

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Federal, State, and Local Agencies (FEMA, U.S. EPA Region 6, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County Flood Control District, City of Houston Floodplain Administrator's Office, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)) as well as the Public at Large)

This is to give notice that the **City of Houston Housing & Community Development Department**, pursuant to **federal environmental regulations found at 24 CFR 58**, has conducted an evaluation as required by **Executive Order 11988 and 11990**, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the human environment **for CDBG single family rehabilitation and reconstruction activity, B-16-MC-48-0018**.

The description of the project is as follows:

The City of Houston Housing & Community Development Department (HCDD) Home Repair Program (HRP) will carry out the following housing programs: Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

The goal in the HRP is to address repairs necessary to alleviate threats to health, life, and safety as well as safety hazards resulting from substandard conditions. The program will target homes owned and occupied by households earning no more than 80% of Area Median Family Income.

The program is not limited to low and moderate income elderly (62 or older) and disabled homeowners, but also gives priority to homes of employed applicants with minors, and unemployed applicants providing full-time care to disabled household members.

A homeowner seeking assistance must meet three basic qualifications: 1) they must be the recorded owner and occupy the home as their primary residence; 2) their property taxes must be current or on an approved payment plan in good standing; and 3) they must meet certain income qualifications. If a homeowner qualifies, upon the completion of an application, their home will be inspected to determine the level of repairs their residence is eligible to receive (additional documents may be required).

The HRP will provide two tiers of assistance to homeowners:

1. Tier II – Rehabilitation
 - a. Moderate Repairs – those costing \$10,000 to \$29,999
 - b. Substantial Repairs – those costing \$30,000 to \$65,000
2. Tier III – Reconstruction – Repairs exceeding \$65,000

HCDD will perform outreach activities City-wide including the newly-announced Complete Communities targeted areas.

Each applicant, occupant, or homeowner located within the 100-year floodplain will be required to sign an Emergency Management Disaster Acknowledgment form acknowledging that they have:

- Read and understood the Emergency Management Disaster Preparedness Statement and HCDD's obligations;
- Received the pamphlet Hurricane and Disaster Preparedness Guide;
- Registered with the Emergency Notification System (ENS);
- Registered (Individual Resident or Facility) with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) online or called 2-1-1, and that Relationship Manager/Intake Counselor has informed the applicant/occupant/homeowner (client) about HCDD's obligations and client(s) is/are aware of their associated responsibilities.

The proposed project(s) will be located in the following areas, at addresses to be selected:

The Service Area is City-Wide – Harris County – City of Houston; Brazoria County – City of Houston; Fort Bend County – City of Houston. Since the Service Area is City-Wide, some selected sites may be in the 100-year floodplain.

Acres of land in the floodplain for the City of Houston is as follows:

Floodway: 30025.21

100 Year Floodplain: 78951.59

500 Year Floodplain: 49510.10

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments for this public notice must be received by **the City of Houston Housing & Community Development Dept. (HCDD)** at the following address on or before the close of business **Monday, July 24, 2017. 601 Sawyer, 4th Floor, Houston, Harris County, Texas**, Attention: **HCDD Environmental Section**. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM** at the address provided above. Comments may also be submitted via phone at (832) 394-6183 or via email at matthew.jenkins@houstontx.gov and pirooz.farhoomand@houstontx.gov.

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