



# Fifth Program Year Action Plan

The CPMP Fifth Annual Action Plan includes the CMP and Narrative Responses to Action Plan questions that CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG grantees must respond to each year in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations. The Executive Summary narratives are optional.

## Narrative Responses

### GENERAL

#### **Executive Summary**

The Executive Summary is required. Include the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan and an evaluation of past performance.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Executive Summary:

The City of Sugar Land will receive \$318,011 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2013 (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014). During this program year, the City anticipates conducting the following activities:

- Direct services to children who are victims of neglect and abuse (Child Advocates of Fort Bend); the projected outcome of this service will be to assist 48 Sugar Land residents.
- Literacy education (Literacy Council of Fort Bend County); the projected outcome of this service will be to provide educational training to 109 Sugar Land residents.
- Home-delivered meals to the elderly and frail elderly (Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels); the projected outcome of this service will be to provide meals to 20 Sugar Land seniors.
- Minor housing rehabilitation for homes owned and occupied by low- to moderate-income households (LMI), particularly the elderly and disabled (Fort Bend CORPS); the projected outcome of the housing rehabilitation program is to assist 8 Sugar Land households.
- General program administration, including technical assistance to subrecipient and other non-profit agencies serving Sugar Land; the projected outcome of program administration is to provide cost effective and competent technical assistance for the City of Sugar Land.

- With the completion of the Settlers Way Park design project in PY 2010, the City of Sugar Land has allocated PY 2012 CDBG funds and will be allocating PY 2013 CDBG funds to the installation of improvements at Settlers Way Park within the Chimneystone Target Area. These funds will be combined with Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) funding available in 2013.

**Table 1— PY 2013 Community Development Activities**

<b>Matrix Code</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Program Year 2013 Objectives</b>	<b>Program Year 2013 Funding</b>	<b>Target Date for Completion</b>
<b>Public Facilities and Improvements</b>						
03F Parks Improvements	Settlers Way Park Construction	Installation of improvements at Settlers Way Park in the Chimney-stone Target Area	High	492	\$127,206	September 2014
<b>Public Services</b>						
05N Abused & Neglected Children	Child Advocates of Ft. Bend	Counseling for abused and neglected children	Medium	48	\$9,902	September 2014
05H Employment Training	Literacy Council of Ft. Bend County	Adult literacy & ESL education	Medium	109	\$14,585	September 2014
05A Senior Services	Ft. Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels	Meals on Wheels services to homebound elderly	High	20	\$23,214	September 2014
<b>Public Services Total</b>				177	\$47,701	
<b>Housing</b>						
14A Single Family Rehab	Ft. Bend CORPS	Minor single family housing rehabilitation, including ADA compliance	High	8	\$79,502	September 2014
<b>Administration</b>						
21A Administration	CDBG Program Administration	Administrative costs associated with managing CDBG	High	N/A	\$63,602	N/A
<b>Total PY 2013 Funds</b>					<b>\$318,011</b>	

## **Past Performance**

The City of Sugar Land aims to be a place where residents of all income levels and situations can enjoy all stages of their lives. Program Year (PY) 2013 will be the Fifth year of the City's 5-Year Consolidated Plan which spans PY 2009 through PY 2013. During the 2009 Program Year, over 781 low- to moderate-income (LMI) Sugar Land residents received services through the CDBG program, including the rehabilitation of 16 low and moderate income residential owner-occupied housing units.

Subsequently, during PY 2010, a total of 712 low- to moderate-income residents received services through the City's CDBG program, including the rehabilitation of 13 owner-occupied houses. The City also completed the design phase of the Settlers Way Park project during the 2010 program year. The design and future construction of this project will benefit approximately 492 low- to moderate-income individuals within the Chimneystone Target Area.

During the 2011 program year, a total of 680 low- to moderate-income residents received services through the City's CDBG program, including the rehabilitation of 11 owner-occupied houses. The City also began the Senior Center Rehabilitation project during the 2011 program year which is anticipated to benefit 800 Sugar Land residents.

The City's 2012 program year will conclude on September 30, 2013, and to date the City of Sugar Land has provided assistance to approximately 180 low- to moderate-income residents during the program year. Services provided to date during the 2012 program year include minor home repair and rehabilitation by the Fort Bend CORPS to 5 homes throughout Sugar Land. The Literacy Council of Fort Bend County has provided ESL and adult literacy services to 74 Sugar Land adults, and Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels has provided home-delivered meals to 25 homebound seniors. The Fort Bend County Women's Center has provided crisis intervention and shelter to 24 victims of domestic violence, and Child Advocates of Fort Bend has provided counseling and forensic interviewing services to 52 abused and neglected children.

The City's policy is to review any complaints regarding barriers to affordable or fair housing to determine the cause of the complaint and to assure that no city policies or procedures are inadvertently causing any fair housing problems. Any complaint that reveals a City policy has created or may cause an impediment to be sustained will be reviewed, and action may be taken to ensure that this impediment will not limit fair housing choice. During the 2012 program year, the City of Sugar Land has received no civil rights or fair housing complaints.

## **General Questions**

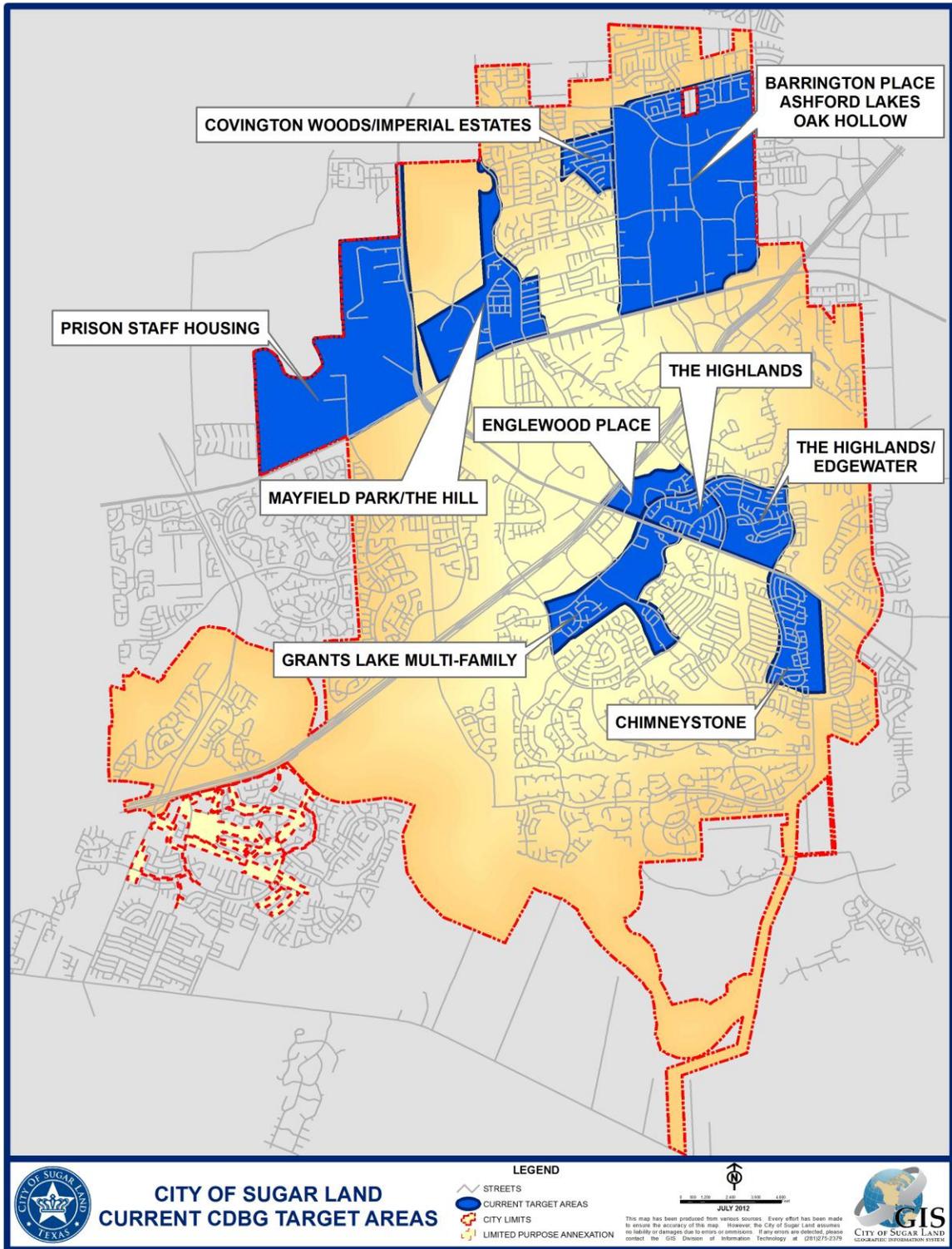
1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed during the next year. Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.

The geographic area covered by this Annual Action Plan is the City of Sugar Land, Texas, located in Fort Bend County to the southwest of the City of Houston. With a 2000 population of 63,328 and a 2010 Census population of 78,817, Sugar Land is a fast-growing suburban community that operates as a self-contained economic center and is an integral part of the Houston Metropolitan area.

For PY 2013 the City of Sugar Land has utilized a recognized target area (Chimneystone CT 674100/BG 3) for its infrastructure project, the installation of improvements at Settlers Way Park. The City of Sugar Land requires its public service and housing rehabilitation providers to focus exclusively on low- to moderate-income residents of Sugar Land. As such, target areas are not exclusively served in Sugar Land's 2013 CDBG program; however, the City's desire is to serve the neediest of its citizens regardless of geography.

The map below details the low- to moderate-income CDBG Target Areas within the City of Sugar Land.

Figure 1: CDBG Target Areas



**Table 2a—Target Area Population and Percent Low-Mod Income**

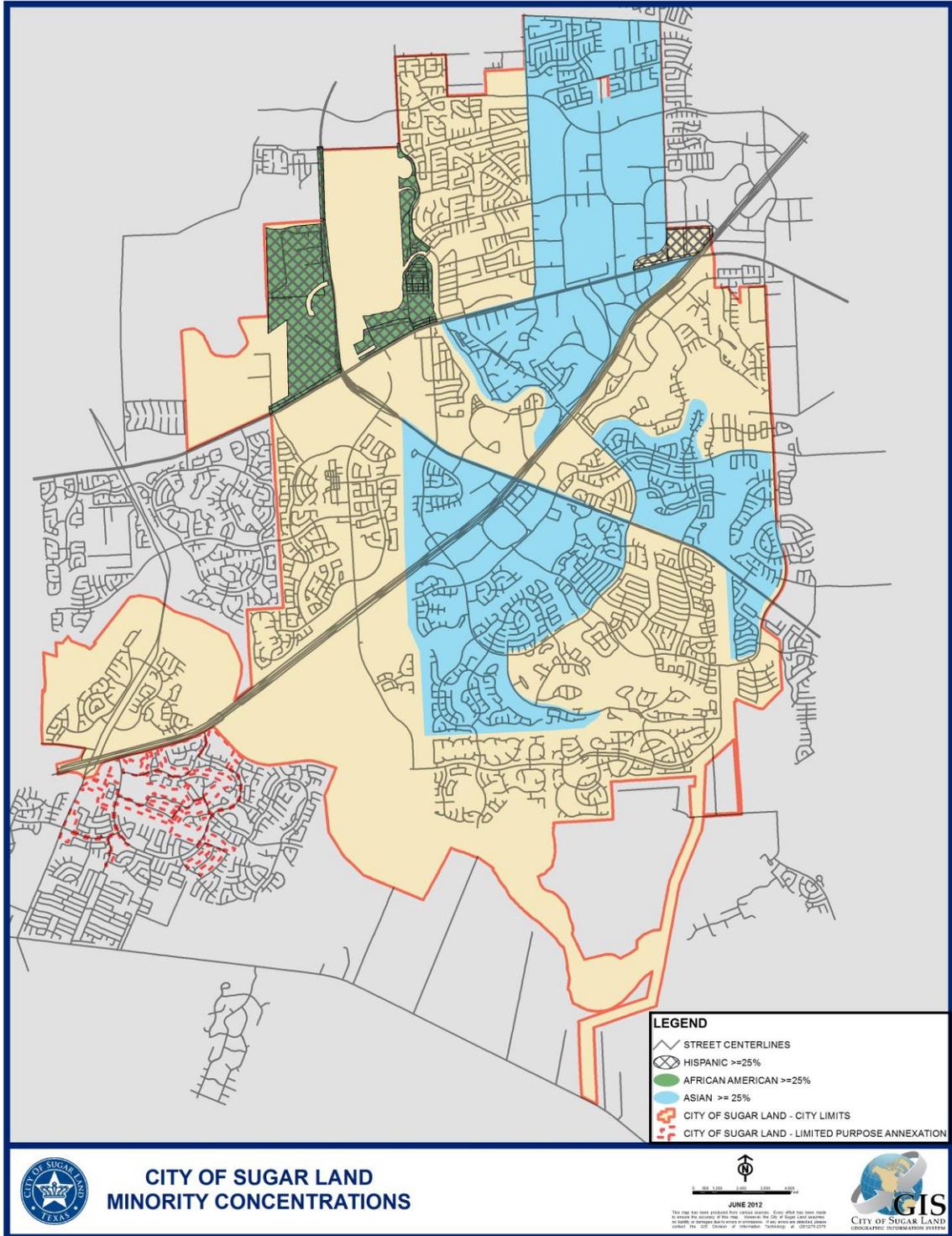
<b>Census Tract-BG</b>	<b>Area Name</b>	<b># Low-Mod</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>% Low-Mod</b>
672200-2	Mayfield Park/The Hill	582	930	62.6
671600-1	Englewood Place	521	1,546	33.7
672800-1	Prison Staff Housing	74	238	31.1
674000-2	Grants Lake Apartments	617	2,236	27.6
671600-5	The Highlands	513	1,872	27.4
671600-4	The Highlands/ Edgewater	550	2,452	22.4
672000-3	Barrington Place/Ashford Lakes/Oak Hollow	245	1,007	24.3
674100-3	Chimneystone	492	2,013	24.4
672300-2	Covington Woods/ Imperial Estates	264	1,177	22.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,858</b>	<b>13,471</b>	<b>28.6</b>

**Table 2b—Target Area Minority Populations**

<b>Census Tract-BG</b>	<b>Area Name</b>	<b>Minority Population</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>% Minority</b>
672200-2	Mayfield Park/The Hill	272	930	29.2
671600-1	Englewood Place	515	1,546	33.3
672800-1	Prison Staff Housing	52	238	21.8
674000-2	Grants Lake Apartments	973	2,236	43.5
671600-5	The Highlands	585	1,872	31.3
671600-4	The Highlands/ Edgewater	1,088	2,452	44.4
672000-3	Barrington Place/Ashford Lakes/Oak Hollow	532	1,007	52.8
674100-3	Chimneystone	529	2,013	26.3
672300-2	Covington Woods/ Imperial Estates	61	1,177	22.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,607</b>	<b>13,471</b>	<b>34.2</b>

The City of Sugar Land does not base priority on ethnic/minority concentrations but rather overall need. From the map below, several minority concentrations can be identified throughout the City, and in comparing the City’s CDBG Target Areas and minority concentrations, some overlap is evident. For instance, Mayfield Park/The Hill is classified as an area with a minority concentration of 29.2% and is classified as a CDBG target area with the highest rate of low- to moderate-income individuals—62.6% - and the oldest housing stock. As a result, a majority of the housing rehabilitation activities are typically conducted in this area, but the projects are determined by need not racial/demographic data.

Figure 2: Minority Concentrations



Even though the City of Sugar Land contains multiple target areas and areas of minority concentrations, the geographic distribution of CDBG funding is primarily a city-wide benefit.

**Table 3 – Geographic Distribution of PY 2013 Funding of \$318,011**

<b>Program Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Public Services	City-wide	\$47,701	15%
Housing	City-wide	\$79,502	25%
Administration	City-wide	\$63,602	20%
Infrastructure	Chimneystone CT 674100/BG 3	\$127,206	40%

2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) during the next year and the rationale for assigning the priorities.

The City of Sugar Land generally locates its public facility and infrastructure projects within pre-determined target areas; however, public services and housing rehabilitation programs are not limited to geography. Rather, they are dictated by need. The City has additional requirements that 100% of those individuals receiving assistance through the CDBG program for public services and housing rehabilitation are low- to moderate-income individuals or limited clientele residents. Thus, all projects funded utilizing the \$318,011 during the 2013 program year will benefit low-to-moderate income individuals, limited clientele residents, or will be utilized within a low-to moderate-income target area. Protected class populations consisting of: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, handicap, gender identity and sexual orientation are not discriminated against, and the protected classes of individuals that have received direct assistance from the City of Sugar Land’s CDBG program include women and their families, multiple racial groups, as well as handicapped elderly residents.

The City of Sugar Land has developed a two-pronged approach to allocating investments geographically: (1) respond to critical issues as they arise and (2) concentrate the bulk of the public facilities and infrastructure projects in a specific neighborhood over time until all priorities are met. The rationale for this target area approach is that by concentrating block grant funding in one target area at a time the target area will recover more quickly.

Though the focus is on one neighborhood at a time, the program is flexible enough to allocate or reallocate funds to address more urgent needs as they arise. While the PY 2011 public facilities project was not located in a target area, the rehabilitation of the Sugar Land Community Center was identified as a priority for the program year in order to transform the facility into a multipurpose Community/Senior Center. In PY 2013, the City of Sugar Land will focus on the completion of an infrastructure project, the installation of improvements at Settlers Way Park, in the Chimneystone Target Area. With the completion of the Settlers Way Park design project in PY 2010, the City of Sugar Land allocated PY 2012 CDBG funds and will be allocating PY 2013 CDBG funds to the installation of improvements at Settlers Way Park. These funds

will be combined with Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) funding which will become available in 2013.

Due to the age of housing and the average income of households in the target areas, most housing rehabilitation does take place in the various CDBG target areas, though it is not required. The housing rehabilitation program is based on household income, not area eligibility.

Public services are also administered throughout the City, and eligibility is income rather than area based.

3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

The City has identified the continued need for a streamlined approach to public service agency participation. Throughout the next year, the City will continue to provide technical assistance to public service providers with the goal of creating efficiencies that will allow for less administrative burden which will ultimately permit more LMI residents to participate and be served under the City's CDBG program. With less energy and time being expended on administration, more money will be free for direct assistance to residents.

With the limited CDBG funds available and not being a HOME participating jurisdiction, the City of Sugar Land is not able to effectively address obstacles to meet underserved housing needs except as stated above. During the 2013 program year, 25 percent of the City's CDBG budget will be allocated to housing rehabilitation for low- to moderate-income homeowners, and 40 percent of the City's CDBG budget will be utilized for the installation of improvements at Settlers Way Park. With the completion of the Settlers Way Park design project in PY 2010, the City of Sugar Land allocated PY 2012 CDBG funds and will be allocating a portion of PY 2013 CDBG funds to the installation of improvements at Settlers Way Park within the Chimneystone Target Area. These funds will be combined with Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) funding which will become available in 2013. The City will also allocate its entire 15 percent allowable award during PY 2013 to nonprofit public service agencies that assist the underserved in the City.

4. Identify the federal, state, and local resources expected to be made available to address the needs identified in the plan. Federal resources should include Section 8 funds made available to the jurisdiction, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds expected to be available to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the strategic plan.

During the 2013 program year, the City of Sugar Land will contribute approximately \$675,418 in staff time and Capital Improvement Project funding for the administration and implementation of the CDBG program. Many of the public service and housing rehabilitation providers will also receive funds from multiple sources during PY 2013, including the United Way, the USDA, CenterPoint Energy, etc. The following table details the projected amount of additional resources that will be utilized to meet the needs identified within this Annual Action Plan.

**Table 4 –Additional Resources Provided by Funded Agencies**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Source of Additional Resources</b>	<b>Projected Amount of Additional Resources</b>
City of Sugar Land	General Funds	\$675,418
Child Advocates of Fort Bend	Federal, State, & Private	\$12,000
Fort Bend CORPS	Private	\$134,850
Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels	Federal, State & Private	\$154,564
Literacy Council of Ft. Bend County	Private	\$88,349
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,065,181</b>

**Managing the Process**

1. Identify the lead agency, entity, and agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.

The City of Sugar Land’s Community Development Department is the lead agency responsible for administering the CDBG program that was enumerated in the Consolidated Plan. This department works closely with non-profit subrecipients who play an integral part in the successful completion of the program. These agencies include Child Advocates of Fort Bend, Literacy Council of Fort Bend County, Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels, and Fort Bend CORPS.

2. Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.

The City of Sugar Land identified its community needs and priorities within the 5-Year Consolidated Plan that spans PY 2009 through PY 2013. Annually, the City’s needs are assessed according to the priorities listed in the Consolidated Plan. City departments are responsible for identifying infrastructure and public facility needs, and according to city CDBG Policies and Procedures, public hearings are held each year during the development of the Annual Action Plan to give the public and public service providers a forum to discuss community needs and prospective projects for the upcoming year.

City staff also employs experienced CDBG consultants to discuss projects and maximize public benefits.

3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to enhance coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies.

The City of Sugar Land will continue to provide a forum for public and private agencies to interact and develop collaborative partnerships to share and serve the diverse citizenry. The City’s consultants will also continue to serve as an open ended resource for all public service providers to seek technical assistance and guidance.

## **Citizen Participation**

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.

The City of Sugar Land strives for full transparency and involvement of all of its citizens in the execution of its CDBG program. Sugar Land has a detailed Policy and Procedures process that provides for public comment throughout the year and several avenues to provide comment, from email to phone calls and face to face meetings.

The first public hearing regarding the development of the PY 2013 Annual Action Plan was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2013 at 10 a.m. at the City of Sugar Land City Hall (2700 Town Center Boulevard North) in order to garner information from attendees and provide a pre-application workshop for prospective applicant agencies for CDBG funding. The second public hearing was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the City of Sugar Land Imperial Park Recreation Center (234 Matlage Way) during the 30-day public comment period from June 24, 2013 through July 23, 2013. The public hearings gave residents and interested parties an opportunity to publicly voice their opinions of the plan or to have questions answered regarding the CDBG program and the proposed plan.

Both of the public hearings were advertised in the general-circulation newspaper, as well as at City Hall, the City's municipal television station and on the City website. Copies of the advertisements have been included as attachments.

2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.

Public hearings were advertised and held concerning the CDBG program. The views and comments heard during the first public hearing came exclusively from non-profit service providers. These providers acted as the informal agents of the citizens they serve. No written comments were received in the first public hearing process, and service providers made few comments other than questions regarding funding. A second public hearing was held to discuss the Annual Action Plan in order to give citizens more opportunity to provide feedback on selected projects. The City of Sugar Land received no written or verbal comments regarding the proposed Annual Action Plan.

3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.

The City of Sugar Land continues to attempt to broaden public participation in the development of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans. The City also requested that each service agency attending the pre-application workshop encourage and assist their clients to contact the City with comments. The City works with the Literacy Council of Fort Bend County to notify and solicit input from residents with limited English proficiency. The City also added an advertisement on the municipal television station; this advertisement was in print as well as audio for those individuals with hearing or visual disabilities. The municipal television station can also be accessed on the City's website for those individuals who do not subscribe to cable television services.

The City's website also has a tool that allows for the translation of text into several languages for non-English speakers. Agencies serving persons with disabilities are also encouraged to make clients aware of the CDBG program and plans and to assist clients in accessing, understanding and commenting on the Annual Action Plan during the 30-day comment period.

4. Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.

The City of Sugar Land accepts and reviews all public comments and responds as needed. Currently, the City has received no public comments for the proposed PY 2013 CDBG program.

Program Year Action Plan Citizen Participation response:

The City of Sugar Land is committed to promoting citizen participation. The City's CDBG Policies and Procedures address official complaints within 14 days of receipt, and the City will meet with the complainant in person if necessary to resolve the issue.

## **Institutional Structure**

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to develop institutional structure.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Institutional Structure response:

The Community Development Department of the City of Sugar Land began managing the CDBG program in PY 2008 and will continue to manage the program, with the assistance of contract consultants, in the foreseeable future. The contract consultants will continue to provide technical assistance to the Community & Environmental Manager in CDBG program matters. The Community & Environmental Manager also will attend local training provided by the Houston U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office and will attempt to attend other HUD trainings and webcasts as needed. In working with the local HUD office to obtain technical assistance in drafting the City's annual plans and in reference to general programmatic questions, the City's partnership with HUD ensures that the longevity of the program is sustained throughout the implementation of the program.

## **Monitoring**

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.

Program Year Action Plan Monitoring response:

The City of Sugar Land's monitoring strategy is designed to assist staff in fulfilling its regulatory obligation in monitoring subrecipients, including city departments, as well as assist subrecipients in best serving their consumers and to meet the City's goals and objectives set forth in the Consolidated Plan. The primary purpose for this monitoring strategy is to ensure proper program performance, financial performance and regulatory compliance in accordance with HUD regulations. The secondary purpose is to ensure that the funded agencies are providing the best and most cost effective services possible and that they are positioned to access additional funding from non-HUD sources. In addition, a tertiary purpose is to ensure that the funded agencies are provided the best technical assistance possible to enhance their capacity and service delivery systems.

Monitoring provides a basis for assessing a program's operations and identifying problems. In addition, it allows the City to obtain ongoing data for use in determining program achievement. Evaluations will summarize monitoring findings and program goals, and they will measure the progress toward meeting those goals during the provision of services.

The Community Development Department has the responsibility for overall CDBG performance and Annual Action Plan compliance, including the performance of its subrecipients. Clear record keeping requirements are essential for grant accountability. Responsibility for maintaining many of the records is assigned to the subrecipients and contracted city departments. This responsibility includes documenting activities with special requirements, such as necessary determinations, income certifications or written agreements with beneficiaries, where applicable.

The monitors make site visits to the activities or projects of each subrecipient or contracted city department. The monitoring process consists of the monitors examining time records, client files, financial records and CDBG-funded equipment or machinery. The monitors discuss security measures that a subrecipient or city department has in place to avoid theft of federally-funded purchases, if applicable. The monitors examine all CDBG-funded equipment or machinery for the City's identification number. This examination is done to ensure that any equipment or machinery purchased with CDBG funds is being used to meet a national objective and to ensure that any equipment purchased with CDBG funds through a subrecipient will be used to meet said objective.

At the beginning of each Program Year, the Community Development Department and consultants meet with the subrecipients to provide reporting forms, discuss expectations and enter into a 12-month contract for services. Before the Community Development Department and/or consultants conduct an actual monitoring visit, a pre-monitoring contact is made with the designated person(s) at the subrecipient agency or city department to discuss the overall expectations, information to be viewed and site visits. This initial contact allows staff and consultants to discuss solutions to possible problems that may have occurred from past experiences with a particular subrecipient or city department.

The procedure for conducting the monitoring consists of the following:

1. Prior to the actual award of contracts, the Community Development Department and consultants hold a meeting at City Hall with the subrecipients. At that time, the monitoring procedures, reporting procedures and expectations are discussed and reporting forms are provided in electronic format.
2. If necessary, an additional one-on-one interview at the subrecipient's office is performed to further explain expectations.
3. At least once during the year, each subrecipient is notified of a date, time, place and information to be viewed and discussed during a monitoring visit.
4. At the beginning of the monitoring visit, a conference is held with a Board Member, Executive Director, Department Head and/or staff persons working with or salaried through the program or activity being funded.
5. The actual monitoring visit is conducted by viewing documentation such as random client files, financial records/audits, and if applicable, viewing rehabilitated sites, structures and the like. The monitor then completes the monitoring interview form that is maintained in the subrecipient's file at the City.
6. Monitoring visits conclude with the Community Development Department and/or consultants advising the subrecipient of any deficiencies.
7. If no deficiencies are detected, a letter of compliance is sent to the subrecipient. When/if deficiencies or findings occur, a monitoring letter is transmitted to the subrecipient advising of the deficiencies, findings (which are violations of laws or regulations which can result in the deobligation of funds) or concerns (which could result in a finding if not properly corrected). The Community Development Department and consultants then work with the subrecipient to assist in rectifying the deficiencies, concerns or findings.

During a monitoring visit, the monitors have the right to view any and all files that are related to a particular program or activity that is being funded with CDBG funds. Due to the sensitive nature of some of the public service programs, monitors may not have full access to personal data of those individuals being assisted; however, determinations as to the amount of access are made prior to the monitoring visit.

Monthly Beneficiary, Progress and Expenditure Reports for subrecipients are due on or before the 15th of each month. Continual delays in the submissions of these reports may affect this grant allocation and future allocations.

Copies of invoices, canceled checks, etc. are requested as documentation along with the Monthly Beneficiary, Progress and Expenditure Reports. Any subrecipient that expends \$500,000 or more in federal funds in one (1) year must have an independent audit performed which complies with the OMB Circular A-133 Single Audit Act.

For the first submission of the program year and any subsequent submissions when there have been staff changes, the subrecipient must submit an employee data report detailing the age, gender and race/ethnicity of staff members by job title. The Community Development Department and/or consultants review each packet of information for completeness and accuracy, and no reimbursements are made until the packet of information meets city standards.

The Community Development Department and contract consultants are responsible for monitoring all CDBG-funded infrastructure construction and rehabilitation activities. All such activities are monitored for Davis-Bacon Wage Rate compliance. Activities that provide any type of housing assistance are monitored for compliance with Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) laws. City staff and/or consultants also review projects for compliance with the Lead-Based Paint regulations, housing quality standards, city building codes and other rules, as appropriate. For infrastructure and other projects that fall under the regulations of the Davis-Bacon Act, the responsible city department works with the Community Development Department and consultants to ensure that all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Davis-Bacon posters are posted at the job site and employee interviews are conducted. The Support Services Department maintains files with the bid documents and contracts for infrastructure/public facility projects, and the Community Development Department maintains files with the monitoring documentation, certified payrolls and employee interviews related to these projects. Upon completion of these projects, the responsible department provides copies of the final project approval to the Community Development Department for the CDBG files.

The City of Sugar Land's CDBG program must meet all requirements set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Office of Management and Budget. The City conducts an independent audit annually to ensure that CDBG funds are used in accordance with program requirements.

The monitoring strategy is designed to be an effective, productive and collaborative effort between the City's Community Development Department, its consulting team and subrecipients or contractors of the CDBG program to assist them in efficiently providing the best services to low- to moderate-income residents of Sugar Land.

## **Lead-based Paint**

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards in order to increase the inventory of lead-safe housing available to extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.

Program Year Action Plan Lead-based Paint response:

The City of Sugar Land requires that every house scheduled for rehabilitation have a lead hazard screening. If the rehabilitation will disturb any exteriors or interiors that have paint, a lead-based paint test is performed. The housing rehabilitation subrecipient contracts with certified lead testers for all lead-based paint tests. If lead-based paint is found, the subrecipient contracts with certified contractors for all required remediation. In addition, the Fort Bend CORPS alerts residents of older housing of the lead-based paint and other lead poisoning hazards and provides information regarding testing and remediation.

The City, through its contract with Fort Bend CORPS as a housing rehabilitation subrecipient, will continue to provide information to neighborhood organizations, applicants for rehabilitation work and interested residents regarding lead poisoning and hazards and how to identify problems, receive blood tests and access treatment.

## HOUSING

### Specific Housing Objectives

\*Please also refer to the Housing Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve during the next year.

The City of Sugar Land places a high priority on the minor rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes in Sugar Land. To most efficiently and effectively carry out housing rehabilitation, the City contracts with the Fort Bend CORPS, a non-profit agency that blends CDBG funds with CenterPoint corporate funds for energy efficiency retrofits and private funds and volunteers to rehabilitate as many Sugar Land homes as possible. While all low- to moderate-income homeowners are eligible, the agency focuses on elderly and disabled homeowners.

The City of Sugar Land has a specific objective of rehabilitating at least 8 homes through its subrecipient housing agency, the Fort Bend CORPS, during PY 2013.

2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

Program Year Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

The Fort Bend CORPS will expend \$79,502 in City of Sugar Land CDBG funds during the 2013 program year. With these funds, the Fort Bend CORPS will provide minor housing rehabilitation to 8 homes funded partially or wholly through its CDBG allocation. The minor rehabilitation will include any retrofits for making the homes accessible and safe for the disabled and frail elderly, interior and exterior repairs, energy efficiency retrofits and, where indicated, lead-based paint testing and amelioration.

### Needs of Public Housing

1. Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake during the next year to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.
2. If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation during the next year.

Program Year Action Plan Public Housing Strategy response:

There is no public housing agency that serves the City of Sugar Land.

## **Barriers to Affordable Housing**

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to remove barriers to affordable housing.

Program Year Action Plan Barriers to Affordable Housing response:

In August 2009, the City of Sugar Land updated its Analysis of Impediments (AI) and Fair Housing Plan (FHP). A review of the legislation, policies, procedures and actions of the City of Sugar Land and the private sector indicates that there are no impediments to fair housing choice beyond the lack of available affordable housing due primarily to the market-driven housing prices within the area. Through the analysis, the City found that there were no policies that contributed to the concentration or prohibition of racial/ethnic minorities and no city building codes or ordinances that would limit the development or improvement of affordable housing in Sugar Land. The City of Sugar Land continues to review its public policies to determine their impact on affordable housing, and the City's policy is to review any complaints regarding barriers to affordable or fair housing to determine the cause of the complaint and to assure that no city policies or procedures are inadvertently causing any fair housing problems. Any complaint that reveals a City policy has created or may cause an impediment to be sustained will be reviewed, and action may be taken to ensure that this impediment will not limit fair housing choice.

The City of Sugar Land is not a HOME Participating Jurisdiction, therefore cannot fund the development of Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) or Community Development Corporations (CDCs) to provide affordable housing to residents. There are no Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Properties within the city limits of Sugar Land, though the City does not hamper their development. Additionally, there is no public housing authority serving the City of Sugar Land through public housing developments or Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. City of Sugar Land residents must apply to the State of Texas for Section 8 vouchers within the City.

However, the City of Sugar Land is committed to assisting agencies in ensuring that the housing stock is adequate for all residents. Significant CDBG resources are expended every year for minor housing rehabilitation and retrofitting for ADA compliance/accessibility. With the limited amount of CDBG funds awarded to the City of Sugar Land and the City not being a HOME Participating Jurisdiction, it was determined that CDBG funds should be used only for owner-occupied rehabilitation. The City of Sugar Land will utilize approximately 25 percent of its PY 2013 CDBG budget (a total of \$79,502) to conduct housing rehabilitation activities. All clients served through the housing rehabilitation program receive Fair Housing brochures and information from the Fort Bend CORPS. Due to the need in Sugar Land, as demonstrated by the demographics outlined in the Census data and by the applications to the Fort Bend CORPS for minor and moderate housing rehabilitation, the elderly have the greatest need of assistance. Due to their income and age, maintenance on their homes has been deferred over time and a greater number of

houses occupied by elderly owners have rehabilitation and repair needs. Disabled home owners also have a high priority for minor housing rehabilitation. Small, large and other owner-occupied housing have no less of a need on an individual per-household basis; however, there are fewer households applying for CDBG assistance and a greater ability for the homeowner to make the repairs.

In addition, the general actions that the City takes regarding the identification and rectification of barriers to fair and affordable housing are:

- Each public hearing and public forum at which CDBG activities are discussed have a time set aside for educating the public on the Fair Housing Act and soliciting input regarding possible impediments to fair housing choice.
- Each year during the Annual Action Plan process, the City of Sugar Land reviews the current Analysis of Impediments and Fair Housing Plan and determines if new issues have arisen that require city attention.
- Every five years, the City includes an analysis of barriers to fair housing choice in its 5-Year HUD Consolidated Plan and develops a new Fair Housing Plan, including an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.
- The City provides HUD-provided brochures to the library, neighborhood associations and social service agencies to educate residents and service providers of fair housing and housing rights.
- If the City receives any complaints regarding fair housing violations, it refers the individual to the appropriate Fair Housing division of the Houston field office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- The City provides technical support and certifications of consistency with the Consolidated Plan to agencies seeking funds from HUD and other sources to provide sound affordable housing to the homeless, elderly, disabled and low-income. To date, no agency has requested either technical support or a certification of consistency from the City of Sugar Land.
- The City provides tax relief in the form of installment payments for homeowners over 65 years of age.
- The City defers property taxes for homeowners 65 years of age or older. The tax deferral postpones tax liability, but property taxes are not cancelled.
- The City directs service agencies receiving CDBG funding to provide Fair Housing brochures and information to better educate the public on Fair Housing regulations and their rights.

Through the City's funding of PY 2013 minor housing rehabilitation activities, the individuals served through the program will receive fair housing brochures and information from the Fort Bend CORPS, and many of the other activities indicated above will be conducted using City of Sugar Land general fund dollars and other service provider operational funds.

As indicated above, there were no policies that contributed to the concentration or prohibition of racial/ethnic minorities. When reviewing each racial/ethnic group by percent with housing problems, the total households for a category is often very small, resulting in either a suppression of the data or a disproportionately high percentage. The table below details the percent of occupied units with housing problems by income and race/ethnicity of the householder.

**Table 5 – Comparison of 2000 Housing Problems by Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity	Percent of Housing with Problems, Including Cost Burden					
	Income < 30% of Median		Income 30-50% of Median		Income 50-80% of Media	
	Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner
Anglo/White	65.7	89.2	76.1	84.9	82.3	70.1
African American	100 (35)*	63.6	83.3 (24)*	63.2	42.9	100 (29)*
Hispanic	53.8	70.6	100 (38)*	89.0	88.2 (34)*	58.2
Asian	65.9	94.5 (73)*	90 (100)*	79.7	94.5 (73)*	73.7

\*Numbers in parentheses indicate total number of households for those with 100 or fewer units in the category biasing the percentages for comparison.

African Americans in Sugar Land for the most part do not have a disproportionately greater need than Anglos or other racial/ethnic groups. All of the very low-income African American renters and moderate-income owners have housing problems, which may be a cost burden only. However, the numbers in these categories are too small (35 and 29 respectively) to render valid comparisons with other racial/ethnic groups in Sugar Land. Likewise, Hispanics generally have a significantly lower percent of housing with housing problems than Anglos and others, except for those renters earning 30 to 50 percent or 50 to 80 percent of the median. However, there are only 38 and 34 households respectively in those categories skewing the comparisons with Anglos or other racial groups. Asians closely track Anglos except for low- and moderate-income renters, but as with the other minority groups, the small number of households in each category makes the comparison less valid.

Consequently, there is no marked disproportionate need among any of the racial/ethnic minorities across the board. While one group may have a significantly lower percent with housing problems for a tenure-by-income category, that same group may exceed the average for another category. The oldest neighborhood with the greatest need and lowest incomes is Mayfield Park. This neighborhood was constructed originally by the Imperial Sugar Company as housing for its laborers. As a result, the homes were originally purchased by lower-income, primarily minority, workers and have been passed down from generation to generation keeping it a predominately minority neighborhood with older, smaller homes that have some housing problems. Since a majority of the housing in Mayfield Park was inherited from parents or grandparents who had clear title, there have been no income qualifications required for purchase by the current owners, many of whom are very low-income and unable to maintain their homes. However, there does not appear to be any impediments to affordable housing based solely on race/ethnicity. Therefore, no civil rights violations have been reported to the City of Sugar Land.

## **HOME/ American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI)**

1. Describe other forms of investment not described in § 92.205(b).
2. If the participating jurisdiction (PJ) will use HOME or ADDI funds for homebuyers, it must state the guidelines for resale or recapture, as required in § 92.254 of the HOME rule.
3. If the PJ will use HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is that is being rehabilitated with HOME funds, it must state its refinancing guidelines required under § 92.206(b). The guidelines shall describe the conditions under which the PJ will refinance existing debt. At a minimum these guidelines must:
  - a. Demonstrate that rehabilitation is the primary eligible activity and ensure that this requirement is met by establishing a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing.
  - b. Require a review of management practices to demonstrate that disinvestments in the property has not occurred; that the long-term needs of the project can be met; and that the feasibility of serving the targeted population over an extended affordability period can be demonstrated.
  - c. State whether the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units, create additional affordable units, or both.
  - d. Specify the required period of affordability, whether it is the minimum 15 years or longer.
  - e. Specify whether the investment of HOME funds may be jurisdiction-wide or limited to a specific geographic area, such as a neighborhood identified in a neighborhood revitalization strategy under 24 CFR 91.215(e)(2) or a Federally designated Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.
  - f. State that HOME funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG.
4. If the PJ is going to receive American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI) funds, please complete the following narratives:
  - a. Describe the planned use of the ADDI funds.
  - b. Describe the PJ's plan for conducting targeted outreach to residents and tenants of public housing and manufactured housing and to other families assisted by public housing agencies, for the purposes of ensuring that the ADDI funds are used to provide down payment assistance for such residents, tenants, and families.
  - c. Describe the actions to be taken to ensure the suitability of families receiving ADDI funds to undertake and maintain homeownership, such as provision of housing counseling to homebuyers.

Program Year Action Plan HOME/ADDI response:

The City of Sugar Land is not a HOME participating jurisdiction.

## HOMELESS

### Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

\*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction’s plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.

The City of Sugar Land does not expect to receive any funds during the next year to address homeless needs or to prevent homelessness.

2. Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.

In the PY 2009 – 2013 Consolidated Plan, the City of Sugar Land placed a high priority on serving victims of domestic violence. Unfortunately, the Fort Bend County Women’s Center, one of the only agencies providing emergency shelter and aftercare program services for victims of domestic violence in Sugar Land, did not apply for funding during the 2013 program year due to the extensive reporting requirements as compared to the limited amount of funds available.

There are no facilities in the City of Sugar Land or the remainder of Fort Bend County addressing the needs of the general homeless community; however, organizations do exist for sensitive populations and case by case assistance. Fort Bend Family Promise provides shelter in cooperation with participating host congregations in Sugar Land: First Presbyterian, Christ United Methodist, Parkway United Methodist and St. Martin's Lutheran Church. These congregations are, on a rotating basis, serving approximately three to five families at any given time. Thoureau Unitarian Church and Sugar Land Baptist Church are supporting congregations within Sugar Land that provide monetary support and volunteers to supplement the host congregations’ activities. Fort Bend Family Promise has not applied to the City for CDBG funds; however, the City is committed to providing them technical assistance to increase their capacity and ability to manage federal and state dollars.

The Fred and Mabel Parks Youth Ranch provides shelter services for homeless youths throughout Fort Bend County and the City of Sugar Land. The organization has requested money from Fort Bend CDBG and has expressed interest in applying for Sugar Land CDBG funds in the future.

While the only obstacle in meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence is available funding, the primary obstacle in meeting the needs of the general homeless population is the availability and accessibility of services, shelters and housing. There is no local homeless coalition to be a conduit for Continuum of Care funds, and Sugar Land does not receive Emergency Shelter Grant funding. Fort Bend County, including Sugar Land, falls under the umbrella of the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, and the majority of the pro rata shares for Fort Bend County and Sugar Land are used by the Houston/Harris County agencies. The Fort Bend County Women's Center and Fort Bend Family Promise are the only agencies within an accessible proximity to Sugar Land that receive any McKinney-Vento funding.

3. Chronic homelessness—The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2013. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.

There is no agency serving the chronically homeless population in the City of Sugar Land, and the City does not receive Emergency Shelter Grant funding. Therefore, there are no action steps planned to address chronic homelessness. The lack of viable funding as well as housing and service providers presents the primary barrier to identifying and serving the general homeless population, including the chronic homeless individuals and families.

4. Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

Currently, there are no agencies or programs to provide emergency assistance or tenant-based rental assistance to those facing homelessness in Sugar Land. If a need is presented, the City will make a concerted effort to identify and build capacity in an agency(ies) that can provide emergency utility, rental or mortgage assistance to prevent eviction and to provide longer-term tenant-based rental assistance.

5. Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.

This is not applicable to Sugar Land. There are no shelters, transitional living, substance abuse residential treatment, mental health or other facilities in Sugar Land. Therefore, there is no discharge from a facility to homelessness or shelter that can be coordinated.

Program Year Action Plan Special Needs response:

The City of Sugar Land recognizes the tragedy of homelessness and fully supports its public service providers with technical assistance in any cases where the possibility or reality of homelessness occurs.

**Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)**

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

Program Year Action Plan ESG response:

This is not applicable for the City of Sugar Land.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Community Development**

\*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.

**Table 6—Community Development Needs**

<b>Matrix Code and Activity</b>	<b>Presumed Need (estimates)</b>	<b>Priority (H,M,L)</b>
<b>Target Area-Based Activities (Low-Mod Income Area)</b>		
03 Public Facilities and Improvements (General)	Adequate	M
03D Youth Centers	1 needed	M
03F Parks, Recreational Facilities	150 acres of mini- and neighborhood parks; 9,500 linear feet of trails; 1 recreation center; Improvements to 6 parks in target areas	H
03I Flood Drain Improvements	~2,500 feet in target areas	H
03J Water/Sewer Improvements	~500 feet in target areas ; 2 lift stations in target areas or serving target areas	M
03K Street Improvements	~89,400 square feet in target areas; 8,500 new & retrofit street lights for energy efficiency	H
03L Sidewalks	~1,615 linear feet in target areas (replacement); ~9,500 linear feet in target areas (new)	H
03O Fire Stations/Equipment	Adequate	M
03P Health Facilities	Adequate	L
03R Asbestos Removal	privately managed	L
04 Clearance and Demolition	30+ sites	M
04A Clean-up of Contaminated Sites	30 sites	M
05I Crime Awareness	adequate	L
14E Commercial/Industrial Rehabilitation	10+ sites	L
15 Code Enforcement	250+ lots	M
16B Non-residential Historic Preservation	10+ sites	M
18A Economic Development Direct Assistance to For-Profits	4B Corporation to handle	L
18B Economic Development Technical Assistance	4B Corporation to handle	L
18C Micro-Enterprise Assistance	4B Corporation to handle	L

<b>Low-Mod Income Clients or Households (any area)</b>			
03A Senior Centers		improvements/expansion/1 more needed	H
03B Handicapped Centers		2 needed	M
03C Homeless Facilities		adequate	L
03M Child Care Centers		adequate	L
03Q Abused/Neglected Children Facilities		adequate	L
05 General Public Services		1,500+ low-mod income	M
05A Senior Services		2,250+ seniors	H
05B Handicapped Services		3,802 adults	M
05C Legal Services		250+ low-mod income	M
05D Youth Services		2,500+ youth	H
05E Transportation Services		764 individuals	H
05F Substance Abuse Services		1,900 individuals	M
05G Domestic Violence Services		110 families per year	H
05H Employment Training		2,300 adults	M
05J Fair Housing Activities		adequate	L
05K Tenant/Landlord Counseling		adequate	L
05L Child Care Services		1,000+ children	M
05M Health Services		15,840 adults + 5,684 children	M
05N Abused/Neglected Children Services		120 children	M
05O Mental Health Services		750 individuals	M
05P Lead Based Paint/Lead Hazard Screening		2,679 units	M
05R/13 Homeownership Assistance		3,351 w/ cost burden; 4,890 need homebuyer assistance	M
05S Rental Housing Subsidies		1,018 w/ cost burden	M
05T Security Deposits		750 households	L
06 Interim Assistance		2,030 households	M
12 Construction of Housing		434 owner occupied; 367 renter occupied	L
14A Single Family Housing Rehabilitation		4,299 units	H
14B Multi-family Housing Rehabilitation		584 units	M
14F Energy Efficiency Improvements		10,000+ units	H
14G Acquisition for Rehabilitation		< 100 units	L
14I Lead Based Paint Abatement		2,679 units	M
16A Residential Historic Preservation		< 100 units	M
19C Non-profit Capacity Building		10+ agencies	M
19D Assistance to Institutes of Higher Learning		1 community college; 1 upper division university	L
19E Operation and Repair of Foreclosed Properties		25 properties	L

- Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

\*Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

Table 6 represents the specific long and short term community development objectives of the City of Sugar Land.

Program Year Action Plan Community Development response:

The priority given to each category of the needs table is based on several factors:

- Level of available CDBG funding against program cost
- Location of need for area—based projects (within CDBG Target Area)
- Level of physical need described in City Comprehensive Plan and/or Parks Master Plan for public facilities and infrastructure
- Number of households or people in need based on Census, State and local data collected from a variety of sources
- Level of need described in applications for subrecipient funding and numbers served by subrecipients in the past
- Availability and capacity of agencies to address the need if funded
- Results of an on-line survey of needs, described in the Consolidated Plan

## **Antipoverty Strategy**

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.

Program Year Action Plan Antipoverty Strategy response:

The City of Sugar Land uses CDBG dollars to assist public service agencies in providing services that enhance the employability of its clients. Using CDBG dollars, the City will fund the following activities:

English as a Second Language (ESL) and general literacy education for those with limited English proficiency or who are functionally illiterate. By increasing the literacy level of these residents, most of whom are very low- and moderate-income, the program is providing the necessary skills for accessing higher-paying jobs and improving their quality of life.

The second approach to reducing poverty in Sugar Land is to reduce the cost of housing by providing rehabilitation assistance and reducing property taxes. Housing rehabilitation activities help ensure that the low- to moderate-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and disabled, are able to remain in their homes, reduce energy costs and preserve the value of their property. As the cost of living decreases, the amount of disposable income increases. The Fort Bend CORPS will use City of Sugar Land CDBG funds in PY 2013 to provide housing rehabilitation to 8 homes.

There are tax relief polices in effect which can help low-income homeowners retain their homes. Installment payments are available to residents over 65 years of age, and homeowners age 65 or older can “defer” or postpone paying property taxes on their home. However, the Property Tax Deferral only postpones the tax liability; property taxes are not cancelled.

The City’s 4B Economic Development Corporation will continue to attract new employers to the City of Sugar Land. However, no CDBG funds will be used for this effort.

## NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

### **Non-homeless Special Needs (91.220 (c) and (e))**

\*Please also refer to the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve for the period covered by the Action Plan.

While the City of Sugar Land does not limit its housing rehabilitation efforts to homes owned by the elderly or disabled, Fort Bend CORPS gives priority to these special needs households. Therefore, the majority of Fort Bend CORPS' housing rehabilitation efforts using CDBG funding will target low- to moderate-income elderly and disabled homeowners. Details regarding the housing rehabilitation program can be found above in the housing section of this Action Plan.

Through the allowable Public Services funding, the City of Sugar Land will provide \$23,214 to the Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels program to provide hot, home-delivered meals to 20 elderly, disabled or frail elderly residents of Sugar Land. These meals will ensure proper nutrition for home-bound elderly that will result in fewer illnesses and hospitalization, as well as a longer, higher quality life.

2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

Program Year Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

The City anticipates additional funding sources to continue to contribute money to its many service providers during PY 2013. These funds have included local and private contributions in the past. (See Table 4)

### **Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS**

\*Please also refer to the HOPWA Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Provide a Brief description of the organization, the area of service, the name of the program contacts, and a broad overview of the range/ type of housing activities to be done during the next year.
2. Report on the actions taken during the year that addressed the special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, and assistance for persons who are homeless.
3. Evaluate the progress in meeting its specific objective of providing affordable housing, including a comparison of actual outputs and outcomes to proposed goals and progress made on the other planned actions indicated in the strategic and action plans. The evaluation can address any related program adjustments or future plans.
4. Report on annual HOPWA output goals for the number of households assisted during the year in: (1) short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to avoid

homelessness; (2) rental assistance programs; and (3) in housing facilities, such as community residences and SRO dwellings, where funds are used to develop and/or operate these facilities. Include any assessment of client outcomes for achieving housing stability, reduced risks of homelessness and improved access to care.

5. Report on the use of committed leveraging from other public and private resources that helped to address needs identified in the plan.
6. Provide an analysis of the extent to which HOPWA funds were distributed among different categories of housing needs consistent with the geographic distribution plans identified in its approved Consolidated Plan.
7. Describe any barriers (including non-regulatory) encountered, actions in response to barriers, and recommendations for program improvement.
8. Please describe the expected trends facing the community in meeting the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and provide additional information regarding the administration of services to people with HIV/AIDS.
9. Please note any evaluations, studies or other assessments that will be conducted on the local HOPWA program during the next year.

Program Year Action Plan HOPWA response:

The City of Sugar Land receives no HOPWA funds.

### **Specific HOPWA Objectives**

Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the Action Plan.

Program Year Specific HOPWA Objectives response:

Not applicable; the City of Sugar Land receives no HOPWA funds.

### **Other Narrative**

Include any Action Plan information that was not covered by a narrative in any other section.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Table 3A
- Table 3C
- Copy of Public Notices

**Table 3A**  
**Summary of Specific Annual Objectives**

<b>Obj #</b>	<b>Specific Objectives</b>	<b>Sources of Funds</b>	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Expected Number</b>	<b>Actual Number</b>	<b>Outcome/Objective*</b>
N/A	<b>Rental Housing Objectives</b>					
	<b>Owner Housing Objectives</b>					
DH-3.1	Minor single-family owner-occupied housing rehabilitation	CDBG	Housing units	8	TBD	DH-3
N/A	<b>Homeless Objectives</b>					
N/A	<b>Special Needs Objectives</b>					
N/A	<b>Community Development Objectives</b>					
	<b>Infrastructure Objectives</b>					
SL-1.1	Park Improvements	CDBG and City Funds	People	492	TBD	SL-3
N/A	<b>Public Facilities Objectives</b>					
	<b>Public Services Objectives</b>					
SL-1.2	Child Advocacy	CDBG	People	48	TBD	SL-1
EO-1.1	Adult Literacy	CDBG	People	109	TBD	EO-1
SL-1.3	Meals for Seniors	CDBG	People	20	TBD	SL-1
N/A	<b>Economic Development Objectives</b>					

N/A	<b>Other Objectives</b>					

**\*Outcome/Objective Codes**

	<b>Availability/Accessibility</b>	<b>Affordability</b>	<b>Sustainability</b>
<b>Decent Housing</b>	DH-1	DH-2	DH-3
<b>Suitable Living Environment</b>	SL-1	SL-2	SL-3
<b>Economic Opportunity</b>	EO-1	EO-2	EO-3

**Table 3C**  
**Consolidated Plan Listing of Projects**

**Jurisdiction's Name**     City of Sugar Land

**Priority Need**  
High

**Project Title**  
Settlers Way Park Construction

**Description**

With the completion of the Settlers Way Park design project in PY 2010, the City of Sugar Land will be utilizing \$129,864 of PY 2012 and \$127,206 of PY 2013 CDBG funds for the installation of improvements at Settlers Way Park within the Chimneystone Target Area (CT 674100/BG 3). These funds will be combined with Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding available in 2013. Improvements will include the addition of a restroom/storage building, sidewalks, landscaping, irrigation/drainage improvements, parking, and site furnishings.

**Objective category:**     Suitable Living Environment     Decent Housing     Economic Opportunity  
**Outcome category:**     Availability/Accessibility     Affordability     Sustainability

**Location/Target Area:** Chimneystone Target Area (CT 674100/ BG3)  
**Street Address:** Intersection of Sam Houston Drive & Settlers Way Blvd.  
**City, State, Zip Code:** Sugar Land, Texas 77479

Objective Number SL-1.1	Project ID 2013-001
HUD Matrix Code 3F	CDBG Citation 570-201(c)
Type of Recipient Local Government	CDBG National Objective LMA
Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 10/1/2013	Completion Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 9/30/2014
Performance Indicator People	Annual Units 492
Local ID N/A	Units Upon Completion To be reported in CAPER

**Funding Sources:**

CDBG	\$127,206
ESG	
HOME	
HOPWA	
Total Formula	
Prior Year Funds	
Assisted Housing	
PHA	
Other Funding	
Total	\$127,206

The primary purpose of the project is to help:     the Homeless     Persons with HIV/AIDS     Persons with Disabilities     Public Housing Needs

**Table 3C**  
**Consolidated Plan Listing of Projects**

**Jurisdiction's Name**    City of Sugar Land

**Priority Need**

Medium

**Project Title**

Child Advocates of Fort Bend, Children's Advocacy Center

**Description**

Child Advocates of Fort Bend will utilize CDBG funding to provide counseling & advocacy services for 48 abused and neglected children and their families.

**Objective category:**     Suitable Living Environment     Decent Housing     Economic Opportunity  
**Outcome category:**     Availability/Accessibility     Affordability     Sustainability

**Location/Target Area:** Child Advocates of Fort Bend Office / Community wide

**Street Address:** 5403 Avenue N

**City, State, Zip Code:** Rosenberg, Texas 77471

Objective Number SL-1.2	Project ID 2013-002
HUD Matrix Code 05N	CDBG Citation 570-201(e)
Type of Recipient Nonprofit	CDBG National Objective LMC
Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 10/1/2013	Completion Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 9/30/2014
Performance Indicator People	Annual Units 48
Local ID N/A	Units Upon Completion To be reported in CAPER

**Funding Sources:**

CDBG	\$9,902
ESG	.....
HOME	.....
HOPWA	.....
Total Formula	.....
Prior Year Funds	.....
Assisted Housing	.....
PHA	.....
Other Funding	.....
Total	\$9,902

The primary purpose of the project is to help:     the Homeless     Persons with HIV/AIDS     Persons with Disabilities     Public Housing Needs

**Table 3C**  
**Consolidated Plan Listing of Projects**

**Jurisdiction's Name**     City of Sugar Land

**Priority Need**

Medium

**Project Title**

Literacy Council of Fort Bend County, Literacy Tutoring

**Description**

The Literacy Council of Fort Bend County will utilize CDBG funding to carry out literacy programs for Sugar Land clients and also provide GED prep courses for those clients interested in completing the program.

**Objective category:**     Suitable Living Environment     Decent Housing     Economic Opportunity  
**Outcome category:**     Availability/Accessibility     Affordability     Sustainability

**Location/Target Area:** Literacy Council of Fort Bend County Office/ Community wide

**Street Address:** 12530 Emily Court

**City, State, Zip Code:** Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Objective Number EO-1.1	Project ID 2013-003
HUD Matrix Code 05H	CDBG Citation 570-201(e)
Type of Recipient Non-profit	CDBG National Objective LMC
Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 10/1/2013	Completion Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 9/30/2014
Performance Indicator People	Annual Units 109
Local ID N/A	Units Upon Completion To be reported in CAPER

**Funding Sources:**

CDBG	\$14,585
ESG	
HOME	
HOPWA	
Total Formula	
Prior Year Funds	
Assisted Housing	
PHA	
Other Funding	
Total	\$14,585

The primary purpose of the project is to help:     the Homeless     Persons with HIV/AIDS     Persons with Disabilities     Public Housing Needs

**Table 3C**  
**Consolidated Plan Listing of Projects**

**Jurisdiction's Name**    City of Sugar Land

**Priority Need**  
High

**Project Title**  
Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels

**Description**  
Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels will provide home-delivered meals to 20 low and moderate income senior citizens and/or disabled persons within the City.

**Objective category:**     Suitable Living Environment     Decent Housing     Economic Opportunity  
**Outcome category:**     Availability/Accessibility     Affordability     Sustainability

**Location/Target Area:** Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels Office/ Community wide  
**Street Address:** 1330 Band Road  
**City, State, Zip Code:** Rosenberg, Texas 77471

Objective Number SL-1.3	Project ID 2013-004
HUD Matrix Code 05A	CDBG Citation 570-201(e)
Type of Recipient Non-profit	CDBG National Objective LMC
Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 10/1/2013	Completion Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 9/30/2014
Performance Indicator People	Annual Units 20
Local ID N/A	Units Upon Completion To be reported in CAPER

**Funding Sources:**

CDBG	\$23,214
ESG	
HOME	
HOPWA	
Total Formula	
Prior Year Funds	
Assisted Housing	
PHA	
Other Funding	
Total	\$23,214

The primary purpose of the project is to help:     the Homeless     Persons with HIV/AIDS     Persons with Disabilities     Public Housing Needs

**Table 3C  
Consolidated Plan Listing of Projects**

**Jurisdiction's Name**     City of Sugar Land

**Priority Need**  
High

**Project Title**  
Fort Bend CORPS, Home Rehabilitation Program

**Description**  
The Fort Bend CORPS will utilize CDBG funding to conduct minor housing rehabilitation to 8 homes owned and occupied by low to moderate income individuals.

**Objective category:**     Suitable Living Environment     Decent Housing     Economic Opportunity  
**Outcome category:**     Availability/Accessibility     Affordability     Sustainability

**Location/Target Area:** Fort Bend CORPS Office / Community wide  
**Street Address:** 13330 S Gessner Road  
**City, State, Zip Code:** Missouri City, Texas 77489

Objective Number DH-3.1	Project ID 2013-005
HUD Matrix Code 14A	CDBG Citation 570.202
Type of Recipient Nonprofit	CDBG National Objective LMH
Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 10/1/2013	Completion Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 9/30/2014
Performance Indicator Housing Units	Annual Units 8
Local ID N/A	Units Upon Completion To be reported in CAPER

**Funding Sources:**

CDBG	\$79,502
ESG	
HOME	
HOPWA	
Total Formula	
Prior Year Funds	
Assisted Housing	
PHA	
Other Funding	
Total	\$79,502

The primary purpose of the project is to help:     the Homeless     Persons with HIV/AIDS     Persons with Disabilities     Public Housing Needs

**Table 3C  
Consolidated Plan Listing of Projects**

**Jurisdiction's Name**     City of Sugar Land

**Priority Need**  
High

**Project Title**  
Administration

**Description**

The City of Sugar Land will utilize CDBG funding to provide administrative services to deliver the CDBG program successfully and in full compliance with all HUD and federal regulations.

**Objective category:**     Suitable Living Environment     Decent Housing     Economic Opportunity  
**Outcome category:**     Availability/Accessibility     Affordability     Sustainability

**Location/Target Area:** City of Sugar Land Office/ Community wide  
**Street Address:** 2700 Town Center Boulevard North  
**City, State, Zip Code:** Sugar Land, Texas 77479

Objective Number N/A	Project ID 2013-006
HUD Matrix Code 21A	CDBG Citation 570.206
Type of Recipient Local Government	CDBG National Objective N/A
Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 10/1/2013	Completion Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 9/30/2014
Performance Indicator N/A	Annual Units N/A
Local ID N/A	Units Upon Completion N/A

**Funding Sources:**

CDBG	\$63,602
ESG	.....
HOME	.....
HOPWA	.....
Total Formula	.....
Prior Year Funds	.....
Assisted Housing	.....
PHA	.....
Other Funding	.....
Total	\$63,602

The primary purpose of the project is to help:     the Homeless     Persons with HIV/AIDS     Persons with Disabilities     Public Housing Needs

# News

## Yolanda Ford files for Missouri City Dist. A council seat

Urban planner and land development professional, Yolanda Ford, has filed for the Missouri City City Council – District A seat.

“It is time for better growth and experienced leadership that can identify with District A’s constituents. Our community, currently being represented by an all male council, should be represented by both men and women,” Ford says.

“For the first time in many years, voters can elect a community leader that is experienced and educated in community development, city policy and who will actively advocate for improved quality of life for District A’s residents.”

Ford has been a resident of Missouri City for 35 years. Her professional experience includes more than 14 years of working in community development, urban planning, architecture, construction, government contract management and city policy for municipalities and nonprofit entities. She has a master of architecture degree and she is currently a land development specialist for a local nonprofit where she focuses on land acquisition, construction management and government contract procurement.

Ford states that District A needs a candidate who understands beneficial development that will increase property values and improve the quality of life for all residents.

She wants to focus on economic development, engaging residents and building relationships with school districts which she believes will assist in encouraging involvement and developing a family oriented community. Ford wants voters to know she is the strong, energetic leader with knowledge that is needed to make District A the community residents expect and deserve. She states more than half of our residents are of female gender, but currently there are no women on council. Ford says a city should have representation from both men and women alike.

Ford has experience and various excellent working relationships with professionals in transit authorities, metropolitan planning organizations, departments of transportation, utility companies, developers, contractors, city officials, city staff, neighborhood associations and other entities that are essential to getting issues with



Ford

sidewalks, streets and neighborhoods resolved quickly.

Since she was once a former city planner for the City of Missouri City, her understanding of Missouri City policy, planning and economic development will be essential in re-viving Texas Parkway, working with TX DOT to alter some of the newly implemented road improvements along Texas Parkway and bringing in better development for District A.

“The economic development I want to bring into District A is substantial. My development plan will take a methodological approach and seek residents for their input and ideas. It will improve residential neighborhoods, grow Highway 90A, create jobs, businesses and retail locations along District A’s major corridors so that District A is a safe, vivacious community for everyone to enjoy. No longer will residents need to drive into another city to shop for basic necessities.”

“It is never too early to start learning about your candidates,” states Ford. “And using that knowledge to vote is the most powerful way for citizens to be heard and make their community a better place to live.”

Election Day is Saturday May 11. Early voting is April 29 – May 7. To learn more about Yolanda Ford visit [www.YolandaFord.com](http://www.YolandaFord.com) or she can be reached at (281) 410-1307. Others who have filed for this seat include incumbent Bobby Marshall and Rodney Griffin.



**General Maintenance Worker I  
General Maintenance Worker II**  
The City of Sugar Land is recruiting for general maintenance workers in the public works department. These positions are open until Friday, March 29, 2013 at 5 p.m. Please visit our website at [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov) for complete details and to apply online.

## Cynthia Lenton-Gary files for FBISD board

Long-time Missouri City Resident and former Councilmember, Cynthia Lenton-Gary is running to regain a seat on the Fort Bend Independent School District board.

Gary was appointed by the FBISD school board in 2010 to serve out former trustee Jim Babb’s position. She is seeking the Position 7 seat so that “she can bring a listening ear, experienced leadership, and innovative policies and programs that will assist FBISD in becoming the best school district in the nation.”

Gary believes that the key to moving the county, state, and nation to the next level depends in large part, on the strength of our educational system. Additionally, Gary says she is a strong advocate for parental involvement, student academic rigor, professional development for teachers, administrator accountability and smart zoning policies.

Previously, Gary worked as



Gary

a research chemist and a forensic scientist. She was also a professor of Sociology at Prairie View A&M University. Gary holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Chemistry, a Masters of Arts degree in Sociology and has completed core/foundation courses for her Ph.D.

She has been married for 31 years and has three sons who are graduates of FBISD. She and her husband worship and serve at the Fountain of Praise Church. She is also member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,

## Texas Democratic Party Chair speaks at area workshop

Last week brought more than 200 Democratic activists from around the region to Richmond for a Texas Democratic Party workshop entitled “Fighting For Texas.”

Most political observers believe that Texas will flip Democratic within the next three election cycles.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear from the first Latino Democratic Party Chairman, Gilberto Hinojosa, about how Democrats can win Texas. His rousing speech and message was that Democrats can win Texas, even in Fort Bend. “Diversity is not a guarantee of victory, but it is an opportunity,” Hinojosa told the crowd.

Among the attendees was a significant Latino and Asian presence, reflecting the changing demographics in Texas and especially Fort Bend.

Also attending were numerous Democratic precinct chairs and county chairs from 12 surrounding counties. Many of the attendees are seeking municipal and school board elections. The workshop was full

of organizing tips, and the latest in information technology education for activists. Glen Maxey, Special Assistant to Chairman Hinojosa, led the training. Party staffer James Barnett assisted.

State Rep. Ron Reynolds gave a brief legislative update. Will Hailer, District Director for Congressman Keith Ellison’s (D, MN) office brought greetings from the congressman. Sponsors were Fort Bend Commissioner Richard Morrison, Fort Bend State Democratic Executive Committee members Rodney Griffin, Q Inam, and Don Bankston.

Each participant received a certificate of completion signed by Chairman Hinojosa.

This was the first workshop of a series of workshops the Texas Democratic Party is sponsoring around Texas.



Hinojosa

Incorporated. “With my passion for education and compassion for schools, I will fight hard to be a voice and a sounding board for residents, parents, administrators, teachers, and, most importantly, all students from all areas of the district,” Gary says.

As a fiscal conservative,

Gary believes in austerity and will work hard to ensure your tax dollars are used to keep our schools safe, close academic achievement gaps and enhance the teaching and learning experience.

Besides Gary, incumbent Dave Rosenthal, Rodrigo Carreon and Keciana Enaohwo have filed for this seat.

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<sup>1</sup> Some benefits, including First Accident Forgiveness and the Disappearing Deductible, are only available with the optional Advantage Plus package. A policy without these benefits is also available. [Call for details.] To qualify for these two benefits, all drivers on the policy must have a clean record (no accidents or violations) for five consecutive years in most states. For the Disappearing Deductible, these five years must include a period of three consecutive years as policyholder in the AARP Auto Insurance Program (commencing after the effective date of the policy issued through this offer). PA drivers are not eligible for the complete disappearance of the deductible, although it will be reduced to a minimum of \$100. The First Accident Forgiveness benefit is not available in Delaware.

<sup>2</sup> If you are age 50 or older, once you're insured through this Program for at least 60 days, you cannot be refused renewal as long as applicable premiums are paid when due. Also, you and other customary drivers of your vehicles must remain valid licensees, remain physically and mentally capable of operating an automobile, have no convictions for driving while intoxicated and must not have obtained your policy through material misrepresentation.

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**City of Missouri City**  
MISSOURI CITY TEXAS  
ORDINANCE NO. O-13-09

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF AND CONTACT WITH DESIGNATED GROUNDWATER FROM BENEATH CERTAIN PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS, TO FACILITATE CERTIFICATION OF A MUNICIPAL SETTING DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY BY THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.**

I, Maria Gonzalez, City Secretary of the City of Missouri City, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the captioned said Ordinance No. O-13-09 approved on second and final reading by the City Council at its regular meeting held on February 18, 2013, as the same appears in the records of my office.

/s/ Maria Gonzalez  
City Secretary

**For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)**  
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**Notice of Public Hearing**  
**City of Sugar Land Annual Action Plan**  
**For the Use of CDBG Funds**

The City of Sugar Land will hold a public hearing to give all Sugar Land residents an opportunity to voice opinions on the Program Year 2013 Annual Action Plan for the use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and proposed projects for the upcoming program year. We would like to hear your comments on how we should prioritize programs for the coming year and how we plan to spend CDBG funding.

A mandatory pre-application workshop for all agencies requesting CDBG funds will be held in conjunction with the public hearing. Eligible agencies include 501(c)(3) non-profits, City Departments and County agencies. Applications are due April 24, 2013 by 5 P.M. and will be made available only to those agencies in attendance.

All attendees are invited to speak on the subject of CDBG at the public hearing on:

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**Cane Room**  
**City of Sugar Land City Hall**  
**2700 Town Center Boulevard North**  
**Sugar Land, Texas**

Residents may send comments by April 19, 2013 to the City of Sugar Land Planning & Environmental Services Department, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North, Sugar Land, Texas 77479 or P.O. Box 110, Sugar Land, Texas 77487-0110. Residents may also fax comments to the City at (281)275-2771.

**CDBG Program Background**

The goal of the CDBG program is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate-income persons.

Eligible activities include but are not limited to public facility construction and improvements, handicapped accessibility, operational funding for non-profit agencies, rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing, housing development assistance, enforcement of City codes, clearance and demolition, infrastructure improvements, business development and job creation activities. Not less than 70% of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low and moderate-income persons.

**Fair Housing Issues**

The Public Hearing will also be a forum regarding input on fair housing and related issues. Citizens with suggestions and/or concerns will be provided opportunity to voice those issues during the last portion of the public hearing.

**Note:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this facility is wheelchair accessible, and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for special accommodations or interpretive services must be made at least 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the Planning & Environmental Services Department at (281) 275 2170 or by FAX at (281) 275-2771.

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# News

## Fort Bend ISD Board Approves 2013-2014 Budget

The Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees approved a \$497,159,194 operating budget for the 2013-2014 school year at its June 10 regular business meeting. The FBISD budget is designed to provide educational services for a projected 70,184 students. The 2013-2014 budget is balanced and fiscally conservative while still supporting District Strategic Plan priorities and instructional programs.

As part of the budget, the Board approved a two percent salary increase for all current staff and an increase in the starting teacher salary to \$46,500 from \$44,750. This budget also provides market adjustments to certain steps on the Teacher Salary Schedule to make sure Fort Bend ISD salaries remain competitive with other districts. The estimated cost of these increases is \$7.5 million, with \$4.9 million, or 60 percent being allocated to teacher raises.

Board approves new positions for the 2013-2014 school year - Although the Fort Bend ISD will not be opening any new campuses this year, the District must also budget for 167 additional staff due to growth and the strategic reallocation of resources. The new positions include the addition of college and career advisors at each high school, hall monitors, assistant principals, and additional math and science specialists for at-risk campuses, a Fine Arts coordinator, curriculum coordinator for PE, Health, and Wellness, and other new campus staff throughout the District.

The budget is based on maintaining the tax rate at its current level - one of the lowest in the greater Houston area. Fort Bend ISD's overall tax rate of \$1.34 per \$100 valuation, which includes a debt service tax rate of 30 cents combined with the District's \$1.04 maintenance and operations

(M&O) tax rate. Through fiscal stewardship during budget challenges, the District's tax rate has remained at its current level for the past four years.

Other Fort Bend ISD 2013-2014 budget highlights include: •In a comparison of previous budgets, Fort Bend ISD's 2013-2014 budget is lower than the District's 2009-2010 budget of \$498,278,116 which served 1,000 less students.

•Fort Bend ISD has one of the lowest expenditures per of students at \$6,521 per student in a comparison of six other peer districts.

•The FBISD Board remains dedicated to instruction, and the 2013-2014 Budget has one of the highest percentages of expenditures in the classroom among the same peer group at 65.3 percent.

•Eighty-six percent (86%) of Fort Bend ISD's 2013-2014 Budget is for salaries and benefits. This budget lowers the overall student/teacher ratio

from the previous school year. •Fort Bend ISD has reduced overall annual energy usage by almost 20 million kWh, allowing the District to put the energy savings directly back into the classroom.

**Board approves bond refunding to generate debt service savings of more than \$10 million**

On June 10, the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees also approved refunding portions of the Series 2004 Bonds that will generate debt service savings of more than \$10 million. The District's general obligation bonds are currently rated AA+ by Fitch and AA by Standard & Poor's. A high credit rating typically reduces the interest costs the District pays on bond debt. Fort Bend ISD is committed to sound financial management and prudent stewardship.

For more information about the 2013-2014 Fort Bend ISD budget, go to fortbendisd.com.

## SwiftRiver

From Page 1

Afghanistan. It has been deployed in the Congo to track unrest, in Zambia to monitor medicine stockouts and the Philippines to track the mobile phone companies.

A key component of Ushahidi is the ability to use mobile phones as a primary means of both sending crisis incidents and receiving updates. The Internet can be difficult to access or completely unavailable in some parts of the world, so the platform was created with the mobile phone as a foundational element.

Ushahidi's clients include Al-Jazeera, World Bank and the United Nations.

Ushahidi/SwiftRiver is supported by a global community of volunteers.

Ushahidi is also supported by the following organizations: Ford Foundation, CISCO Foundation, NetSquared, Open Society Institute, Humanity United, Omidyar Network, Berkman Society for Internet & Society at Harvard University and Covington & Burling LLP.

Investor and philanthropist George Soros established the Open Society Foundations to help countries make the transition from communism. The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people.

NetSquared promotes innovative work happening at the intersection of technology and social change through media channels such as our community blog, project galleries, and social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Humanity United is a foundation committed to building peace and advancing human freedom. It leads, supports, and collaborates with a broad network of efforts, ideas, and organizations that share the vision of a world free of conflict and injustice.

Pam Omidyar, Founder & Board Chair, established Humanity United to stop and prevent mass atrocities and eradicate modern-day slavery - two of the worst ways humans inflict suffering on one another.

Covington & Burling LLP is the former law firm of Ator-

ney-General Eric Holder.

Now comes MetaLayer, the company that will implement the project.

"Jonathan D. Gosier is an American designer, software developer, philanthropist, investor, and entrepreneur working in areas of data science, human rights, and global development. He is the founder or co-founder of several organizations and initiatives including AfriLabs, Appfrica, Abayima, Hive Colab, and MetaLayer."

MetaLayer's simple interface offers "Drag and Drop Data Science" to organizations and individuals like journalists, data analysts and NGO researchers who may lack staff or funding for costly data analysis.

In December 2009, Gosier joined Ushahidi as the Director of SwiftRiver which used Big data, the real-time web and the Semantic Web to help validate crowd-sourced reports during times of crisis.

In 2011 Gosier's work with Ushahidi on SwiftRiver was awarded a Knight News Challenge grant of \$250,000.

Turn to the Big Data. The Human Face of Big Data, is based around an eponymous smartphone app and has the goal of gathering data on personal and cultural beliefs from millions of people in countries across the world.

Each person who uses the app is asked 50 questions, ranging from "Are you male or female?" to "Which closest fits what you think will happen when you die?"

Their responses are then uploaded, with live results, visualized by MetaLayer. The interactive visualization allows researchers to spot patterns in the answers to a question according to different demographics or different responses to other questions.

For example, filtering by country shows us that under a quarter of Britons believe they will go to heaven or hell after they die, while in the US the figure is almost one in two.

Another view shows that among those who considered their parents to have been 'very lenient', almost half now have an optimistic outlook on life. Only a third of those whose parents were strict say they are optimistic.

MetaLayer also helped visualize online chatter during

Hurricane Irene. You click on an interactive map. The chat from a location is displayed.

MetaLayer participated in this year's Startup Day on the Hill in February. Startup Day on the Hill focuses on issues at the intersection of Technology and Politics, talking about how data-mining, semantic search, and data visualization can be powerful tools for improving service delivery during times of wide-scale disaster.

MetaLayer has links to the White House as well because of its expertise in wedding data mining and politics, a key component in the campaign of President Barack Obama.

Apart from the background, one aspect of the local social media monitoring project remains poorly explained.

How would the software access the photos, twitter messages, or Facebook postings of individuals? Would the county get access to the servers maintained by companies like Twitter, Facebook or Verizon?

A Fort Bend County Emergency Management official said the software will not access any servers or access any private communication. It will not access private email ex-

changes either. All that the software will do is grab publicly posted pictures or messages on Twitter. Similarly, the software will monitor YouTube postings that are public. If this is true, then the fear of sinister data mining by a government entity may have been overblown.

At the same time, the utility of the software in tracking post-emergency information will be minimal and the likely benefit may turn out to be a poor return for the investment.

According to the FBC Office of Emergency Management, SwiftRiver will enhance situational awareness for both the Public Information Officers and the incident commander by aggregating and verifying public information from a wide variety of sources. It will allow PIOs to conduct more effective rumor control, and respond to the public's information needs in a more timely manner.

Does this make a compelling case for acquiring a software by a public entity? Are there safeguards to ensure that the benign project does not morph into data mining?

The answer depends on the perception of the beholder or whom you ask.



### Notice of Public Hearing Release for Public Review and Comment City of Sugar Land Annual Action Plan For Use of CDBG Funds

A public hearing will be held to give all Sugar Land residents an opportunity to voice opinions on the Annual Action Plan for the use of HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and proposed projects for the upcoming program year. We would like to hear your comments on how we should prioritize programs for the coming year and how we plan to spend CDBG funding.

Each year, the City of Sugar Land drafts an Annual Action Plan that prioritizes the use of CDBG funds. A draft of the Annual Action Plan will be available for public review and comment beginning June 24, 2013 through July 23, 2013. The draft plan may be found on the City website [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov) and in the Office of the City Secretary, City of Sugar Land City Hall, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North, Suite 122, Sugar Land, Texas 77479.

In addition, the City will host a public hearing to further explain the CDBG process and solicit comments and feedback from residents concerning the proposed activities. Comments will be taken into consideration for any changes to the draft plan before submittal to HUD. All attendees are invited to speak on the subject of CDBG at the public hearing on:

**Wednesday, July 10, 2013  
6:00 PM  
Imperial Park Recreation Center  
234 Matlage Way  
Sugar Land, Texas 77478**

Residents may also send comments to the City of Sugar Land Community Development Department, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North, Sugar Land, Texas 77479 or P.O. Box 110, Sugar Land, Texas 77487 0110. Residents may also fax their comments to the City at (281) 275-2771. All comments must be received by the end of the comment period on July 23, 2013 in order to be considered and included within the City's Annual Action Plan.

#### CDBG Program Background

The national objective of the CDBG program is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low and moderate-income persons. Eligible activities include but are not limited to: public facility construction and improvements; handicapped accessibility; operational funding for non-profit agencies servicing primarily low and moderate income persons; rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing; housing development assistance; enforcement of city codes; clearance and demolition; infrastructure improvements; business development and job creation activities. Not less than 70% of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low and moderate-income persons.

#### Fair Housing Issues

The Public Hearing will also be a forum regarding input on fair housing and related issues. Citizens with suggestions and/or concerns will be provided opportunity to voice those issues during the last portion of the public hearing.

**Note:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this facility is wheelchair accessible, and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for special accommodations or interpretive services must be made at least 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the Planning & Environmental Services Department at (281) 275 2170 or by FAX at (281) 275-2771.

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\* Some benefits, including First Accident Forgiveness and the Disappearing Deductible, are only available with the optional Advantage Plus package. A policy without these benefits is also available. [Call for details.] To qualify for these two benefits, all drivers on the policy must have a clean record (no accidents or violations) for the consecutive years in most states. For the Disappearing Deductible, these five years must include a period of three consecutive years as a policyholder in the AARP Auto Insurance Program (commencing after the effective date of the policy issued through this offer). PA drivers are not eligible for the complete disappearance of the deductible, although it will be reduced to a minimum of \$100. The First Accident Forgiveness benefit is not available in Delaware.

† If you are age 50 or older, once you're insured through this Program for at least 60 days, you cannot be refused renewal as long as applicable premiums are paid when due. Also, you and other customary drivers of your vehicles must retain valid licenses, remain physically and mentally capable of operating an automobile, have no convictions for driving while intoxicated and must not have obtained your policy through material misrepresentation.

107292 Rev

# News

## Missouri City adopts revised emergency services fee

By BARBARA FULENWIDER  
Missouri City councilmen at a recent council meeting approved revising some of the fees the city will charge for emergency response services provided by the fire department.

They adopted the resolution to charge fees only for certain fire department services in March in order to recoup a part of the costs. After council approved adoption of the fees, they told staff to wait 60 days before charging them in order to evaluate the program.

During March and April the program was evaluated and Fire Chief Russell Sanders told council the fire department responded to a total of 836 incidents. Forty-eight of those, he said, were in the cost recovery program. Additionally, the department responded to 16 vehicle accidents at which no one was injured.

Sanders said many of the vehicle accidents were handled by a single fire engine because a command vehicle wasn't necessary. He told council that the city could have invoiced \$25,950 during those two months and conservatively recovered \$10,380, after the fee from the billing company was taken out of the total.

What council approved at Sanders' request was reduce the number of fee tiers from four to three by moving all vehicle accidents from Tier II to Tier I. The fee for a Tier I event is \$500. The events and fees charged in the other two tiers were not changed.

Sanders also told council that fees would only be assessed for motor vehicle accidents if the fire department examines a person for injuries, treats a person for injuries, mitigates a minor hazardous materials spill caused by a vehicle and does not require a hazardous materials response team, responds to the collision of a motor vehicle with a pedestrian, illegal burning and a motor vehicle fire. No fee will be charged for motor vehicle accidents where the fire department takes no actions.

Tier II events are extricating someone from a motor vehicle collision and a collision involving a vehicle and a building. The fee for those services is \$1,000 per response.

Tier III events include a motor vehicle collision that results in a fatality and an event requiring a specialized team other than the hazardous materials team. Events in Tier III cost \$2,000 each.

Other events Missouri City will charge an itemized fee for are a pipeline leak, an event requiring people to shelter in place or evacuate and one that requires a response by a hazardous materials team.

The fees associated with these events range from \$75 to \$500 an hour for use of fire department apparatus. If any equipment has to be replaced those fees are also itemized and start at \$6 for Latex gloves and go to \$535 for a 100-foot section of five-inch fire hose.

There are more itemized fees for replacing rescue and protective equipment and for inspecting, cleaning and decontaminating protective equipment.

Background information to council says the estimated annual revenue expected from the city's new fee recovery program is \$50,000. The fire chief said the conservative figure of \$50,000 is based on a 50 percent collection rate. The collections will be man-

aged by a third party company hired by the city.

Questions Sanders said his department has received from residents during the two-month evaluation included asking who will get the invoice for costs associated with emergency services provided. The answer is the at-fault party's insurance company will get an invoice. No resident will receive an invoice. If an insurance company refuses to pay the charges billed, no further collection action will be taken.

Residents also asked if the city will open a claim on anyone's insurance and Sanders said, "No. The only time cost recovery will be sought is if a claim has been opened by another party."

Sanders also said that an individual's insurance premium is not likely to be increased if they are involved in an accident and their insurance company receives a bill. The fire chief told council, "Research shows that insurance providers have not increased premiums based on cost recovery programs but rather on at-risk driving habits and behavior. Currently, most liability insurance covers the fee."

Sanders also told council that in 2012 the Missouri City Fire Department responded to 5,036 incidents and of that total, 261 met the criteria for the cost recovery program. The department also responded to 91 motor vehicle accidents that would not have resulted in an invoice being sent to the driver's insurance company.

Missouri City's cost recovery program only involves fire department services. No fees will be charged for a police department response unless an incident requires the dive team, which includes police and fire members.

Other towns in Texas that have put in cost recovery programs for emergency services include Bellaire, Georgetown, Marshall, Bryan, College Station, Channelview and Greenville.

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
The Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas has set a public hearing on Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. for acceptance of the traffic control plan for Roegner Road East of Spring Green STD, Precinct 3.

The hearing will be held in the Commissioners Courtroom, 309 South Fourth St., Suite 700, William B. Travis Bldg., Richmond, Texas. You are invited to attend and state your approval or objection on this matter.

Submitted by,  
Dianne Wilson  
Fort Bend County Clerk

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
REQUEST FOR SEALED COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS

Sealed Competitive Proposals will be received in the Office of Gilbert D. Jalomo, Jr., County Purchasing Agent, Fort Bend County, Travis Annex, 301 Jackson, Suite 201, Richmond, TX 77469 for the following until THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013 at 1:30 P.M. (CST). All proposals will then be opened in the Office of the Purchasing Agent, Travis Annex, 301 Jackson, Suite 201, Richmond, TX 77469 and the names of the proposers made public. Proposals received after the specified time will be returned unopened. Solicitation and any and all addendums will be posted on Purchasing Agent's website located at [www.fortbendcountytx.gov](http://www.fortbendcountytx.gov).

**RFP 13-072 - BUSWRAPS FOR TRANSIT VEHICLES**

A pre-RFP conference will be conducted on Thursday, July 11, 2013 at 2:00PM (CST). The pre-RFP conference will be held at the Fort Bend County Public Transportation Department located at 12550 Emily Court, Sugar Land, Texas 77478. Following the pre-RFP conference vehicle site visits will be held at both Emily Court and 1809 Eldridge. All vendors are encouraged to attend; this is the only day that will be scheduled for vehicle viewing.

Detailed unit pricing is required. Bonds are not required. Fort Bend County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Signed:  
Gilbert D. Jalomo, Jr.,  
Purchasing Agent  
Fort Bend County, Richmond, Texas

## Obituary: Marilyn Smith Walsh Glover



Marilyn Smith Walsh Glover, was born in Galveston, Texas, Galveston, County, on April 8, 1945, and placed in the care of loving parents, Melvin Sam Smith (deceased) and Viola Smith. She attended Lincoln High School in La Marque, Texas, and graduated with honors in 1963. She attended Prairie View A&M University and the University of Houston. Marilyn later embarked upon a successful business

career in Human Resources at Control Data Corporation, a top 500 company.

Marilyn was an active leader, a participant, and an advocate for women and children in Fort Bend County for more than two (2) decades. She served as President of the YMCA Board of Directors; Vice President of the Board for the Fort Bend Independent School District; Board member for the Fort Bend Women's Center, Fort Bend Literacy Council, Fort Bend Family Health Center, Child Advocacy Board, and past President of the Advisory Council for Child Advocates of Fort Bend County. She was the first recipient of the "Partners in Courage" award given by the State of Texas for volunteer dedication. She served in many other capacities in Fort Bend County. She was politically active at the local, state, and national levels serving in various positions such as State Convention Delegate, Senatorial Convention Delegate, and other notable positions.

Marilyn Smith Walsh Glover peacefully entered into God's care and eternal rest on June 27, 2013. Left in God's care to cherish her memory and to continue her legacy is a devoted and loving husband, Albert Glover; sons, Calvin Glenn Smith, Bertram Glover, and Brian (Shirlette) Glover; her mother, Ms. Viola Smith; one sister, Rose Marie Bell; and brothers, Melvin (Helen) Smith, and James Smith; grandchildren, Maya Glover, Calvin Glenn Smith II, Cameron Samuel Smith; a godson, Adrian Taylor, a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors. Her father, Melvin Sam Smith, a daughter, Akua Walsh, and a grandchild, Trenton Lavais preceded her in eternal rest.

Visitation 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Funeral Service 11:00 a.m., Windsor Village UMC, 6000 Heatherbrook Drive, Friday, July 5, 2013. Interment, Houston Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Fort Bend Women's Center or to Fort Bend Child Advocate. Arrangements provided by McCoy and Harrison Funeral Home, Inc., 4918 Martin Luther King Blvd., 77021, 713-659-7618.

### Part-Time Interviewer- Job Id-6373

Westat seeks motivated, detail-oriented individuals to work part time on an important study, the National Study of Health-Related Behaviors (NSHB). Interviewers will collect information from respondents about tobacco use and its effects on health. Interviewers will show respondents how to collect cheek cells and urine samples using a self-collection kit and coordinate appointments for a blood sample to be taken by a trained health professional. To learn more about this position and apply, go to [www.westat.com/fieldjobs](http://www.westat.com/fieldjobs) and enter Job Id 6373BR. WESTAT.EOE.

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas has set a public hearing on Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. for acceptance of the revised traffic control plan for Fort Bend ISD Hodges Bend Middle School to install unprotected crosswalk at the intersection of Hodges Bend Drive and April Falls Trail crossing April Falls Trail and install "No parking during school zone times" signs on the east side of Hodges Bend Drive, Precinct 3.

The hearing will be held in the Commissioners Courtroom, 309 South Fourth St., Suite 700, William B. Travis Bldg., Richmond, Texas. You are invited to attend and state your approval or objection on this matter.

Submitted by,  
Dianne Wilson  
Fort Bend County Clerk



**Notice of Public Hearing**  
Release for Public Review and Comment  
City of Sugar Land Annual Action Plan  
For Use of CDBG Funds

A public hearing will be held to give all Sugar Land residents an opportunity to voice opinions on the Annual Action Plan for the use of HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and proposed projects for the upcoming program year. We would like to hear your comments on how we should prioritize programs for the coming year and how we plan to spend CDBG funding.

Each year, the City of Sugar Land drafts an Annual Action Plan that prioritizes the use of CDBG funds. A draft of the Annual Action Plan will be available for public review and comment beginning June 24, 2013 through July 23, 2013. The draft plan may be found on the City website [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov) and in the Office of the City Secretary, City of Sugar Land City Hall, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North, Suite 122, Sugar Land, Texas 77479.

In addition, the City will host a public hearing to further explain the CDBG process and solicit comments and feedback from residents concerning the proposed activities. Comments will be taken into consideration for any changes to the draft plan before submittal to HUD. All attendees are invited to speak on the subject of CDBG at the public hearing on:

**Wednesday, July 10, 2013**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Imperial Park Recreation Center**  
**234 Matlage Way**  
**Sugar Land, Texas 77478**

Residents may also send comments to the City of Sugar Land Community Development Department, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North, Sugar Land, Texas 77479 or P.O. Box 110, Sugar Land, Texas 77487 0110. Residents may also fax their comments to the City at (281) 275-2771. All comments must be received by the end of the comment period on July 23, 2013 in order to be considered and included within the City's Annual Action Plan.

### CDBG Program Background

The national objective of the CDBG program is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low and moderate-income persons. Eligible activities include but are not limited to: public facility construction and improvements; handicapped accessibility; operational funding for non-profit agencies servicing primarily low and moderate income persons; rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing; housing development assistance; enforcement of city codes; clearance and demolition; infrastructure improvements; business development and job creation activities. Not less than 70% of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low and moderate-income persons.

### Fair Housing Issues

The Public Hearing will also be a forum regarding input on fair housing and related issues. Citizens with suggestions and/or concerns will be provided opportunity to voice those issues during the last portion of the public hearing.

**Note:** In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, this facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for special accommodations or interpretive services must be made at least 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact Stacie Henderson at (281) 275 2170 or by FAX at (281) 275-2771.

**ACCESS PHOTOS AND INFORMATION ON thousands of homes in Fort Bend, Sugar Land, Missouri City & Pearland area. From the privacy of Your Home. [www.TDECU.RealEstate.Org](http://www.TDECU.RealEstate.Org) COMPLIMENTS OF TDECU REAL ESTATE, LLC.**

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FAX (281)277-7801  
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This auto insurance is designed exclusively for AARP members - and is now available through your local agent!  
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Sugar Land, TX 77478-3535  
basil@texansinsure.com

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