

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

Date of Publication: *December 1, 2021*
Harris County Community Services Department
8410 Lantern Point Drive
Houston, Texas 77054
832-927-4700

On or after December 9, 2021 Harris County will submit a request to HUD for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, Public Law 93-383 and HOME Investment Partnership Program funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordability Housing Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12701) to undertake the following projects in Location: Harris County Service Area, approximately 1,060 square miles including unincorporated Harris County and Harris County land within 12 Cooperative Cities: Deer Park, Galena Park, Humble, Jacinto City, Katy, La Porte, Morgan's Point, Seabrook, Shoreacres, South Houston, Tomball, and Webster:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title A: *Health and Safety Home Repair, Minor Home Repair, and Major Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Programs.*

Purpose A: *These rehabilitation programs fill a need to assist low-to-moderate-income homeowner applicants with repairs to septic systems or wells or owner-occupied homes that have badly deteriorated.*

Project/Program Description A: *C2021-022 Health and Safety Home Repair Program provides grants to low-income and elderly (62 years or older) households for up to \$40,000 for septic system and/or water well repairs required to correct current health and safety code violation citation(s) for an estimated 8 households per year and an estimated 40 households for Program Year (PY) 2021-2025. CDBG allocation for PY2021 is \$354,284 and estimated total project cost is \$1,771,420 for PY2021-2025. C2021-023 Minor Home Repair Program provides grants or deferred payment loans to low-income and elderly (62 years or older) households for up to \$20,000 for minor home repairs for qualified housing, including but not limited to, roof repair/replacement, handicap accessibility improvements, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing improvements for an estimated 65 households per year and an estimated 325 households for PY2021-2025. CDBG allocation for PY2021 is \$1,707,974 and estimated total project cost is \$8,539,870 for PY2021-2025. C2021-0035 Major Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Program provides eligible households up to \$180,000 of funding in the form of a grant, deferred payment loan, or an interest only deferred loan, to facilitate substantial rehabilitation or reconstruction (including demolition and/or elevation) of single-family structures deemed unsafe or severely defective and owned and occupied by low-income persons up to 6 per year and an estimated 30 for PY2021-2025. HOME Investment Partnership Program allocation for PY2021 is \$1,080,000 and estimated total HOME-funded project cost is \$5,400,000 for PY2021-2025. Tier 2 site-specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.*

Level of Environmental Review Citation A: *24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i), (Reconstruction cases, 4)*

Tier 2 Site Specific Review A: *The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Flood Insurance, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Floodplain Management, Historic Preservation, Noise Abatement and Control.*

Mitigation Measures/Conditions A: *Homes in the 100-Year Floodplain will not be eligible, so flood insurance will not be required, Homes housing incapacitated individuals in the 500-Year*

Floodplain will require escape routes/plans, homes with large LP tanks will relocate tanks to a safe distance, asbestos, mold and lead-based paint hazards will be encapsulated or mitigated as part of these projects, projects will follow any Texas Historic Commission recommendations after consultation, projects where outdoor ambient noise is high will emphasize rehabilitation/reconstruction work that can also attenuate noise.

Estimated Project Cost A: HUD funding & total estimated project cost is \$ 3,142,258.00 for PY2021, thus \$15,711,290 over a five-year period.

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title B: *Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Program*

Purpose B: *This program fills a need to tear down abandoned structures to help prevent or eliminate slum and blight within the Harris County service area.*

Project/Program Description B: *C2021-028 HC Public Health Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement will identify, investigate, and demolish to the slab fifteen (15) abandoned single family homesites per year (75 over 5 years) for purpose of preventing or eliminating slumming and blighting influence within the Harris County Service Area. Tier 2 site-specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the tier 1 broad review for each address under this program as addresses become known.*

Level of Environmental Review Citation B: *24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)*

Tier 2 Site Specific Review B: *The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Contamination and Toxic Substances, Historic Preservation.*

Mitigation Measures/Conditions B: *LP fuel storage tanks if any will be safely removed as part of demolition, as will any asbestos, mold or lead-based paint hazards following all state requirements, and projects will follow any Texas Historic Commission recommendations after consultation.*

Estimated Project Cost B: HUD CDBG funding & total estimated project cost is \$150,000.00 for PY2021, thus \$750,000.00 over a five-year period.

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i) and (4). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for these projects is on file at Harris County Community Services Department at the address above and may be examined or copied at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/environmental-review-records/>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Harris County Community Services Department at plancomments@csd.hctx.net or the address above. All comments received by December 8, 2021 will be considered by Harris County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Harris County certifies to HUD that Adrienne M. Holloway, PhD, Certifying Officer, in her capacity as Executive Director 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 Harris County to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and Harris County's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual 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 of Harris County; (b) Harris County 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 development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities 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, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to either CPD_COVID-19OEE-HOS@hud.gov or HUD Houston Field Office at 1301 Fannin Street, Suite 2200, Houston, TX 77002. Potential objectors should contact HUD at (713) 718-3199 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Adrienne M. Holloway, PhD, Executive Director, Certifying Officer