

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) Floodplain**

To: All interested Federal, State, and Local Agencies (FEMA, U.S. EPA Region 6, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County Flood Control District, City of Houston Floodplain Administrator's Office, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)) as well as the Public at Large

This is to give notice that the **City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department** ("HCD"), pursuant to federal environmental regulations found at 24 CFR 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990 (amended as applicable by EO 13690 and 14030, respectively), in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the human environment for Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR") single family rehabilitation and reconstruction activity, funded with funds including CDBG Derecho and Hurricane Beryl Disaster Recovery funds (B-25-MU-48-0001) .

This review is a five (5) year tiered (broad) review. Site-specific review, including identification of the FFRMS Floodplain, will be performed at the site-specific level. This notice is part of the 8-step process required by 24 CFR 55.20, which will apply primarily to substantial improvement and reconstruction projects. Rehabilitation-only projects are generally expected to fall into exceptions to the 8-step process. For each site-specific review, Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA) data will be used, when and if it becomes available, to determine if a project site is in the FFRMS Floodplain. If CISA data is not available for the site, that fact will be documented using the "No Data Exists" form, and FEMA FIRM maps will be used to identify the boundaries of the FFRMS Floodplain under the 0.2% Flood Approach. Where FEMA map data is unavailable, the Freeboard Base Value (FVA) approach will be employed to confirm floodplain status and elevation for the site. HCD will use geographic information systems (GIS) data where appropriate to complement data gathered, to document elevation, and to ensure the entire project site is delineated. This information will allow determination of appropriate mitigation and minimization techniques for FFRMS floodplain sites, including elevation requirements for substantial improvement and reconstruction projects.

The description of the project is as follows:

The 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl Single Family Home Repair Program (DR24 SF HRP) will provide Rehabilitation or Reconstruction services to approximately 150 low-to moderate-income (LMI) households at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI), and whose principal residence was directly or indirectly impacted by the 2024 Derecho and/or Hurricane Beryl.

The 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl had significant impacts throughout much of Texas, particularly in the City of Houston. The intense winds from the Derecho windstorm caused widespread destruction and left a significant portion of the city without electricity, resulting in substantial property damage. The Derecho was considered the most damaging wind event to affect Houston in nearly 25 years. Hurricane Beryl made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane, producing life-threatening floods. Both catastrophic weather events resulted in extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, and businesses.

The President of the United States approved Major Disaster Declarations for the State of Texas following severe storm events on April 26, 2024, and July 9, 2024, respectively. The DR24 SF HRP has a budget of approximately \$45,000,000, funded through Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery 2024 (CDBG-DR24) to support long-term recovery efforts.

Program Activities:

- Rehabilitation: Maximum award up to \$100,000.00 per eligible household.
- Reconstruction: Maximum award up to \$300,000.00 per eligible household.

Homeowners who resided in the City of Houston jurisdiction on May 16-17, 2024, and/or July 7-9, 2024 must own and occupy the property as their principal residence at the time of the storms to be eligible for assistance. The City will administer its DR24 SF HRP per the Guidelines and HUD CDBG-DR regulations and guidance. ..

The expected allotted number of households to serve annually is approximately 150-160 homes (38-45/year). The total estimated maximum is 200 homes (50/year). These numbers are projected over four (4) years to ensure timely closeout. Rehabilitation and reconstruction will be determined based on extent of damages and needs to successfully ensure restoration of the house.

Each applicant, occupant, or homeowner located within the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain will be required to sign an Emergency Management Disaster Acknowledgment form acknowledging that they have: A) Read and understood the Emergency Management Disaster Preparedness Statement and HCDD's obligations; B) Received the pamphlet Hurricane and Disaster Preparedness Guide; C) Registered with the Emergency Notification System (ENS); D) Registered (Individual Resident or Facility) with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) online or called 2-1-1, and that Relationship Manager/Intake Counselor has informed the applicant/occupant/homeowner (client) about HCD's obligations and client(s) is/are aware of their associated responsibilities.

For any home in the FFRMS Floodplain, per 24 CFR 55.4, homeowners must be made aware of the following items including:

- Base Flood Elevation and current First Floor Elevation of the home
- If there is any flood related infrastructure in the vicinity with the potential to impact the subject property
- Ingress, egress, and evacuation routes, whether these are in the floodplain, and best recommended route out of the floodplain in case of a storm event
- Emergency notification resources including

Useful info on flood hazard warnings: houstonemergency.org; harriscountyfws.org; www.hcfd.org/storm-center/tropical-storm-allison

Useful information on evacuation: <https://houstonemergency.org/would-you-need-help-in-a-disaster-register-for-assistance-online-or-by-phone/>

Homeowners will be provided with an Emergency Management Preparedness form, and that form must include the above-mentioned requirements of 24 CFR 55.4.

The Service Area is City-Wide – Harris County – City of Houston; Montgomery County – City of Houston; Fort Bend County – City of Houston. Since the Service Area is City-Wide, some selected sites may be in the FFRMS Floodplain. Specific addresses are yet to be selected.

Acres of land in the floodplain (and wetland) for the City of Houston is as follows: Floodway (FFRMS): 29,315.34; 100 Year Floodplain (FFRMS): 75,585.02; 500 Year Floodplain (FFRMS): 51,233.14; Wetland: 40,972.89

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness,

when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

This notice is required by Section 2(a)(4) of Executive Order 11988 (amended as applicable by EO 13690) for the Protection of Floodplains, as well as Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11990 (amended as applicable by EO 14030) for the Protection of Wetlands, and is implemented by HUD Regulations found at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The 8-Step Decision Making Process includes public notices and the examination of practicable alternatives to building in the floodplain and wetland. Additional project information, including maps of floodplains and wetlands for the project area and its census tracts, is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file.

Written comments for this public notice must be received by the **City of Houston Housing and Community Development Dept. (HCD) on or before the close of business May 8, 2026 at 2100 Travis, 9th Floor, Houston, Texas, Attention: HCD Environmental Team.** A full description of the program and/or the ERR may be reviewed from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the address provided above. Comments may also be submitted via phone at (832) 394-6319 or via email at hcdenvironmental@houstontx.gov.

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