

City of Houston



Public Works and Engineering Department

Disaster Recovery Community Development Block Grant Program

Non-Housing, Round 2(a)

Program Information

Available funding for non-housing round 2(a)

\$6,537,247

Eligible Non-Housing Activities

Because partial Method of Distribution (MOD) funds may be used only for projects with a compelling need, the Houston-Galveston Area Council proposed and the State has accepted limiting eligible projects to: water facilities, sewer facilities, other public utilities, street improvements, flood and drainage improvements, economic development and fire protection facilities and equipment.

City of Houston Proposed Activities

The City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering Department (the department responsible for non-housing funding allocations) proposes using round 2(a) Disaster Recovery Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for infrastructure hardening. Specifically, installing electrical quick connects on several wastewater lift stations throughout the City.

Lift station electrical quick connects allows for a timely connection of a lift station to a portable power generator in the event that the lift stations loses power.

During Hurricane Ike, the City of Houston lost power to most of the wastewater lift stations causing the wastewater system to fail to perform. The City has several portable power generators but was unable to connect the generators to the lift station in a timely manner. In many cases the process took days to get the lift station hooked up to the portable power generator. This long delay in getting the lift stations operational caused a failure of the wastewater system.

When a lift station fails to perform, residents are unable to use their wastewater plumbing systems in their homes, and in some instances can have sewage backups into their homes causing extensive damage.

This hardening of our infrastructure will benefit those affected by Hurricane Ike, and prevent problems that may result in future storms. Because of the benefit to those affected by Hurricane Ike, and the long-term benefit for future storms, the City of Houston believes this is an excellent way to use this round of Disaster Recovery CDBG funding.

Project Prioritization

As several lift stations were adversely affected by Hurricane Ike, the City of Houston will use a prioritization process to fund quick connects as follows:

1. Damaged or Failure to perform

As part of the Disaster Recovery Community Development Block Grant Program requirements, any project receiving these funds must demonstrate damage or failure to perform caused by Hurricane Ike.

2. 51% or more Low to Moderate Income Area

As part of the Disaster Recovery Community Development Block Grant Program requirements, any project receiving these funds must benefit an area with 51% or more of peoples of low to moderate income as demonstrated through the 2000 census.

3. Damage area

The City of Houston will give higher priority for projects in areas that are consider to have received higher damaged as a result of Hurricane Ike as established by the Office of Emergency Management.

Affirmatively Further Fair Housing

The City of Houston will certify that it will Affirmatively Further Fair Housing as part of the application process for round 2(a) funding. The City will identify at least one (1) additional activity to help Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.

The phrase “affirmatively further fair housing” is part of the Fair Housing Act. The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary is required under the Fair Housing Act to “...administer the programs and activities relating to housing and urban development in a manner to affirmatively further the policies of this subchapter.” In addition, all of the “non-discrimination” provisions of the Fair Housing Act apply to HUD and all of the programs it administers, including the Disaster Recovery CDBG program.

The City of Houston, as part of the 2010 Consolidated Plan, has conducted an Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Report for the City of Houston. This AI identifies the problems the City faces in affirmatively furthering fair housing, and offers actions that can be taken to mitigate the impediments.

The 2010 Consolidated Plan and the Analysis of Impediments are available to the public. There are several ways by which to obtain a copy:

1. A copy of the Analysis of Impediments is in the Disaster Recovery CDBG Round 2(a) binder on reference at the City of Houston’s Central Library located at 500 McKinney, Houston, TX 77002
2. The 2010 Consolidated Plan with the Analysis of Impediments is available online at, <http://www.houstontx.gov/housing/consolidated.html>.
3. You may request a copy by writing to:
Disaster Recovery CDBG
Public Works and Engineering Department
611 Walker, 19th Floor
Houston, TX 77002
4. You may request a copy by emailing PWEgrants@houstontx.gov.

Disaster Recovery CDBG Program Information Availability

Information regarding the Disaster Recovery CDBG program and round 2(a) funding is available to the public at the following:

1. City of Houston's Central Library located at 500 McKinney, Houston, TX 77002
2. Online at, <http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/planning/plan.html>
3. You may request information by writing to:
Disaster Recovery CDBG
Public Works and Engineering Department
611 Walker, 19th Floor
Houston, TX 77002
4. You may request information by emailing PWEgrants@houstontx.gov.