

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST
RELEASE OF FUNDS**

August 28, 2017
City of Houston
Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD)
601 Sawyer, 4th Floor
Houston, TX 77007
(832) 394-6183

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about Wednesday, September 13, 2017 the City of Houston’s Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of the following federal funds:

Section 420 of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Pub. L. 114-113, approved December 18, 2015) (Appropriations Act) makes available \$300 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared in 2015, pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), related to the consequences of Hurricane Joaquin and adjacent storm systems, Hurricane Patricia, and other flood events.

The City of Houston’s Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) submitted an Action Plan for Disaster Recovery—2015 Flood Events (Plan) to HUD on September 19, 2016 and updated November 17, 2016. The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded on December 7, 2016 to the City of Houston \$66,560,000 in federal funds associated with disasters declared on May 29, 2015 (DR-4223) and on November 25, 2015 (DR-4245).

The funds being used for this project are part of the Action Plan described above, and are authorized by the laws identified in the first paragraph describing said funds. They are Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds, and they will be used to undertake the following project:

Project Title: Single Family Home Repair Program – Disaster Recovery 2015

Location: HCDD will focus on assisting homeowners in areas that were hardest hit by the 2015 floods, particularly homes located in the following tract numbers and block groups listed below except for Harris County Flood Control District Buyout Areas:

- a. Census Tract 422600 Block Group 3
- b. Census Tract 420700 Block Group 1
- c. Census Tract 420800 Block Group 1
- d. Census Tract 422900 Block Group 2
- e. Census Tract 420700 Block Group 2
- f. Census Tract 422402 Block Group 1
- g. Census Tract 453000 Block Group 1
- h. Census Tract 521400 Block Group 3

in Houston, Harris County, Texas.

Purpose of project: 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 those two flood events. In the Disaster Recovery Action Plan approved by HUD for spending these funds, \$12 million is allocated to assist with home repairs needed to restore flood-damaged homes to decent, safe and sanitary living condition.

HCDD's objective for the Home Repair Program (HRP) is to provide home repair assistance to as many low- and moderate-income homeowners as possible whose homes were damaged in the 2015 flood disasters. Under the Houston Action Plan for Disaster Recovery - 2015 Flooding Events, \$12 million is allocated for housing (Single-Family Home Repair) activities. The program gives priority to age-dependent (aged 65 and older or aged 5 and under) and disabled households.

A summary of the minimum criteria for assistance, as stated in these guidelines, is as follows:

- The home damaged by the 2015 disasters must be single-family and must be the homeowner's primary residence.
- The household income eligibility limit is 80% of the Area Median Family Income (AMFI).¹
- The maximum amount to be spent on each rehabilitated home is \$45,000, including change orders.

This activity is justified to provide relief for those people impacted by the 2015 flood disasters while addressing recognized impediments to affirmatively furthering fair housing as required under the Fair Housing Act for single family homeowner assistance.

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.

Grant Number: B-16-MH-48-0001

Total Federal Funding:..... \$12,000,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

¹ Please refer to the link to area median household income by Super Neighborhood from the City of Houston Planning Department for further information regarding Area Median Income as determined by the Census Bureau, as of Sept.

2013: [http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Demographics/docs_pdfs/SN/Median Household Income by SN.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Demographics/docs_pdfs/SN/Median%20Household%20Income%20by%20SN.pdf)

The City of Houston has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the above address and is available for public examination or copying weekdays 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

REVIEW PROCESS

In accordance with 24 CFR §58.15, a tiered review process has been structured, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed for the target area and other applicable laws and authorities will be complied with, when individual projects are ripe for review. Once the lots are selected, each lot will undergo an environmental review.

None of the properties selected will adversely impact (or be adversely impacted by) a floodplain, a wetland, an endangered species zone or a historical property. No lot will be adversely affected by hazardous operations or toxic, hazardous or radioactive materials, contamination, chemicals or gases. Noise attenuation will be performed for the dwellings as necessary per 24 CFR Part 51. While certain lots to be selected will be in the 100-year floodplain as allowed by Disaster Recovery rules, an 8-step process is in place for this project, and the impacts to the floodplain of work on existing homes will not be adverse.

The ERR on file documents the environmental determinations for this project, and more fully describes the tiered review process cited above.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City of Houston, Housing and Community Development Department, ATTN: Environmental Review Officer, 601 Sawyer, 4th Floor, Houston, Texas 77007. All comments received by the close of business on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 will be considered by the City of Houston prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Houston certifies to HUD, that Sylvester Turner, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Houston to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Houston certification received by the close of business on Thursday, September 28, 2017 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of Houston approved by HUD; (b) the City of Houston, as Responsible Entity, has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1301 Fannin Street, Suite 2200, Houston, Texas 77002. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Sylvester Turner, Mayor
City of Houston