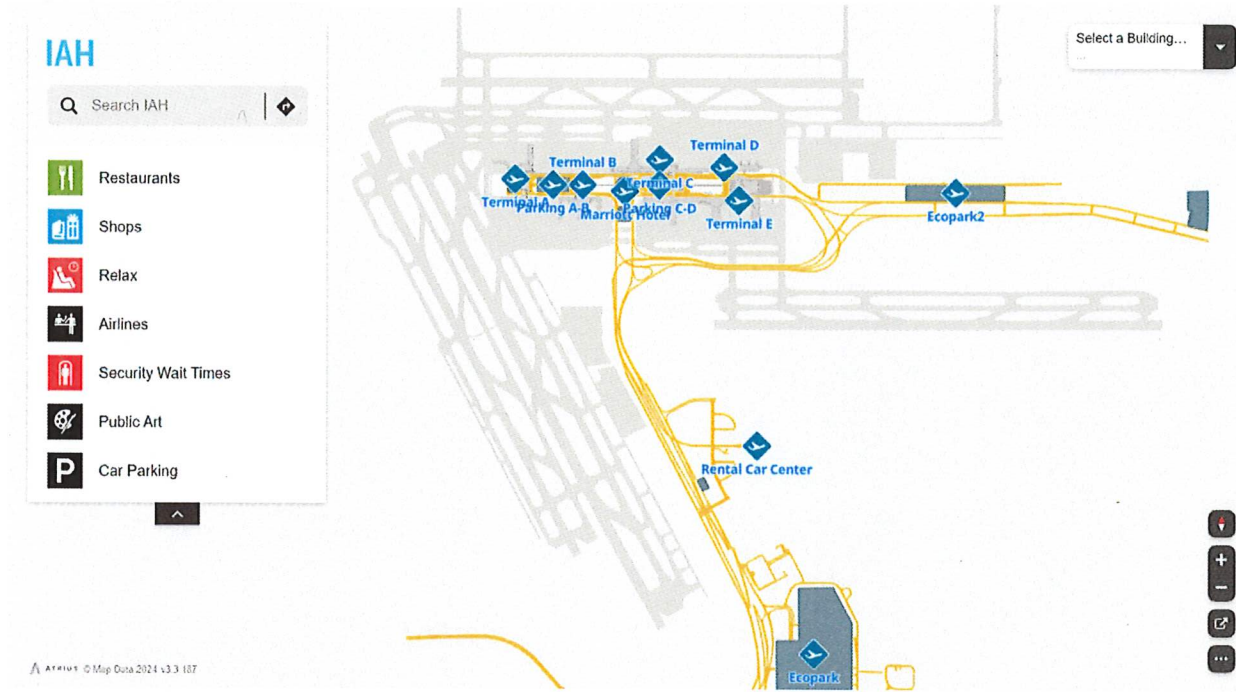


Figure 7 – Bush (IAH) Airport Interactive Map

HOU Website Address:

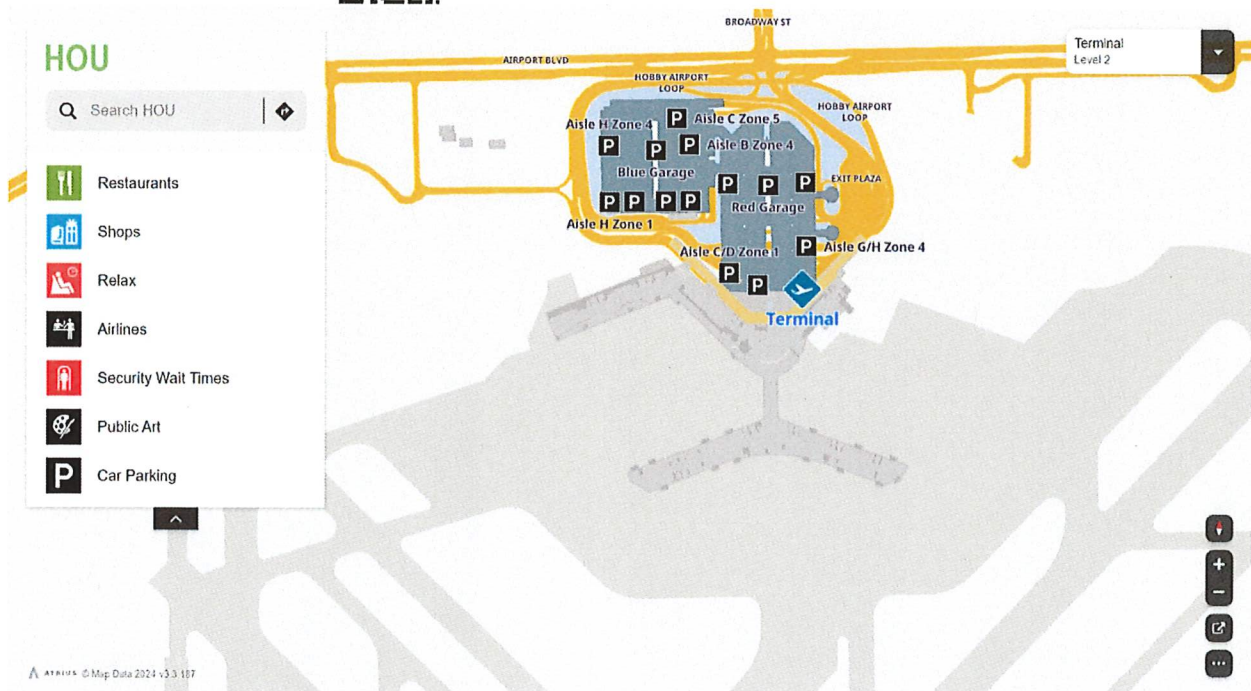


Figure 8 - Hobby (HOU) Airport Interactive Map

Helpful Mobile Applications

311 Help & Info



iOS



Android

The Houston 311 app makes reporting issues easier than ever. The app uses GPS to identify your real-time location and allows you to add photos to your service request. Reports are automatically sent to the City's 311 system and routed to city departments for resolution.

Houston Public Library



iOS



Android

The Houston Public Library catalog, access to your account, information about library locations, and more is now available through your mobile device. Wherever you go, you can now search for books, DVDs, audiobooks, and e-books, and place holds or renew items - all from your phone! You can also check out our latest reading recommendations, ask one of our professional librarians a question, find out about upcoming library events or classes, or follow our blog and tweets.

Park Houston



iOS



Android

The City of Houston has partnered with Parkmobile to provide a convenient way to pay for parking using your mobile phone. The ParkHouston app takes the stress out of parking. No more searching for coins. With ParkHouston, starting your parking session takes just a few seconds. You can extend your session on-the-go (where permitted), as well as save "Favorite" locations. Users can also opt-in to receive notifications prior to their parking session expiring.

Rollout!



iOS



Android

Rollout! is a simple app to make figuring out the City of Houston's trash pickup easy! Forget about peeking outside to see if your neighbor's bins are out. With Rollout! we use your phone to determine your location and instantly let you view your schedule for your neighborhood. You can set up reminders to notify you when to take out your trash and to make sure you don't miss recycling day again.

Helpful Webpages

Houston-
HDHHS



The Houston Department of Health and Human Services webpage is very easy to use and is a fast way to access information on services offered by the City of Houston Health Department for all Houstonians. For more information visit houstontx.gov/health.

Ready
Houston
READY
HOUSTON



The Ready Houston webpage is the Houston Region's official emergency preparedness webpage, brought to you by the City of Houston Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security. Its goal is to provide an all-inclusive, singular mobile resource for Houston-area residents to access accurate and timely information before and in the event of an emergency. The webpage includes options to receive local weather and public health alerts, plan and keep track of your family and emergency contacts, build a kit, track your supplies, and receive notices when it's time to restock, stay informed with direct access to emergency radio, news, and weather updates, gain more information and watch videos on disaster preparedness, and use the emergency alert to notify your emergency contacts of your location. For more information, visit readyhoustontx.gov.

COHHR



The City of Houston's Human Resources webpage provides access to a guidebook for municipal employees, as well as links to employee news and information on training, policy documentation and other useful resources. Real-time COH employee notifications are also featured on this webpage. For more information visit houstontx.gov/hr.