



# LONG-TERM HOUSING RECOVERY FAQs

## What is long-term recovery?

Since Hurricane Harvey, most of the recovery in Houston has been funded by FEMA and charitable organizations, with a focus on meeting immediate needs, like temporary housing assistance, case management, and preliminary home reconstruction. Because Harvey was such a big storm, Houston will receive significant federal funding for **long-term recovery**. Long-term recovery includes activities like fixing up homes that flooded; building new homes – both for homeowners and renters – so that people have an affordable place to live after the storm; and investing in infrastructure to reduce the effects of future storms.

## How much money is available for long-term recovery?

After a major disaster like Harvey, Congress makes several special budget appropriations. So far, we know that Houston has been allocated \$1.15 billion for housing recovery. Most of these funds must benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

## When will this funding for housing recovery be available?

Residents will be able to start applying to programs in late summer or early fall. In the fall, the City will launch a series of housing recovery programs. Some programs will assist individuals and others will benefit whole communities.

## What if I was denied by FEMA? Will I still benefit from long-term recovery?

Even if you were denied by FEMA, you can participate in the City's long-term recovery programs. Residents will be able to begin applying in late summer or early fall.

## Do residents have a say in what kinds of programs the City will run?

Yes! The Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) wants your input as we start to design long-term recovery programs. You can give your input in three ways:

- **Attend a public event:** find the event schedule at the HCDD Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/HoustonHCDD](http://www.facebook.com/HoustonHCDD) and [www.houstontx.gov/housing](http://www.houstontx.gov/housing).
- **Participate in an online survey:** [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HoustonHarveyRecovery](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HoustonHarveyRecovery)
- **Email us at** [hcdd@houstontx.gov](mailto:hcdd@houstontx.gov). Please use "Harvey Action Plan comment" as the email subject.

## What kinds of long-term housing recovery programs is the City considering?

HCDD is seeking public input and looking at data about unmet housing needs across the city. We are considering programs in three areas:

- Programs to help new and existing homeowners, such as home rehab, new single-family home construction, homebuyer assistance, and housing buyouts
- Programs to help renters and landlords, such as multifamily rental home rehab and development and small rental home development and rehabilitation
- Programs to provide supportive services to those affected by Harvey, including addressing homelessness

In June, HCDD will publish a draft "Action Plan Amendment" for public comment. This document will have more details about the programs the City will start launching in fall 2018.

## What are the milestones of long-term recovery in 2018?

- **May 8:** the State of Texas submitted its Action Plan for housing recovery to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for approval. This plan is for a total of \$5 billion in housing recovery for the State of Texas, of which Houston is allocated \$1.15 billion.
- **End of May/early June:** anticipated HUD approval of the State plan. This is important because the City and County must submit their plans as an amendment to the State plan.
- **May and June:** HCDD co-hosts a series of meetings with community organizations. These meetings are an opportunity for residents to give feedback to the City about priorities for long-term housing recovery. Residents also can participate in an online survey about recovery.
- **June 6:** the City releases a draft Action Plan amendment for public comment through June 20. The draft will include program descriptions and a budget for long-term housing recovery.
- **June 27:** City Council will consider the amendment for housing recovery.
- **July:** once approved by Council, the State of Texas General Land Office (GLO) consolidates the City and County amendments into a revised document for a 14-day public comment period. After the comment period, the GLO submits the revised Action Plan to HUD for approval.
- **Later this summer:**
  - HUD approves the amendment; HUD, GLO, and the City sign agreements to allow Houston to begin accessing housing recovery funds.
  - HUD publishes additional guidance for a second round of \$5 billion in long-term recovery funds for Texas to reduce the effects of future storms.
  - Residents can begin applying for City-run housing recovery programs.
- **Fall 2018:**
  - First programs begin for long-term housing recovery.
  - Ongoing consultation with communities about additional recovery activities, such as flood mitigation.

