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HARRIS COUNTY HOMEOWNER DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM PROVIDES MONEY TO HOMEOWNERS IN NEED OF ELEVATION

Homeowners who reside in the flood plain are eligible to receive up to \$40,000

February 18, 2010 (HOUSTON) – Of the more than 600 applicants that have applied to Harris County’s Homeowner Disaster Recovery Program (HDRP), 118 are being considered for elevation in addition to assistance for rehabilitation or reconstruction to their home.

“Many homes in the flood plain continue to incur damage after major storms like Hurricane Ike because they cannot afford to elevate the house,” said Daphne Lemelle, Community Development Director with the Harris County Community Services Department. “The HDRP program is a voluntary program put into place to assist homeowners with not only rehab and reconstruction, but elevation as well.”

Following the initial verification process, HDRP will send a Cost Estimator to each applicant’s home for a thorough inspection to determine the level of damage. Applicants who are located within the flood plain and are determined to have more than 50 percent damage will be required to be raised to the Advisory Base Flood Elevation. These homes must meet National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) minimum requirements and current building code.

“The Homeowner Disaster Recovery Program is allowing me to stay in my home,” said Phyllis Johnson, Shoreacres homeowner and HDRP applicant. “I am required to elevate if I want to continue to live here and without the money from this program to help with this and other repairs, I would be house hunting right now.”

“If elevation is required, an applicant may receive up to an additional \$40,000 to cover the costs, which we hope will be a safeguard for these homes when the next storm hits,” 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.

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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