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MORE THAN 500 APPLICANTS MOVE CLOSER TO CONSTRUCTION IN HARRIS COUNTY'S HOMEOWNER DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

Application process lengthy but return worth it to homeowners in need

March 2, 2010 (HOUSTON) – Five months after the launch of the Harris County Homeowner Disaster Recovery Program, close to 800 applications have been submitted to receive money for repair, reconstruction and/or elevation to homes damaged during Hurricane Ike. Of the applications submitted, more than 500 have been designated as major or severely damaged with the verification process already underway.

"We understand that it has been over a year since the storm and homeowners are frustrated with the pace of assistance," said Daphne Lemelle, Community Development Director with the Harris County Community Services Department. "The application process is a lengthy one and HDRP must complete verification appointments to ensure all information submitted is accurate and true, but we are well on our way to moving into the construction phase of the program for many of our applicants."

Though applications are still being accepted, the program is actively moving forward with its next phase for those who have gone through the verification process.

To date 186 applicants have completed their initial verification appointments and work write-ups have been ordered for 95 applicants who have also begun the environmental review process, a critical step that must happen before construction can begin.

"We want applicants to know that help is here and though it takes time, the HDRP program has money available to assist homeowners who are still feeling the affects of Hurricane Ike," continued Lemelle.

To learn more about the HDRP or submit an application online, visit www.harrisrecovery.org. Applicants may also apply by phone by calling 1-877-332-8014.

Email any questions or concerns to: info@harrisrecovery.org

About Harris County Community Services Department

The Harris County Community Services Department administers more than \$50 million annually in federal, state and local grant funds for Harris County in carrying out U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Transit Administration, and other programs in housing, community development, social services and transit services. In addition to grant funds, the Department administers the County's economic



development and tax abatement programs. The Department's mission is to promote economic growth; revitalize blighted and underdeveloped areas; and create decent housing and a suitable living environment for low-income individuals, persons with disabilities and the homeless.

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