

**Harris County
Community Services Department
PY2016 Request for Proposals**



**Emergency Solutions Grants
Application Review**

June 24, 2015

ESG Program Agenda

Welcome and Introductions



Understanding Harris County



Project Compliance



Application Review



Tips



Questions and Answers

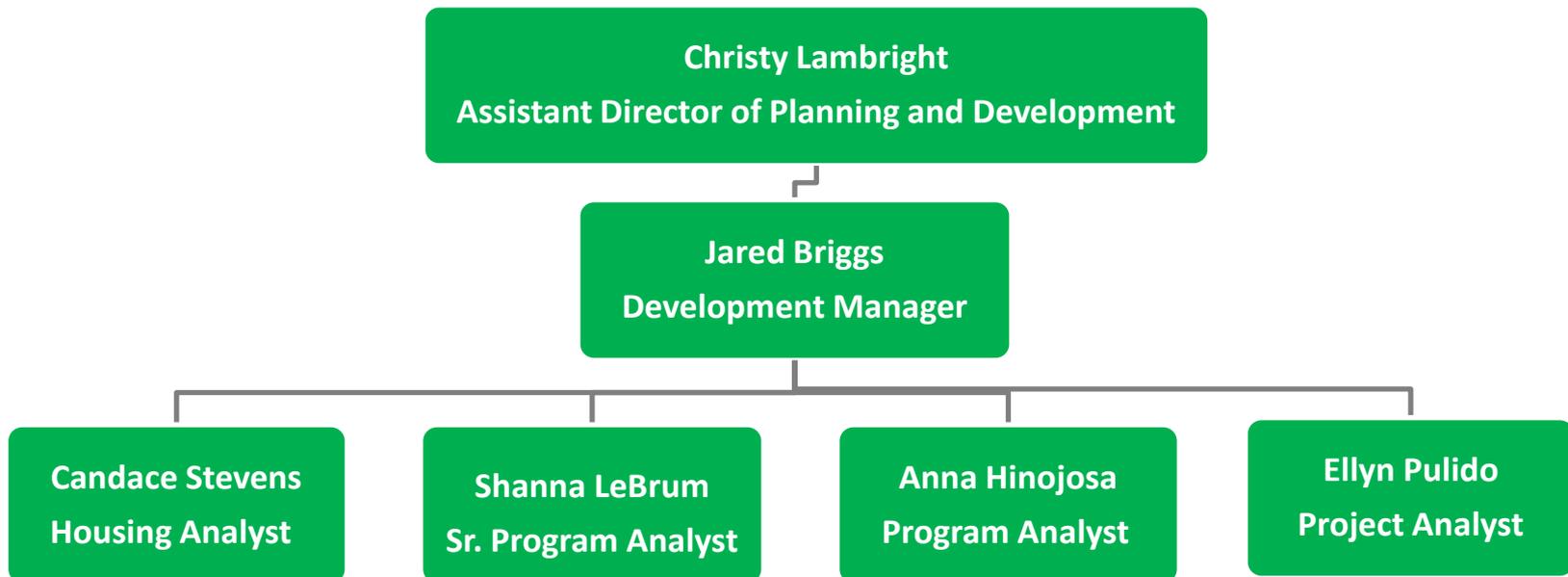
Welcome and Introductions

David B. Turkel, Executive Director of Community Services Department

Divisions of Community Services Department

- Housing and Community Development - Daphne Lemelle, Community Development Director
- Economic Development, Transit and Social Services
- Financial and Administrative Services

Development Staff



Service Area

Unincorporated Harris County and its 12 cooperative cities

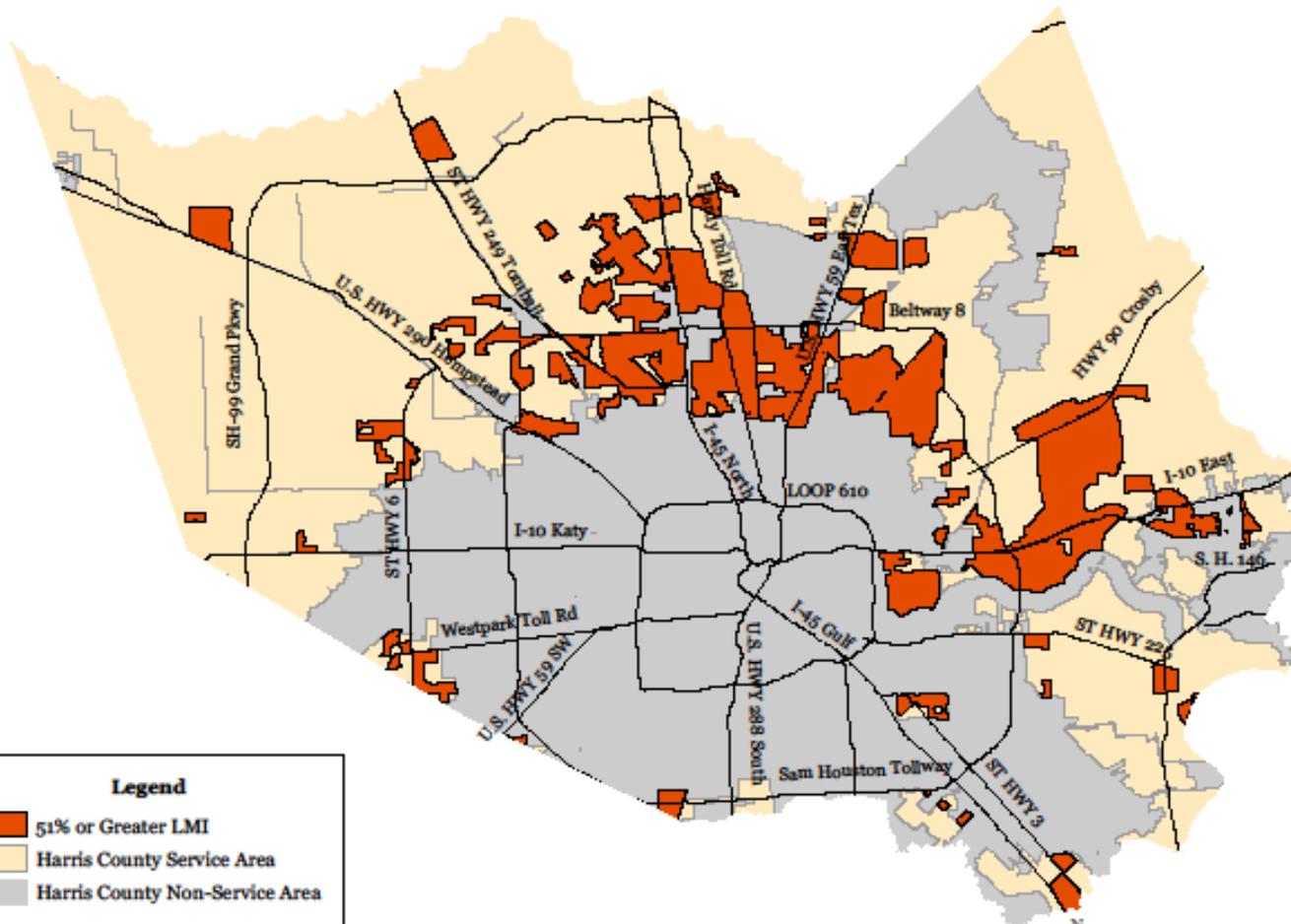
Projects serving homeless are not restricted by service area.



Houston, Baytown and Pasadena receive their own entitlement funds and are not included in the Harris County service area.



Harris County Community Services Department Service Area & Low-to-Moderate Income Benefit Areas



Note: Service Area includes 12 Cooperative Cities: Deer Park, Galena Park, Humble, Jacinto City, Katy, La Porte, Morgan's Point, Seabrook, Shoreacres, South Houston, Tomball, and Webster

0 5 10
Miles

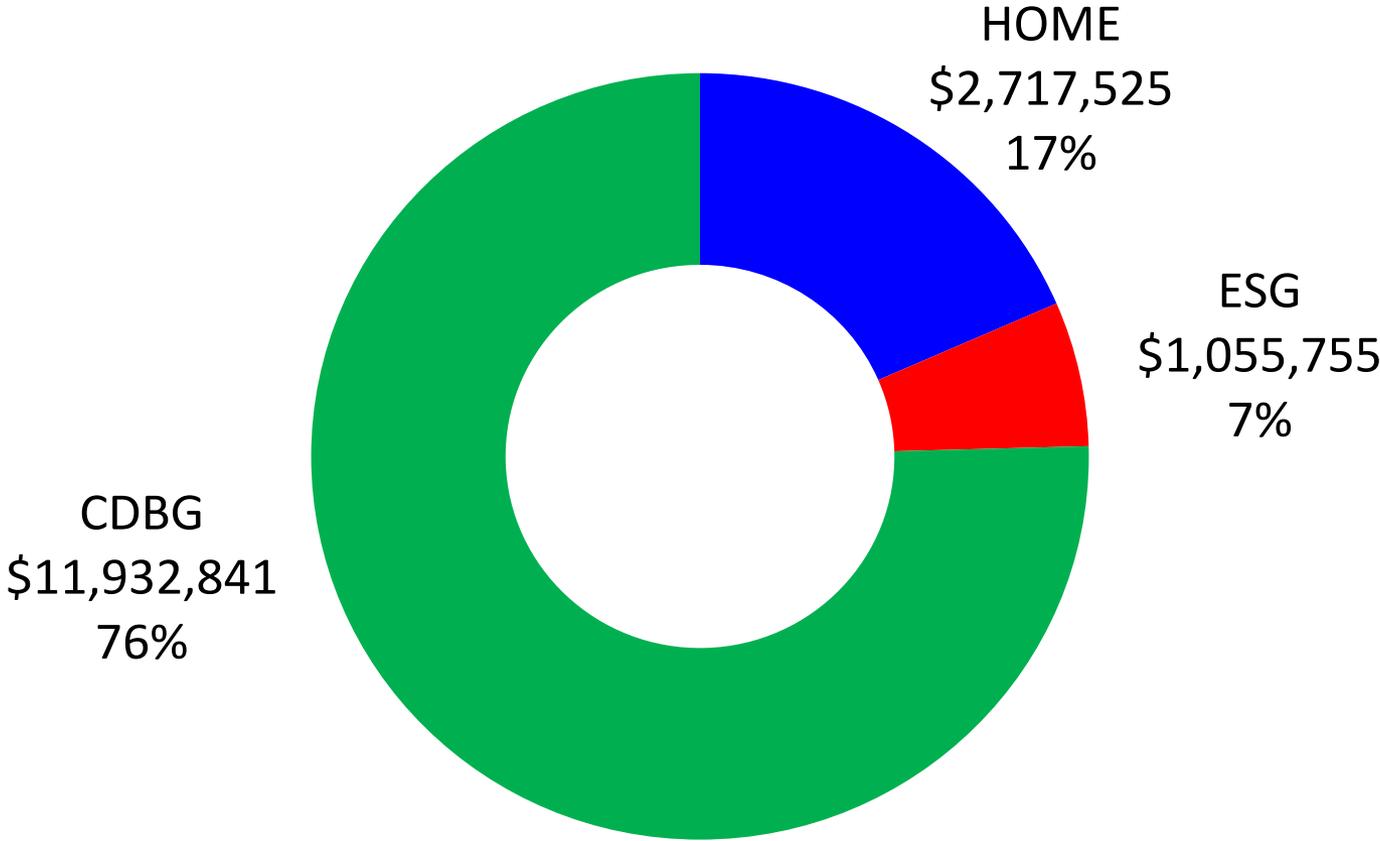


Note: Target Areas are being revised to reflect this new data during Fall, 2014.

Understanding Harris County

- Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=6494aae908783a8fbc55c8fce953b1d2&node=24:3.1.1.3.8&rgn=div5>
- HCCSD Website
 - www.csd.hctx.net
- Funding Guidelines
 - <http://www.csd.hctx.net/rfq.aspx>
 - Provides program specific information
- Consolidated Plan
 - <http://www.csd.hctx.net/PYConsolidatedPlan.aspx>
 - Outlines Harris County's goals and objectives for serving the community
- Annual Action Plan
 - http://www.csd.hctx.net/pr_annualactionplan.aspx
 - Lists all projects funded for each entitlement year

PY2015 Entitlement Funding



*Harris County will not fund any HOME Affordable Housing projects at this time; however, we anticipate releasing another Request for Proposals by Fall 2015.

Funding for PY2016

Funds available (estimated): \$415,220

- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Rapid Re-Housing (must be partnered with a local Housing Authority)

Per 24 CFR 576.100, funds for Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter cannot exceed the greater of:

- 1) 60% of the recipient's fiscal year grant; or
- 2) the amount of Fiscal Year 2010 grant funds committed for homeless assistance activities.

Keeping up with Requirements

Interim Regulations

Please review the interim regulations for Emergency Solutions Grants published on the Federal Register by HUD on December 5, 2011. Additional information can be found at https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HEARTH_ESGInterimRule&ConPlanConformingAmendments.pdf.

Note: On June 3, 2015, HUD issued the *Notice of Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program: Solicitation of Comment on Specific Issues*. HUD is accepting public comment on certain limited provisions of the ESG Interim Rule through August 3, 2015. Additional information can be found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4490/esg-program-solicitation-of-comment-on-specific-issues/>

Written Standards

All applicants are expected to adhere to the Harris County standards of service for Emergency Solutions Grants as submitted to HUD in April 2015. Applicants are expected to review and align programs with the standards, available at <http://www.csd.hctx.net/rfq.aspx>. Harris County, as a member of The Way Home Continuum of Care (CoC), has updated its standards to be in alignment with the priorities set forth in The Way Home CoC's Annual Action Plan and standards of service. These standards are subject to change and agencies should be aware of any modifications made to the standards during the RFP process.

Keeping up with Requirements Continued

Systems Coordination

The interim ESG regulations require that all ESG recipients coordinate with other federally funded targeted homeless services and mainstream resources, per 24 CFR 576.400 (b-c). This systems coordination will include required participation in coordinated access as it becomes available.

Shelter and Housing Standards (Minimum Habitability Standards)

The ESG Interim Rule establishes minimum standards for safety, sanitation, and privacy in emergency shelters (operations and renovation activities only) and minimum habitability standards for permanent housing (rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention activities). For more details, refer to 24 CFR 576.403 as well as HUD guidance at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3766/esg-minimum-habitability-standards-for-emergency-shelters-and-permanent-housing/>.

The HEARTH Act

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 amends and reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act.

- Revised the Emergency Shelter Grants program and renamed it the Emergency Solutions Grants program
- Changed HUD's definition of homeless
 - Category 1 - Literally Homeless
 - Category 2 - Imminent Risk of Homeless
 - Category 3 - Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes
 - Category 4 - Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV
- All agencies providing emergency or transitional housing and serving families with children must serve all children, regardless of age or gender.
- For more information, please refer to <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/hearth-act/>

Fair Housing

- The Fair Housing Act of 1968, federal law governing housing discrimination was passed and signed into law on April 11, 1968. HUD regulation requires equal access to housing in all HUD funded programs. The Fair Housing Act prohibits the discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, the financing of housing or the provision of brokerage services against any person including the following protected classes:
- Race, Color, Religion, National Origin, Sex, Disability (mental and physical), Familial Status (presence of children under 18 in the home)
- As of 2012, the Fair Housing Act does not include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes, but equal access to housing in HUD programs for lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender persons is covered by 24 CFR Parts 5, 200, 203, 236, 400, 570, 574, 882, 891, and 982.

Equal Access to Housing Final Rule

The Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity rule became effective March 5, 2012 through HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO).

This rule applies to all McKinney-Vento-funded housing programs, as well as to other housing assisted or insured by HUD. The rule prohibits discrimination based on:

- person's marital status,
- sexual orientation, or
- gender identity

Grants Management

- Grants Management staff will monitor all awarded projects.
- Documentation in client files must support one of the four homeless definition categories.
- Monthly reports will need to be submitted, including HMIS reports.
- A subrecipient orientation will be offered post-award by Grants Management staff.
 - Mandatory for new subrecipients/projects
 - Optional for previously awarded subrecipients/projects (attendance is encouraged)

Application Review



What's New

- **Funded Components**

- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Rapid Re-Housing

- **Updated Application Form**

- Attachments
- Rapid Re-Housing
- 3rd Party Evaluation
- List of Staff Members
- Previously Awarded Funds

Funded Components: Street Outreach

The Street Outreach component consists of essential services necessary to reach out to unsheltered homeless people.

Individuals/families must be living on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation **and** be unwilling or unable to access services in emergency shelter.

ESG Written Standards Highlights

Providers are encouraged to develop relationships with unsheltered homeless persons that will help connect them with emergency shelter and housing services primarily through a referral to Coordinated Access.

The target population is extremely vulnerable populations including:

- youth
- chronically homeless

Funded Components: Emergency Shelter

The Emergency Shelter component consists of providing essential services to homeless families and individuals in emergency shelters, renovating buildings to be used as emergency shelter for homeless families and individuals, and operating shelters.

A transitional facility is eligible for ESG funds if:

- 1) it meets the criteria under the current definition of an emergency shelter, which is any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements; or
- 2) it received FY2010 Emergency Shelter Grants funds and it met the criteria under the former definition of an emergency shelter.

Harris County will only fund transitional facilities that serve domestic violence and youth populations.

ESG Written Standards Highlights

The priority population is individuals/families that:

- cannot be diverted; and
- are literally homeless; and
- can be safely accommodated in the shelter; and
- are not in need of emergency medical or psychiatric services or danger to self or others.

Funded Components: Rapid Re-Housing

The Rapid Re-Housing component consists of providing housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance to help homeless families and individuals move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve housing stability.

Applicants for Rapid Re-Housing must be partnered with a local Housing Authority to perform rental assistance management and unit inspections. Rapid Re-Housing funds may only be used to provide rental assistance and associated eligible costs.

ESG Written Standards Highlights

The priority population is individuals/families that are not in need of permanent supportive housing and can include, but is not limited to those who:

- are first time homeless; or
- have few recent episodes of homelessness.

Also, funds are directed to those who have income or work history and skills that indicate employability.

Organize Your Case

| | |
|--|----------------|
| ▪ Application Information (Exhibit A) | 5 pts |
| ▪ Project Information (Exhibit B) | 38 pts |
| ▪ Organizational Information (Exhibit C) | 29 pts |
| ▪ Project Budget Information (Exhibit D) | <u>28 pts</u> |
| <i>Maximum Points Available</i> | <i>100 pts</i> |

Match

- Match is the value of funds and/or resources an organization commits to provide for a proposed project.
- Match funds must be applied specifically for the proposed project.
- The ESG program requires 100% match.
- Examples of match include cash, donated time, goods, and services.
- For more information on Match, please refer to 24 CFR 576.201.

Tips

Tips

- Read the application several times, including the guidebook.
- Don't wait until the last minute to begin completing/compiling information.
- Double check numbers for accuracy (ex: contact numbers, DUNS, total project amount).
- Ensure the budget is consistent and not overstated with proposed activity and grant term.
- Answer all questions and attach all requested documentation.
- Before you apply, clear any: tax issues, audit findings, and negative publicity.

**Questions
&
Answers**

Technical Assistance Days:

June 29 – July 1, 2015

July 6-7, 2015

(By Appointment Only at rfp@csd.hctx.net)

Last day for assistance from HCCSD staff:

July 7, 2015

RFP Deadline:

July 13, 2015 at 2 p.m.

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