

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO
REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAM**

February 17, 2025
City of Houston
Housing and Community Development Department (HCD)
2100 Travis St., 9th Floor
Houston, TX 77002
(832) 394-6319

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about March 5, 2025, City of Houston’s Housing and Community Development Department (“HCD”) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) for the release of federal funds for the release of the following funds:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) funding for 2021 Winter Storm Recovery authorized by enabling legislation including the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. Law 117-43) and the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2023 (Pub. Law 117-180) to undertake activities that allow homeowners in the Houston city limits to recover from Winter Storm Uri, which took place in February 2021.

Project Title: 2021 Winter Storm Disaster Recovery Home Repair Program

Project Description: Winter Storm Uri lasted for 5 days, February 13 -17, 2021, and impacted Houstonians by disrupting their power and water sources due to snow and ice. On February 20, 2021, the President of the United States approved a Texas Disaster Declaration. HUD announced that the City of Houston would receive funding to 1) support long-term recovery efforts following the storm and 2) make the homes more resilient to future disasters by including power generation and/or storage enhancements through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. This funding is designed to address needs that remain after all other assistance has been exhausted. The HCD 2021 Winter Storm Disaster Recovery Home Repair Program will carry out the following activities in order to ensure recovery from Winter Storm Uri: rehabilitation, reimbursement, reconstruction, and potentially new construction of homes on vacant land to replace storm-damaged single-family homes. If any new construction on vacant land takes place, it is expected to be only in rare instances. Through these efforts, the City will provide for the repair and/or reconstruction of homes for low- and moderate-income homeowners impacted by the disaster. The City will also offer a reimbursement method of assistance to homeowners up to 120% AMI, who completed eligible and unreimbursed repairs to their homes stemming from the disaster. The goal of the 2021 Winter Storm Recovery Program is to ensure that a) homeowners continue to reside in their homes and neighborhoods and b) that the condition and quality of these homes are preserved and meet minimum quality standards and safety.

Project Locations: The Service Area for the proposed project is City-Wide – Harris County – City of Houston; Montgomery County – City of Houston; Fort Bend County – City of Houston. Specific addresses are yet to be selected.

Funding Information:

Grant Number	HUD Program	Program Name	Funding Amount
B-21-MF-48-0002	CDBG Disaster Recovery 2021 (CDBG-DR21)	Disaster Recovery – 2021 Winter Storm	\$30,296,000.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: Estimated \$30,296,000.00.

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$33,550,000.00 (includes estimated \$3,254,750.00 in non-physical Program costs previously cleared).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Houston has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR). The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to P.O. Box 1562, Houston, TX 77251-1562 or 2100 Travis St., 9th Floor, Houston, TX 77002 or by email to hcdenvironmental@houstontx.gov.

REVIEW PROCESS

In accordance with 24 CFR §58.15, a tiered review process has been structured for this five (5) year broad review, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed for the target area and other applicable laws and authorities will be complied with, when individual projects are ripe for review. Once the lots are selected, each lot will undergo a site-specific environmental review.

The broad review performed for this project confirms that none of the properties selected will adversely impact (or be adversely impacted by) a floodplain, a wetland, an endangered species zone or a historical property. No lot will be adversely affected by hazardous operations or toxic, hazardous or radioactive materials, contamination, chemicals or gases. Noise attenuation will be performed for the dwellings as necessary per 24 CFR Part 51.

The ERR on file documents the environmental determinations for this project, and more fully describes the tiered review process cited above.

The Final Flood Notice for this Program is being published concurrently with this FONSI notice in the Chronicle, with a comment period of seven (7) days (Feb 17-24) as per HUD environmental regulations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Houston, Housing and Community Development Department, ATTN: Environmental Review Officer, 2100 Travis, 9th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 or by email to hcdenvironmental@houstontx.gov. The Broad Review ERR can be accessed online at the following website <https://cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews>. All comments received by the close of business on March 4, 2025 will be considered by the City of Houston prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Houston certifies to HUD, that John Whitmire, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Houston to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Houston certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Houston; (b) the City of Houston has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), 1331 Lamar Street, Suite 550, Houston, Texas 77010 or e-mail at cpdrrofhou@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period and may do so by email or calling (713) 718-3199.

John Whitmire, Mayor
City of Houston