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HARRIS COUNTY HOMEOWNER DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM CONTINUES TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM HOMEOWNERS AFFECTED BY IKE

Over 600 Applicants Have Applied to Date to Receive Money Through HDRP

February 12, 2010 (HOUSTON) – The Harris County Homeowner Disaster Recovery Program (HDRP) has received more than 600 applications from Harris County homeowners whose homes were damaged as a result of Hurricane Ike. The program, which launched in October, provides money to repair, reconstruct, and/or elevate homes that qualify.

“The HDRP program still has funds available to homeowners who continue to suffer the affects of Hurricane Ike,” said Daphne Lemelle, Community Development Director with the Harris County Community Services Department. “We have received applications from homeowners across the County but we know there are others out there – especially in some of the more devastated areas of the County like Shoreacres and Seabrook. We want those homeowners to know that we are here to provide assistance. This is a voluntary program. There is money available to you but you must apply.”

Of the 600+ applications received to date, more than 200 homeowners have begun the verification process, which takes them one step closer to rehabilitation or reconstruction of their homes. Additionally, the HDRP program has received pre-qualifications from more than 24 contractors through a formal request issued in January. Construction is set to begin for some of the first applicants within the next few months.

In addition to the Housing Assistance Center HDRP opened in Clear Lake, the JD Walker Community Center at 2407 Market Street in Baytown is open to homeowners every Wednesday throughout February from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Applicants can meet with a HDRP representative to learn more about the program or to apply person.

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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