

Public Notice

The City of Houston (City), through its Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD), is publishing a public notice for the following four (4) City employees in relation to conflict of interest for their application for assistance under the Houston Harvey Homebuyer Assistance Program (HbAP):

- A HCDD employee who works in the department's Single Family Division.
- A HCDD employee who works in the department's Compliance and Operations Division.
- A HCDD employee who works in the department's Disaster Recovery Division.
- A City employee who works in one of the City Council Member's Office.

The HbAP is funded from Hurricane Harvey Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR17) program funds, which have been awarded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through the Texas General Land Office (GLO). HCDD will submit a request with HUD to grant an exception to the conflict of interest prohibitions under 24 C.F.R. Section 570.611(d) to allow the above four (4) City employees to participate for assistance under the HbAP. HUD has the authority to make final determination regarding disposition of a conflict of interest and/or to approve a request for exception. Factors which were considered as part of the process to request a conflict of interest exception include:

- The employee is a member of an income-qualified group or class intended to be the beneficiaries of the HbAP in accordance with the program guidelines, as approved by the GLO.
- The employee would receive the same type of benefits made available to other members of the income-qualified group or class under the HbAP.
- The employee does not and has not exercised any function, responsibility and/or decision-making authority with respect to the HbAP assisted activity.
- The City Attorney has determined that a grant of CDBG-DR17 program funds to the eligible employees under the HbAP would not violate State of Texas and local laws as documented in a letter to HUD dated February 11, 2021.
- The denial of the employee from participating in the HbAP would result in undue hardship when weighed against the public interest by avoiding the conflict.

For additional information on the HCDD Conflict of Interest Policy, contact Kennisha London via email at Kennisha.London@houstontx.gov. Upon completion of the public disclosure, HCDD will submit the request for the approval of the conflict of interest exception.

For more information about HCDD and its programs, please access HCDD's website at www.houstontx.gov/housing and <https://recovery.houstontx.gov/>.