



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Sarah Miller

Phone: 713-627-2223 ext. 1155

smiller@piercom.com

HARRIS COUNTY LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM TO HELP FAMILIES REBUILD HOMES DAMAGED BY HURRICANE IKE

Homeowner Disaster Recovery Program to Begin Accepting Applications October 6

October 5, 2009 (HOUSTON) – The Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) announced today the official launch of the Homeowner Disaster Recovery Program (HDRP), a voluntary program put in place to assist Harris County homeowners whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Ike. The program will officially begin accepting applications on October 6th, the same day the program’s Housing Assistance Center will officially open its doors.

“Harris County is grateful to have been awarded these much needed grant dollars to assist homeowners in need,” said Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia. “These dollars will go a long way to assist in getting those communities within the county back on their feet and allow homeowners to move on from the devastation that Hurricane Ike caused,” she said.

The new HDRP program will provide financial assistance to help homeowners repair, reconstruct or elevate homes depending on the level of damage incurred as a result of Hurricane Ike. The program will serve homeowners whose damaged homes are located within Harris County but outside of the City limits of Houston. Other eligibility requirements include:

- The home must have been the applicant’s primary residence at the time of the storm
- Applicants must still be the owner of the home
- Applicant’s home must be single-family or a duplex
- Every member of an applicant’s household must be a U.S. Citizen or an Eligible immigrant
- Additional requirements apply

The HDRP program encourages everyone whose homes were damaged during Hurricane Ike to submit an application. If applicants and their property are considered eligible, they will be placed in an order of priority as determined by Harris County.

“We are eager to help Harris County recover from Ike and this is a major step toward that goal,” said David Turkel, Director of the Harris County Community Services Department.



The HDRP program's Housing Assistance Center grand opening celebration will take place at 2:00 p.m. on October 6th at 16602 Diana Lane, Houston, Texas 77062.

For more information about the HDRP program, or to apply online, homeowners are encouraged to visit www.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.

###