



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE • GEORGE P. BUSH • COMMISSIONER

Date: 3/26/2020

To: Program File

From: Heather Lagrone, Sr. Deputy CDR *Heather Lagrone*

Subject: GLO HoAP Program Waiver to Remove Application Prioritization

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) has oversight responsibility for the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds allocated to the City of Houston (the City) for housing recovery efforts from the impacts of Hurricane Harvey. To ensure compliance with the timely expenditure requirements within the Grant Agreement with HUD, beginning on March 17, 2020 the GLO will begin concurrently administering the City's Harvey Homeowner Assistance Program (HoAP) within the City of Houston. The GLO will administer the program in accordance with the City of Houston's HoAP policies and procedures to the greatest extent feasible however, to expedite assistance to those impacted and still awaiting assistance the GLO is adopting certain streamlined and simplified policies from the GLO's Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) and Harvey Housing Guidelines. Program wide waivers will be processed via memo to file and applicant specific waivers may also become necessary to provide clarification to guidelines and waivers will be applied where necessary to execute the program effectively.

The GLO waives the City's HoAP requirement to prioritize applications based on the priority tier group method outlined in the City of Houston's HoAP guidelines for any applicant served directly by the GLO and will instead prioritize all survey participants by working with applicants not yet invited to apply to the City's HoAP Program but are still awaiting assistance.

The City published a survey online for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey to begin the process of being assisted in recovering from the impacts of Harvey with its allocated CDBG-DR funds. Over 16,000 surveys were received from Houstonians as early as 2018. To date the City has only extended an invitation to apply to over 5,000 of those survey participants. The other 10,000 or more families are still waiting to be contacted. For this reason, the GLO will identify and assist those survey participants who are still awaiting assistance, and which have not yet been contacted by the City.

The GLO has identified over 3,000 low to moderate income survey participants which have not been invited to apply with the City of Houston and will contact these families to repair or reconstruct their damaged homes. The GLO will not hinder any applicant's ability to apply, rather, the GLO will focus efforts on those applicants that are responsive to requests for information. GLO will continue to work with all applicants who have not been invited to apply with the City and who wish to complete an application.

This waiver will be applicable to all applicants participating in HoAP administered by the GLO.