

## **Harris County PY2019 – 2023 Consolidated Plan Highlights**

The Program Years (PY) 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan represents Harris County’s vision for improving the quality of life in the low-and moderate-income areas of the county and identifies housing, homeless, community, and economic development needs and resources, and establishes a strategic plan for meeting those needs. In its completed form, it will aid decision makers in creating strategies that address such issues as adequate streets, water, sewage and drainage systems, proper and useful education, parks and green spaces, community facilities, quality health care, and safe, peaceful, and productive neighborhoods for persons living in low-income communities. The plan also contains goals, performance outcomes, objectives, and implementation strategies for each of the plan’s elements and describes the activities the county will fund, implement, and/or support using its annual federal allocation. It also provides useful information about current conditions within the county and identifies its strengths and weaknesses on community development issues. Finally, the Consolidated Plan explains the long-term goals and objectives for improving the quality of life for financially challenged residents, and states its specific plans for making improvements throughout the next five years.

Included in the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan is the Regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice Plan and PY2019 Annual Action Plan, a one year plan that describes the specific projects and activities that Harris County will undertake in the coming year. The completed PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan guides the county's distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for each Annual Action Plan over a five year period from the beginning of PY2019 on March 1, 2019 to February 29, 2024.

### **Summary of the Needs Assessment Overview**

Sources used to estimate the needs projected for the next five years included: U.S. Census Bureau and HUD CHAS data, agency consultation, citizen participation and survey data to determine community needs.

Harris County residents with the greatest need for housing assistance are those facing cost burden and overcrowding issues. Minorities are more severely impacted by housing problems and there is a correlation between race and income levels among households, with minorities being more severely impacted by housing problems. Poverty affects minority populations disproportionately in Harris County. The needs of Housing Choice Voucher holders effectively mirror the needs of the population at large and the needs are associated with economic barriers that impair the problem of housing affordability in Harris County. There is a growing need for accessible housing for seniors and persons with disabilities throughout the county. Families with children face a growing affordability gap that often leads to overcrowding or substandard housing options.

Harris County provides a number of services that address the supportive housing needs of all residents in all non-homeless, special needs categories including counseling, training, education, transportation, and permanent supportive housing. The housing and supportive service needs are determined using demographic data, service provider consultation, and housing provider reports (ex. Harris County Housing Authority or Veterans Administration). Growing population demands improved public infrastructure including community facilities water, sewer, transportation, and infrastructure.

The consultation process included multiple public and focus group meetings, input sessions with stakeholder agencies and residents, one-on-one meetings and interviews with partner agencies, a community needs surveys for residents and services providers, public participation through neighborhood meetings, and public comment period prior to plan adoption. Finally, a thorough review of relevant data sources and studies at the state, county, and local level provided insight on community trends and the services required.

To identify the nature and level of needs within Harris County, consultation included topics related to Housing, Fair Housing, Social Services, Transportation, Senior and Youth Services, Parks, Public Facilities, Public Services, Infrastructure, Homelessness, and Education. The Plan also emphasizes the involvement of low-to-moderate-income (LMI) residents including non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with mobility, visual or hearing impairments.

## **Summary of Plan Goals and Measurable Objectives**

The Consolidated Plan includes goals and objectives that Harris County intends to initiate and complete during the PY2019-2023. For a detailed list of the Goals and Objectives for Housing, Homeless, Public Facilities, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Public Services, and Other activities, please see Appendix A.

## **Evaluation of Past Performance**

Harris County has been very successful in meeting many of the objectives in the (2013-2018) Consolidated Plan. For the housing objective, CSD provided 119 households with down payment and closing cost assistance, constructed 6 affordable single-family housing units, acquired 50 new rental affordable multi-family housing units, provided minor home repair to 112 households, and abated 66 households for lead based paint hazard control. For a detailed list of our past performance for Homeless, Public Facilities, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Public Services, and Other activities, please see Appendix D.

## **Citizen Participation Outreach for the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan**

Harris County performed numerous steps and activities to solicit participation from county residents and consulted with many organizations within the county. The cornerstone for the development of the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan/Regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice for Harris County was active citizen participation. Built on participation, cooperation and collaboration, the Plans are an expression of many voices: community leaders, educators, developers, nonprofit workers and government officials, and most importantly, the views of residents living in Harris County's low- income communities. The citizen participation process is a resident oriented effort. The consultation process for included multiple public and focus group meetings, community meetings, pop-up events, resident and organization surveys, input sessions with stakeholder agencies and residents, interviews, and public comment period prior to plan adoption.

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involvement of low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents including non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with mobility, visual or hearing impairments.

The opinions of Harris County residents on problems that exist at the neighborhood level and their preferred methods of mitigating them are of the utmost importance when drafting the needs statements, goals, objectives, and strategies for building better communities. Harris County also consulted with the Continuum of Care and The Way Home Plan in preparing the Homeless elements of the plan.

There were many opportunities for citizen participation and public comment through the development of the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, Regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice Plan, PY2019 Annual Action Plan (AAP), Request for Proposal (RFP) Process, PY2017 CAPER, other programs, such as NSP, Transit and Disaster Recovery (DR). During 2017-2018, Harris County conducted over 20 community meetings, provided 3 different community surveys and attended 12 community events distributing information and discussing the community needs and priorities for Harris County. This information along with research assisted the county in determining the goals and objectives for the Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments (AI).

## **Summary of Public Comments**

Comments can be submitted to HCCSD by phone, email, and letter or in person by visiting the HCCSD office at 8410 Lantern Point, Houston, Texas 77054 or the HCCSD website [www.csd.hctx.net](http://www.csd.hctx.net) during the public comment period for the Draft PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, Regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice and the PY2019 Annual Action Plan. The public could also offer comments by attending public hearings held at HCCSD's office on November 29, 2018 and December 20, 2018 at 10 am or on January 8, 2019 at 10 am at the Harris County Commissioners Court Meeting at 1001 Preston, 9th floor, Houston, Texas 77002.

Comments are solicited through online and newspaper publications as well as at public hearings. Harris County also sent notification of public review for the plans to over 500 interested parties and stakeholders in Harris County.

A summary of comments on the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, Regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice Plan and the PY2019 Annual Action Plan, along with CSD's responses if received, will be included after the public comment period which ends on January 8, 2019. There were no public comments.

## **Housing Market Analysis**

In the Harris County region, median housing prices have seen a significant jump in price (from \$100,000 in 2012 to \$141,000 in 2017), which hits low-income buyers especially hard, according to a report by the Kinder Institute. Hurricane Harvey has only increased the scarcity of safe, affordable single-family housing. Although the region has seen an increase in housing sales, a low percentage of the housing are affordable, and priced at \$200,000 and below. The scarcity of safe, quality affordable housing in Harris County has caused a severe housing burden and disproportionate housing needs particularly among African American, Hispanic, and large family (5+ persons) households.

The owner-occupied housing market in the Harris County region came to a standstill after Hurricane Harvey as homeowners had to procure temporary accommodations while they began the recovery and home rebuilding process. Many residents of single-family homes that flooded repeatedly since 2015, decided to sell their properties to avoid rebuilding or further flooding, thereby leaving them in need of affordable housing. Selling their properties also opened the door for investors to turn them into rental units or perform a quick repair and flip of flooded homes. Residential buyouts in LMI areas are particularly needed to assist homeowners in repetitively high flood prone areas by relocating to areas that have a reduced flood risk without additional financial burden.

Prior to Hurricane Harvey, the county had reduced its level of seriously delinquent loans and real estate owned (REO) properties. With Harvey, County residents have the added housing burdens of repairing their homes, finding and maintaining temporary housing with possible rental fees, paying their mortgage, and replacing personal property such as furniture and vehicles. This is combined with the loss of wages or jobs during the days and weeks of Hurricane Harvey as businesses and schools were closed and left many households in financial straits. In addition, rising mortgage rates, potential foreclosures for homeowners without enough resources to repair, lack of flood insurance, and construction labor shortages have further exacerbated the recovery of the owner-occupied housing market.

Inventory, while still tight, reached a 3.4-months' supply in March 2018, its highest level so far this year (2018). Lower-priced homes remain in high demand. The hot part of the housing market is the very bottom," said Gilmer, director of the Institute for Regional Forecasting at the University of Houston. "If you could get a house on the ground for under \$200,000, you can sell them all day long."

With the heavy flooding and damage these homes sustained, affected populations faced an even greater need for affordable housing than before. In the Harris County Disaster Recovery Service Area, 21.4 percent or 160,695 housing units reported some type of damage to their dwelling unit to FEMA. Homeowners reported between 6-36+ inches of flood water in their homes. Flood inundation levels at 3 feet or more included areas of Harris County's LMI areas in Bear Creek, Addicks, Sheldon, Cypress, Airline, Aldine, South Houston, Pasadena, and Copperfield. With so many existing owner-occupied housing affected by Hurricane Harvey and in need of quality home repair, a construction labor shortage, as well as fraudulent home repair companies preying on flood victims have stressed the system. Repair costs are still rising one year after the storm.

Expenses such as for drywall, bathroom and kitchen replacement, electricity, and plumbing, can run tens of thousands of dollars. New regulations for new single-family home construction may further exacerbate the affordable housing crisis in Harris County. These new regulations require the elevation of new homes located outside the floodplain to one foot above the floodplain and those located inside the floodplain to two feet above the floodplain. This will prove costly, as the addition of elevated concrete slabs to these homes can total up to an additional \$50,000, ultimately decreasing affordability in Harris County.

The multi-family rental market in Harris County was experiencing positive absorption, with tenants desperately searching for housing and homeowners looking to sign short-term leases while their homes underwent repair and they awaited funding for permanent relocation. As a result, lower-income renters were competing for vacant units and in most cases paying higher rents than they would have before the disaster. Renters seemed to have greater challenges to recovery, as FEMA/SBA resources were limited or non-existing, fair housing issues arose with discrimination by landlords against minority and Limited English Proficient populations regarding rental unit repair, and eviction notices to renter's post-

Hurricane Harvey as properties forced out tenants. In the Harris County service area, there are 157,037 or 32 percent renter-occupied housing units that are made up of apartments, condos or townhomes.

The reality of Harvey recovery has been monumentally slow due to nearly 80 percent of households affected by Harvey not receiving enough, or in some cases no assistance at all. Many residents lack the funds for repairs or did not have flood insurance, according to FEMA IA data. As a result, many are living in partially repaired homes, or are still displaced and living in temporary housing, or on a friend or relative's sofa, and some are now homeless. Affordable-housing advocates call Harvey one of the largest housing disasters in American history, next to only Hurricane Katrina, which overwhelmed New Orleans in 2005.

## **Housing and Community Development Strategy**

Existing needs in Harris County are largely driven by continued difficulties in the housing market, limited opportunities in employment sectors, aging infrastructure, and shifting population trends, as noted in the Consolidated Plan's needs assessment. Many of these needs have increased due to multiple flooding events resulting in Presidential Disaster Declarations that occurred in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The most severe being the impacts of Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

The county's population size and location of residents are dependent upon a number of factors. These include but are not limited to a community's ability to provide quality infrastructure such as roads and bridges, satisfactory levels of basic public services and facilities, such as police, fire, public health and emergency medical services, schools, and utilities. All of these impact the natural environment and affect quality of life for residents and visitors.

Many communities within the Harris County service area lack the basic necessities for a suitable living environment. There continue to be significant deficits in affordable housing options, supportive services for special needs populations, available homeless facilities, education and job training opportunities, and necessary and/or modern infrastructure. Unfortunately, statistics regarding changes in the Harris County population potentially indicate that the need for community services and facilities is likely to continue to grow, again worsened by recent disasters and their impacts, while the ability to cover rising costs, especially those related to construction may shrink.

As seen in the Houston/Harris County Homeless Point in Time Count conducted in early 2018, there are approximately 4,143 homeless persons in the area. While the total had been on a downward trend since 2011, 2018 marks the first time it has increased (by approximately 500 persons) with speculation that displacement caused by Hurricane Harvey being a major factor. In order to address these needs, Harris County through a collaborative planning process continues to develop goals and measurable objectives in coordination with community partners for implementation during the coming years of the PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan in Housing; Homeless; Public Facilities; Economic Development; Infrastructure; and Public Services.

### **HOUSING**

The housing goal is to create the opportunity for adequate, affordable, accessible housing for extremely low- and low- income persons through eventual elimination of lead-based paint hazards, encouragement of homeownership, rehabilitation of single family and multi-family housing, provision of

rental assistance, new construction, and development of partnerships.

**Objective 1: Homeownership**

To provide 300 individuals and families with the opportunity for homeownership by February 29, 2024, thus improving quality of life and supplying decent housing. This objective will be accomplished through financial assistance to prospective homebuyers. Financial assistance includes, but is not limited to downpayment and closing cost assistance. Programs providing Downpayment and Closing Cost services should provide a minimum of \$10,000 in downpayment and closing costs per eligible program participant. Harris County places a high priority on projects serving seniors, the disabled, and persons with HIV/AIDS.

**Objective 2: New Construction**

To provide financial assistance to aid in the construction of 30 affordable housing units within the Harris County service area by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of supplying decent housing for low- and moderate income owner occupied households. Harris County places a high priority on projects serving seniors, the disabled, and persons with HIV/AIDS.

**Objective 3: Single-family Home Rehabilitation**

To provide 200 low- and moderate-income homeowners within the Harris County service area by February 29, 2024 with minor home repair assistance for the purpose of supplying decent housing for low- and moderate-income households. Minor home repair assistance includes but is not limited to rehabilitation of septic systems and water wells. Harris County places a high priority on projects serving seniors, the disabled, and persons with HIV/AIDS.

**Objective 4: Lead-Based Paint Abatement**

To assist in the abatement of lead based paint hazards in 130 owner-occupied, single-family housing units by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of providing safe and decent housing for low- and moderate-income households.

**Renters**

**Objective 5: New Construction**

To provide financial assistance to aid in the construction of 150 affordable multi-family housing units within the Harris County service area by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of supplying decent housing to low- and moderate-income renter households. Harris County places a high priority on projects serving seniors, the homeless, the disabled, and persons with HIV/AIDS.

**Objective 6: Acquisition and/or Rehabilitation, Multi-Unit Housing**

To provide financial assistance to aid in the acquisition and or rehabilitation of 50 multi-family, affordable housing units in the Harris County service area by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of supplying decent housing to low- and moderate-income renter households. Harris County places a high priority on projects serving seniors, the homeless, the disabled, and persons with HIV/AIDS.

**Objective 7: Rental Assistance**

To provide tenant based rental assistance to 400 homeless, extremely low- and low-income Harris County families and individuals, by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of supplying decent housing for low- and moderate income renter households. Programs should partner with a local Housing Authority in providing assistance.

### **Objective 8: Lead Based Paint Abatement**

To assist in the abatement of lead based paint hazards in 15 renter-occupied, single-family housing units by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of providing safe, decent housing for low- and moderate-income renter households.

### **Strategies for Fair Housing**

The following strategies identifies the goals from the Regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice Plan for Harris County, City of Pasadena, City of Missouri City, City of Galveston, Harris County Housing Authority and Galveston Housing Authority will employ during the next five years to address fair housing challenges.

#### Local Fair Housing Goals

**Strategy One:** Expand the supply of affordable housing options, with a focus on extremely low income households and on larger affordable housing units (2- and 3-bedroom units or larger), and/or express support of affordable development (e.g., LIHTC).

**Strategy Two:** Continue to assist low income homeowners, improve housing quality, and increase housing accessibility through housing rehabilitation, repair and accessibility grant programs.

**Strategy Three:** Develop community priorities for siting LIHTC developments (and/or other publicly assisted housing) and work to promote community support of such developments in high opportunity areas.

**Strategy Four:** Develop policies and procedures that support balanced housing opportunities, including affordable/workforce housing (e.g., adopt an anti-NIMBY policy).

**Strategy Five:** *Promote economic investment (public and private) in distressed areas that have high minority concentrations:*

- Explore partnerships with lenders such as community development financial institutions (CDFIs) that serve the region to discuss potential partnership opportunities for 1) Developing the capacity of small businesses in distressed areas and 2) Are committed to helping transform distressed communities.
- Identify areas where new construction of affordable housing could serve as an economic catalyst for revitalization. Use land banking as allowed under law to acquire such parcels for affordable housing development and/or advocate for the use of TRZ dollars for affordable housing in improvement districts
- Include affordable housing as a component of revitalization efforts and consider implementation of neighborhood-specific plans or a Comprehensive Plan that incorporates affordability planning
- Prioritize City development incentives to support infrastructure upgrades, blight reduction efforts, and commercial development in underserved neighborhoods.

**Strategy Six:** Continue to encourage housing choice voucher participants to use vouchers in high opportunity areas

**Strategy Seven:** Incentivize landlord participation in HCV and other affordable housing programs through a multifamily rehabilitation and accessibility improvement program using HUD and other affordable housing and community development funds.

**Strategy Eight:** Review city/county policies for requesting a reasonable accommodation for fair housing compliance and evaluate improvements that could help affirmatively further fair housing for people with disabilities.

**Strategy Nine:** Review zoning/land use/development regulations to ensure that a diversity of housing choices is allowable throughout residential districts.

**Strategy Ten:** Review zoning/land/development regulations use to improve consistency between local codes and state regulations of specific housing types impacting protected class populations.

**Strategy Eleven:** Consider incentives to promote accessibility and universal design to improve accessibility/adaptability in new construction.

**Strategy Twelve:** Administer CDBG-DR funds in a way that addresses the greatest needs and affirmatively furthers fair housing choice in Harris County.

**Strategy Thirteen:** Consider strategic investments to prevent and/or mitigate future damages related to natural disasters, particularly flooding events.

## **Homelessness**

**Objective 1: Street Outreach-** To provide essential services, housing resources and urgent care to 2,800 unsheltered homeless individuals and families living on the streets by February 29, 2024. Through its subrecipients, Harris County will provide direct services to meet the immediate needs of people living on the street to stabilize and engage them in services as a path toward accessing permanent housing. Street outreach services include engagement that provides immediate support and links to other support networks and may include addressing immediate needs (food, clothing, toiletries, etc); assessment and case management to understand client barriers and identify housing options; emergency physical and mental health services; and services for special populations including homeless youth, victim services and services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

**Objective 2: Emergency and Transitional Housing-** To maintain and expand operations and support renovations and rehabilitation of structures to provide shelter for 41,000 homeless persons within new and existing emergency and transitional shelters by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of providing decent housing and essential services for the homeless population. Essential services include, but are not limited to case management, child care, education services, employment assistance and job training, outpatient health services, legal services, life skills training, transportation, services for special populations, and substance abuse treatment as they relate to locating and maintaining more permanent housing.

**Objective 3: Homeless Prevention-** To provide housing relocation and stabilization services and rental assistance to prevent 100 households from experiencing homelessness by February 29, 2024. Harris County and its subrecipients will provide services to extremely low income individuals and families living



in the County to maintain or identify alternative permanent rental housing and achieve housing stability. Housing relocation and stabilization can include, but is not limited to, financial assistance including moving related costs and utility assistance, housing search and placement and housing stability case management. Households may also receive up to 24 months of rental assistance for fair market rental housing.

**Objective 4: Rapid Re-Housing** -To provide housing relocation and stabilization services and rental assistance to quickly move 1,500 households experiencing homelessness into stable, permanent housing by February 29, 2024. Harris County and its subrecipients will provide services to homeless individuals and families living in the County to maintain or identify alternative permanent rental housing and achieve housing stability. Housing relocation and stabilization can include, but is not limited to, financial assistance including moving related costs and utility assistance, housing search and placement and housing stability case management. Households may also receive up to 24 months of rental assistance for fair market rental housing.

**Objective 5: Homeless Management Information System**-To support the expansion and data quality of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for the Houston/Harris County Continuum of Care by providing technical assistance to 300 homeless assistance providers and collecting data on 8,000 homeless individuals served in the community. In coordination with the Coalition for the Homeless Houston/Harris County, Harris County will support the improvement of homeless data collection to improve community outcomes for homeless individuals by February 29, 2024.

## Homeless Strategies

- Funding for homeless programs will be allocated to assist in the expansion and improvement homelessness services and prevention efforts, along with expansion of facilities (beds for emergency shelters and transitional homes.)
- Homelessness prevention for low-income families will be concentrated on services such as Section 8 rental assistance, housing counseling, emergency financial assistance (for rent and utilities), consumer credit services, domestic violence counseling, and substance abuse treatment and prevention.
- In an effort to provide outreach services, Harris County will collaborate with the Houston/Harris County Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. and Harris County homelessness service providers. Harris County will additionally support outreach efforts through the Collaborative for the Homeless funding application.
- Emergency and Transitional Shelters will be supported through funding allocated for the expansion and maintenance of bed capacities, in an effort to provide decent housing for the homeless population.
- Harris County will support the ideals of Rapid Re-housing and expanded Medical Services for the homeless as stated in the Houston/Harris County Strategic Plan for Homeless conducted by the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, Inc.

## Public Facilities

To provide, improve and maintain community facilities, which contribute to the quality of life for extremely low-, very low-, low-income persons living in the Harris County service area, particularly in target areas with special emphasis on the needs of youth, senior citizens and disabled persons.

**Objective 1: Neighborhood or Social Service Facilities-** Provide improvements and/or construction of 2 neighborhood or social service facilities benefiting low- and moderate-income areas by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of improving the quality of life of 2,000 residents by promoting the availability of public facilities to meet unmet neighborhood needs. Neighborhood facilities include but are not limited to community centers, multi-purpose centers, and arts and crafts facilities. Social Service Facilities are structures, which provide space for the purpose of providing a needed service to low- and moderate-income persons such as group homes, libraries, and healthcare facilities.

**Objective 2: Senior Centers-**Provide improvements to 2 senior center facilities located throughout the Harris County service area by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of improving the quality of life of 1,500 elderly individuals by promoting the availability of facilities to serve unmet needs. Senior centers are facilities that exclusively provide space for services to persons aged 65 years and older.

**Objective 3: Youth Centers-**Provide improvements to 1 youth center located in the Harris County service area by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of improving the quality of life of 1,000 youth by promoting the availability of facilities to serve unmet needs. Youth centers are facilities that primarily provide space for services to persons aged 18 years and younger.

**Objective 4: Parks-**Provide improvements to and/or construction of 5 parks/recreational facilities benefiting low- and moderate-income areas by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of improving the quality of life of 30,000 residents of low- and moderate-income communities by promoting the availability of green space and playground areas to serve recreational and leisure needs.

## **Infrastructure**

To ensure quality infrastructure in low-income communities, including improvement and provision of adequate streets, sidewalks, water systems, wastewater systems, and storm drainage sufficient to eliminate severe flooding problems.

**Objective 1: Street Improvements-**Construct and improve 5 miles of roadways benefiting low-income areas of the Harris County service area by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of improving the living environment and quality of life of 3,000 low- and moderate-income persons.

**Objective 2: Water/Sewer Improvements-**Provide improvements to 50,000 linear feet of water/sewer lines and 5 water/sewer facilities benefiting low- and moderate-income areas within the Harris County service area by February 29, 2024, for the purpose of improving the living environment and quality of life of 140,000 low- and moderate-income persons. Improvements may include, but are not limited to sewage treatment facilities, rehabilitation of manholes, rehabilitation of water storage tanks, and construction and maintenance of lift and pump stations.

**Objective 3: Sidewalks/Pathways-**Construct and improve 4 miles of sidewalks/pathways benefiting low and moderate-income areas within the Harris County service area by February 29, 2024, for the purpose of improving the living environment and improving the quality of life for 25,000 low- and moderate-income persons.

**Objective 4: Drainage improvements-**Construct and improve 1,000 feet of drainage improvements benefiting low and moderate-income areas of the Harris County service area by February 29, 2024 for

the purpose of improving the living environment and quality of life of 5,000 low- and moderate-income persons.

## **Public Services**

To provide direct social services that improve the quality of life of extremely low, low and moderate income persons, including accessibility to information and educational opportunities from preschool to adult education, provision of a safe and comfortable educational environment, provision of general welfare services including food and clothing, accessibility to quality health care for seniors and youth, development of educational programs and youth enrichment programs, promotion of programs benefiting abused and neglected children, support of indigent bereavement services, and accessibility to social, medical and employment services.

**Objective 1: General Services**-To provide general public services to 1,000 low and moderate persons to increase quality of life and general well-being for individuals and families throughout the HCCSD service area. Services include but are not limited to food and clothing distribution, housing counseling, and neighborhood clean-up by February 29, 2024.

**Objective 2: Senior Services (Special Needs Population)**-To provide senior services to 8,000 elderly and frail elderly persons to enable them to increase or maintain quality of life and promote physical, mental, and social well-being. Senior services include but are not limited to food and clothing distribution, housing counseling, transportation services, enrichment classes, exercise and recreation programs, healthcare/medication assistance, emergency dental care and services for Alzheimer's disease patients and their families by February 29, 2024.

**Objective 3: Youth Services/Child Care**-To provide youth services/child care for 10,000 low- and moderate-income persons, 5-19 years of age, for the purpose of enriching, protecting, and improving quality of life by February 29, 2024. Youth services include but are not limited to counseling, after-school programs, sports and recreational programs, education and tutoring programs, life skills building, self-esteem building, drug and alcohol education, youth retreats, mentor programs, summer youth programs, and job and career counseling

**Objective 4: Health Services**-To provide health prevention, services, and outreach to 2,000 low and moderate income persons to increase the mental, physical, and social well-being of the individual and family by February 29, 2024. Health prevention, services, and outreach include but are not limited to immunization, health clinic service, mobile care, vision care, dental care, nutrition counseling, tele-medicine, after hours care, physical rehabilitation, and health education and awareness.

**Objective 5: Services to Persons with Disabilities (Special Needs Population)**-To provide services to 450 disabled adults February 29, 2024 to enable them to increase or maintain their quality of life and promote physical, mental, and social well-being. Services to the disabled include but are not limited to counseling, housing placement, food and clothing distribution, transportation services, enrichment classes, exercise and recreation programs, job training and placement and independent living skills training.

**Objective 6: Transportation Services**-To promote transportation services to 35,000 low and moderate-income persons by February 29, 2024 to increase mobility to access essential service, facilities, jobs and employment centers thus improving the quality of life.

**Objective 7: Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS (Special Needs Population)**-To provide services to 200 persons with HIV/AIDS and their families to increase or maintain their quality of life and promote physical, mental, and social well-being by February 29, 2024. Services to persons with HIV/AIDS include but are not limited to counseling, education, housing placement, referral and outreach, health services, transportation services, food and clothing distribution, independent living skills training, job training and placement and awareness.

**Objective 8: Abused and Neglected Children**-To provide services to 3,000 abused and neglected children by February 29, 2024 for the purpose of enabling a secure and stable environment thus increasing quality of life. Services include but are not limited to advocacy, counseling, childcare, and protection.

**Objective 9: Crime Awareness and Juvenile Justice**-To assist and provide 200 low- and moderate income families, including youth, with crime awareness, prevention and juvenile justice programs by February 29, 2024. Services in this objective include, but are not limited to juvenile justice, delinquency and gang prevention services, crime awareness activities, in areas at particular high risk of crime to hinder potential criminal activity and increase safety awareness thus improving the quality of life. Crime awareness, prevention, and juvenile justice programs includes, but is not limited to police storefronts, safety and self-defense workshops, crime watch programs, equipment, and security guards.

## **Economic Development**

To encourage economic revitalization efforts, stimulate economic opportunities in low and moderate income communities throughout the Harris County service area and create jobs for low- and moderate-income persons, by providing assistance to for-profit businesses, encouraging microenterprise development and providing technical assistance to existing and new businesses.

**Objective 1: Direct Financial Assistance to For-Profits**-To provide direct financial assistance to for-profit businesses by February 29, 2024, for the purpose of creating/retaining 20 jobs with at least 51% reserved for low and moderate income persons thus expanding economic opportunity and improving the quality of life for unemployed and underemployed individuals.

**Objective 2: Technical Assistance**-To assist 3 businesses in expanding, maintaining, and improving operations by providing financial and/or technical assistance for the purpose of retaining and creating jobs particularly jobs for low- and moderate-income persons thus expanding the economic opportunity and improving the quality of life for unemployed and underemployed individuals. Technical assistance includes, but is not limited to marketing, referrals, workshops, small business training and counseling, and competitive business planning by February 29, 2024.

## **Other Initiatives**

To develop an expanded and enhanced delivery system by building capacity of non-profit organizations, developing a planning process to be utilized to comprehensively address the needs within the extremely low-, very low- and low-income areas, assisting in creation of additional community development organizations, constructing of a network of service providers to coordinate resources or other means by which community development and revitalization is bolstered.

**Objective 1: Clearance and Demolition**-To eliminate 150 dilapidated and/or unsafe structures located in low and moderate-income areas in an effort to improve integrity of Harris County neighborhoods by February 29, 2024.

**Objective 2: Nonprofit Technical Assistance**-To provide assistance to 5 non-profit organizations, including assistance to Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) and Community Based Development Organizations (CBDOs), to build capacity to support revitalization activities in low and moderate-income communities. Assistance includes but is not limited to technical assistance, referral services, and providing research and information services by February 29, 2024.

**Objective 3: Planning**-To support, encourage and facilitate countywide service planning and local community planning activities through the Harris County service area for the purpose of preparing for the future and ensuring stabilization and needed expansion of services and facilities through February 29, 2024. Local planning activities to provide neighborhood level plan for 5 low- and moderate-income target areas by developing and conducting a planning process, supporting research and analyses, and providing technical assistance.

## **Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Strategy**

Effective September 15, 2000, all housing activities supported by funding administered by HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development must comply with lead-based paint regulations (Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992). The changes will affect housing rehabilitation activities, tenant-based rental assistance, and acquisition, leasing, support services and operations. The new regulation changes the acceptable work practices and expands the requirements to protect occupants and workers from lead-based paint hazards. In addition, it requires testing for lead, stabilization, control or abatement in the event that lead is found on the property. Certain programs will have the additional responsibility of on-going maintenance and record keeping. The impact of the regulations on existing programs will be in several areas such as budgeting, productivity, and staff training.

Harris County will continue to implement HUD's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction strategy. This strategy includes incorporating the approved Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction regulations into all housing programs operated by CSD and those programs funded/operated by subrecipients. Subrecipient training will continue to include information regarding implementation, documentation and reporting on all housing activities that are affected by changes in regulations.

Other strategies for lead based paint hazard reduction include the continued support of the Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services Department's Childhood Blood/Lead Screening/Abatement Program. Through these programs, Harris County will actively pursue the reduction of the number of lead based paint hazards in the Harris County service area.

## **Anti-poverty Strategy**

In Harris County, a number of factors impact a household's poverty status, such as housing cost, employment opportunities, and educational attainment. The goals and objectives in the Harris County strategic plan describe the roles that the county will play in efforts to move people out of poverty and to revitalize geographic areas of the community with high poverty levels by focusing resources on low-

income populations, coordinating development with supportive services, enabling low-income persons to accumulate assets through homeownership and housing assistance, providing access for people in poverty to employment opportunities; and empowering low-income residents to provide leadership and solve problems in their neighborhoods.

### Anti-Poverty Strategies

Many Harris County residents are currently living at or below the state poverty level, with many of these people being homeless or at risk of becoming homeless because of insufficient income. There is a great need among these individuals to expand their opportunities for education and employment, and thus improve their quality of living. The consolidated plan's comprehensive collection of goals, programs, and policies will work to reduce the number of poverty-level families, develop affordable housing, and coordinate with other programs and services to increase opportunities. The anti-poverty strategies address goals in the housing, economic development, and coordination sectors:

- To prevent low- to moderate-income persons and families from falling into poverty and to assist low- to moderate-income persons in exiting poverty. This will be achieved by increasing economic opportunities within the CSD service area and improving the quality of life for unemployed and underemployed individuals. Harris County CSD will provide direct financial assistance to for-profit businesses for the purpose of creating/retaining jobs reserved for low and moderate income persons. CSD will assist businesses in expanding, maintaining, and improving operations by providing financial and/or technical assistance for the purpose of retaining and creating jobs, particularly jobs for low- and moderate-income persons.
- To provide programs and services offered by the CSD, HCHA, Public Health Department, Community Assistance and local organizations to persons in need, placing high priority on projects serving seniors, the disabled, and persons with HIV/AIDS. This will be achieved by increasing the number of affordable housing units, increasing the number of Section 8 vouchers, expanding public health initiatives to underserved areas, and offering affordable general and social services. Harris County CSD will provide low- and moderate-income individuals and families with the opportunity for homeownership, minor home repair assistance, construction aid for affordable multi-family housing units, and tenant-based rental assistance to families and individuals.
- To provide essential services, housing resources and urgent care to homeless families and individuals and those at-risk of becoming homeless. Through its subrecipients, Harris County will provide street outreach, emergency and transitional housing, homeless prevention, and rapid re-housing services. These services include engagement that provides immediate support and links to other support networks, emergency physical and mental health services and services for special populations. Through emergency and transitional housing CSD will maintain and expand operations and support renovations and rehabilitation of structures to provide shelter for homeless persons within new and existing shelters for the purpose of providing decent housing and essential services for the homeless population. Through homeless prevention, CSD will provide housing relocation and stabilization services and rental assistance to prevent households from experiencing homelessness. Through rapid re-housing, CSD will provide housing relocation and stabilization services and rental assistance to quickly move households experiencing homelessness into stable, permanent housing.

- To develop and maintain partnerships with Community Based Development Organizations (CBDOs) and Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) in order to build capacity to support revitalization activities in low and moderate-income communities. Assistance includes but is not limited to technical assistance, referral services, and providing research and information services. To support, encourage and facilitate countywide service planning and local community planning activities through the Harris County service area for the purpose of preparing for the future and ensuring stabilization and needed expansion of services and facilities. Through community plans, neighborhoods can begin to implement strategies that can improve the local socio-economic environment.

## **Intergovernmental Coordination and Partnerships**

To effectively communicate with cooperative city governments, as well as Harris County neighborhood associations, CDC's, CHDO's, surrounding entitlement jurisdictions, assisted housing providers, private and governmental health, and service agencies to ensure coordination and compatibility of planning efforts, specifically with regards to all Consolidated and Action plans, and neighborhood revitalization strategies. This will be accomplished by requiring certifications of consistency in all plans (to be signed by all affected jurisdictions), actively encouraging all Harris County CDCs, CHDOs, adjacent jurisdictions, and cities with CSD cooperative agreements to participate in public hearings and community surveys. This will be done by establishing personal contacts by telephone, and sending meeting information by mail or electronic mail (email).

To form partnerships with local non-profit organizations as well as private agencies and local service providers in order to eliminate overlap and promote cooperation of community development planning efforts. This will be accomplished by gathering participants through the professional consultation forum process, then working to form committees that regularly meet to establish contacts, discuss issues, and develop and implement solutions.

## ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Annual Action Plan (AAP) is part of the five-year Consolidated Plan, which sets forth Harris County’s long-term community development goals and strategies. Program Year 2019 (PY2019) is the first year of the PY2019-PY2023 Consolidated Plan for Harris County. The AAP process has been specifically created to assist in mapping one-year actions for community development and making good use of available federal, state, and local resources.

Harris County estimates it will receive \$18,663,136 for use towards community development activities during Program Year 2019, which begins March 1, 2019 and ends February 29, 2020. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) determines this allocation amount based on Harris County’s Service Area population, poverty, housing overcrowding and age of housing. Based on this formula funding, for PY2019 the total estimated HUD Entitlement funding will be comprised of \$13,456,439 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$1,135,793 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds, and \$4,070,904 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds plus an estimated \$27,400 in program income for an estimated total of \$18,690,536 in available funding.

The following matrix reflects Harris County’s funding allocations, including anticipated program income, by Consolidated Plan Need area:

<b>Consolidated Plan Need Area</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>
Housing	5	\$1,965,000
Homelessness	12	\$1,668,599
Infrastructure	6	\$3,260,333
Public Facilities	1	\$2,000,000
Public Services	12	\$1,284,253
Other *	1	\$150,000
<b>Total Allocations</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$10,328,185</b>
Unprogrammed Funds		\$5,178,790
Administration		\$3,181,237
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>\$18,690,536</b>

Although additional applications were evaluated during the PY2019 competitive RFP process, selected projects were conservatively chosen due to limited available funding. Thus, viable projects that are able to expend funds are pending release of HUD contracts. During PY2019 Harris County anticipates adding one HOME funded affordable housing project and may add unsolicited projects utilizing the procedures in its Consolidated Plan/Action Plan Amendments Policy. These projects may address unmet needs related to impacts from Hurricane Harvey flooding as the county continues the process of long-term recovery.