PY2016 Annual Action Plan Highlights

The Annual Action Plan (AAP) is the annual update to the five-year Consolidated Plan, which sets forth Harris County's long-term community development goals and strategies. Program Year 2016 is the fourth year of the PY2013-PY2017 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 $15,706,121 for use towards community development activities during Program Year 2016 (PY2016), which begins March 1, 2016 and ends February 28, 2017. 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 PY2016 total HUD Entitlement funding will be comprised of $11,932,841 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, $1,055,755 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds, and $2,717,525 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds plus an estimated $39,000 in program income for a total of $15,745,121 in available funding.

Harris County Entitlement Funds, PY2011 – PY2016 (estimated)

Program Year	CDBG	HOME	ESG	TOTAL
2011	$9,830,921	$3,270,075	$473,344	$13,574,340
2012	$10,400,428	$2,012,116	$853,881	$13,266,425
2013	$11,799,679	$2,699,905	$758,773	$15,258,357
2014	$11,844,232	$2,899,993	$958,591	$15,702,816
2015	$11,932,841	$2,717,525	$1,055,755	$15,706,121
2016 (est.)	$11,932,841	$2,717,525	$1,055,755	$15,706,121

As part of the Request for Proposals (RFP) and award process, 36 projects utilizing $9,123,335 in CDBG, HOME and ESG funds were conditionally awarded and are subject to the actual annual allocation from HUD. An additional $2,733,902 of CDBG, HOME and ESG funding will fund administrative costs. The projects in this action plan address the PY2013-2017 Harris County Consolidated Plan's priority need areas of housing, homelessness, public facilities, infrastructure, public services and other activities.

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

Consolidated Plan Need Area	Number of Projects	Amount Allocated
Housing	5	$1,496,000
Homelessness	10	$1,601,026
Infrastructure	4	$3,258,969
Public Facilities	3	$3,390,760
Public Services	13	$1,192,073
Other *	1	$150,000
Total Allocations	**36**	**$11,088,828**
Unprogrammed Funds		$1,922,391
Administration		$2,733,902
Total Funds		**$15,745,121**

**Projects classified in the Other category include a demolition/nuisance abatement.*

Although additional applications were evaluated during the PY2016 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 PY2016 Harris County anticipates adding one HOME funded affordable housing project and may add unsolicited projects utilizing the procedures in its Consolidated Plan/Action Plan Amendment Policy.

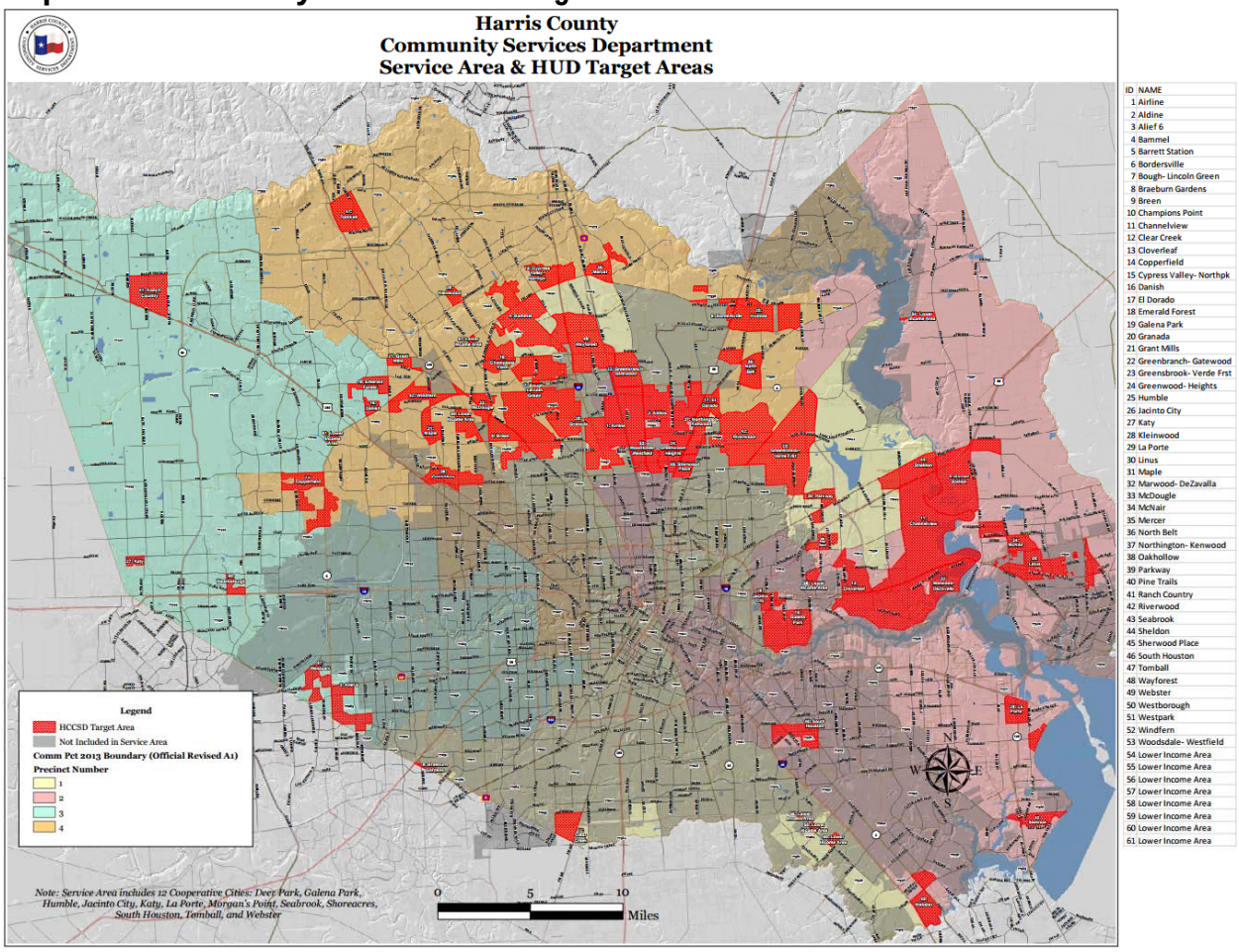
Harris County believes its comprehensive and community-based approach to solving the complex socio-economic ailments within the County is the most effective way to stimulate private reinvestment in the County's most underserved areas. The PY2016 Annual Action Plan (AAP) is the County's blueprint for facilitating change within lower-income communities and ultimately improving the quality of life in Harris County.

PY2016 Measurement of Outcomes	Estimated Persons/Units
Direct Homeownership	28
Homeless served/Homeless Prevention	1,541
Rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing units	10
Rehabilitation of owner-occupied LBP housing units	19
Services to Youth (including services for abused/neglected children)	1,889
Services to Seniors	680
Transportation Services	7,452
Services to Abused/Neglected Children	503
Health Services	295
Public Facilities to be Completed	3
Infrastructure Projects to be Completed	4

Service Area

The majority of Harris County HUD resources are utilized within Harris County's Service Area (*Map 1),* which includes unincorporated Harris County and twelve smaller cities within the County which have signed cooperative agreements with Harris County. The cities of Baytown, Houston, Missouri City, Pearland, League City, and Pasadena are entitlement communities that utilize their own community development resources and, therefore, are not within the Harris County service area.

Map 1: Harris County Service and Target Areas



On a limited basis, Harris County HUD funds may be used outside of the designated service area for projects and programs that serve homeless families and individuals.

Income Targeting

Resources available through the County are almost exclusively dedicated toward improving the living conditions for low-income individuals. Low-income is defined as earning less than 80 percent of the median family income (MFI). The MFI for the Houston, Texas, Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area is $69,300 for a family of four. *Table 1* denotes MFI limits for FY2015.

Table 1: FY 2015 Median Family Income (MFI) Limits*

Income Levels*	% of MFI	Amount
Extremely Low Income	0-30%	$24,250
Very-Low Income	31-50%	$34,650
Low Income	51-80%	$55,450

**Based on a family of four*
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
http://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2015/2015summary.odn

Importance of the Annual Action Plan

The AAP is a public awareness and strategy development document required by HUD for any jurisdiction receiving entitlement grant funds allocated to participating jurisdictions based upon a formula of population and poverty characteristics. In fact, the AAP is only one part of an extensive community development process designed to plan long- and short-term solutions for improving the lives of low-income individuals. This process has been specifically developed to assist in creating strategies for community development and making proper use of available resources.

The large majority of resources discussed within the AAP are derived from federal tax dollars. This alone warrants a need to use funds and other resources in a prudent manner. The AAP serves as a report to HUD and the general public of the anticipated manner in which resources made available through tax dollars will be utilized and provides an additional forum for community input into the community development process.

Further, the AAP provides a means by which HUD can ensure proper and efficient use of resources. By requiring the AAP, HUD not only has an opportunity to review for appropriate use of funds, but also has a benchmark document by which Harris County's performance can be evaluated.

The AAP includes a discussion of available resources, an explanation of the allocation process, a summary and brief analysis of proposed allocations, and strategies for monitoring appropriate use of those resources. Each topic is further divided and discussed as necessary to make the process understandable to members of the general public.

Public Comment and Approval

On December 15, 2015, the PY2016 AAP will be presented for approval by the Harris County Commissioners Court. Prior to approval, the AAP was published for more than the minimum 30-day public review period as required by HUD on October 26, 2015, and a Public Hearing held at 10:00 am on November 17, 2015, at HCCSD's Office located at 8410 Lantern Point Drive, Houston, Texas 77054. Public comments will be accepted through December 15, 2015, at which time the public is afforded an opportunity to provide comments as a part of the Commissioners Court meeting to be held in the Courtroom of the Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, on the ninth floor of the Harris County Administration Building, 1001 Preston Avenue, Houston, Texas.