# BRAZORIA COUNTY, TX HOME - ARP ALLOCATION PLAN

AMENDMENT TO THE PY 2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN



# Commissioners' Court

L. M. "Matt" Sebesta Jr., County Judge

Donald "Dude" Payne, Pct. 1 Ryan Cade, Pct. 2 Stacy Adams, Pct. 3 David Linder, Pct. 4

Approved March 14, 2023

Proposed Substantial Amendment 1-HOME-ARP Allocation Plan May 15, 2024

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#### Introduction

Brazoria County is a federal entitlement community that receives an annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As an entitlement community, the County is required to prepare an Annual Action Plan detailing the uses of CDBG funds to meet its affordable housing and community development goals as outlined in its Consolidated Plan.

For Program Year 2021-2022, the county is proposing to make substantial amendments to its' submitted Annual Action Plan. The purpose for the substantial amendment is to include \$1,874,707 in HOME-ARP grant funding received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The purpose of the allocation is to serve households who are at greatest risk of housing instability, including individuals and families experiencing homelessness and/or who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Meeting this requirement, the HOME-ARP Allocation plan is the substantial amendment to the adopted Action Plan FY 2021-22. HOME-ARP funds can only be expended on eligible activities:

- Provision of Supportive Services (such as housing counseling, homelessness prevention, childcare, job training, legal services, case management, moving costs, rental applications, and rent assistance)
- Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters: Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter (these structures can remain in use as a non-congregate shelter or can be converted to 1) emergency shelter under the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program; 2) permanent housing under the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program; or 3) affordable housing under the HOME Program)
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing (such as acquisition and rehabilitation)
- Non-Profit Operating (5% maximum allocation) (may not exceed the greater of 50 percent of the general operating expenses of the organization for that fiscal year)
- Non-Profit Capacity Building (5% maximum allocation) (may not exceed the greater of 50 percent of the general operating expenses of the organization for that fiscal year)
- Administration and Planning for the HOME-ARP Program (15% maximum allocation)

HOME-ARP funds must be used primarily to benefit individuals or families from the following qualifying populations:

- Sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations
- Those currently housed populations at the risk of homelessness
- Those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking.
- Other families requiring services, housing assistance, or to prevent homelessness.
- Those at greatest risk of housing instability or in unstable housing situations

Below are definitions for terms that are used frequently in relation to HOME-ARP funds.

**NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER:** As opposed to congregate settings, such as traditional homeless shelters, non-congregate shelter provides more private accommodations (individual rooms). During the COVID-19 pandemic, people living in congregate facilities have been at higher risk of contracting or having complications from the virus because physical distancing is difficult.

**QUALIFYING POPULATIONS:** For HOME-ARP funds, this means people experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, or otherwise at high risk of housing instability.

**SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:** Services that help households maintain housing stability and quality of life. These may include support with finding and applying for housing, financial assistance for moving costs, childcare, legal services, mental health and substance use services, and more.

**TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE:** A rent subsidy to help households afford housing costs, such as rent and security deposits. "Tenant-based" means the subsidy is attached to the household, and they can use it to rent any rental unit that meets program guidelines and whose landlord is willing to accept the subsidy payment.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**: Housing where the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for gross housing costs, including utility costs.

#### **HOME-ARP** Allocation plan

#### **Consultation**

In accordance with Section V.A of the Notice CPD-21-10, (page 13), <u>before developing the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan</u>, Brazoria County consulted with:

- Continuums of Care (CoC's) serving the jurisdiction's geographic area,
- homeless service providers,
- · domestic violence service providers,
- veterans' groups,
- public housing agencies (PHAs),
- public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, and
- public or private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities.

#### Describe the consultation process including methods used and dates of consultation:

Before developing the plan, Brazoria County consulted with the CoC(s) serving the county's geographic area, homeless and domestic violence service providers, veterans' groups, public housing authorities (PHAs), public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, and public or private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities, at a minimum. Brazoria County in coordination with the Brazoria County United Way hosted an initial HOME-ARP Stakeholder Engagement Meeting and Workshop on November 28, 2022, and used an on-line survey emailed November 17, 2022, to obtain input and feedback on the best use of the HOME-ARP funds. More than 100 organizations were invited to the November workshop and more than 40 organizational representatives either attended, participated or became consulting parties. Key organizations representing critical HOME-ARP targeted populations were also engaged as a HOME-ARP consulting party. Brazoria County, as a local jurisdiction, is not required to consult with PHA, Agencies and Organizations, or CoC's that *do not* operate within Brazoria County's boundaries; however, the county did consult with county, regional, and state agencies (including statewide or regional organizations) and CoCs serving populations and providing services within Brazoria County, Furthermore, as the Brazoria County Community Development and Housing Authority are housed and organized under the same management, coordination and consultation of housing services and needs are straightforward and easily achieved.

### List the organizations consulted:

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Gulf Coast Center	Services- Health	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting.	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
Junior Achievement Brazoria Co.	Services-Education	Provided feedback through online survey.	Identified Unaccompanied Youth as the qualified population with the highest need. The needs and problems of this population: These individuals are lacking budgeting skills and job skills sufficient to acquire and maintain a job to support themselves and family.
Brazoria County Dream Center	Services-At-Risk Homeless, Youth	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting.	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022
Brazosport Cares Food Pantry	Services-Health	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting.	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
New Birth House of Hope	Business Leaders	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting.	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022
City of Alvin	Services-Homeless	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting.	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
Brazosport ISD	Services- Youth Homeless	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Barriers to these needs and problems be addressed through more coordination of care, more childcare vouchers, expand transportation availability, expand, and promote awareness of job training opportunities.
Gulf Coast CASA	Service-At-risk Homelessness	Invited to participate in the	Priority: Population needs Licensed Foster Homes, shelters, and services. Population problems

		Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	children are removed from home, displaced from family and community, need licensed kinship homes.
Brazoria County Women's Center	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
Refuge for Women	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Stated the two highest needs for Victims of Human Trafficking are: 1. Affordable housing once they complete our program is a great need. 2. Temporary shelter for those in transition to a program or exiting a program.
Endeavors	Services-Homeless	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
Warriors Refuge	Services-Veterans Homeless	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
Sweeny ISD Homeless Liaison	Services-Youth Homeless	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
Star of Hope	Services-Homeless	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
Brazoria County Community Development/Housing Authority	Grantee Department/ PHA	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022. Also Provided subsidized housing data including Housing Choice Vouchers.
Youth and Family Counseling	Services — Health	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided feedback on how the barriers to these needs and problems can be addressed: YFCS provides services to assist the family with developing an action plan to prevent homelessness and provide case management to assist with monitoring and motivating

			them along with the plan's implementation.
Community Health Network	Health Agency	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
United Way of Brazoria County	Services-Homeless	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Identified Affordable Housing and Case Management as the highest needs of people with High Risk of Housing Instability.
ADAPT Foundation dba Brazos Place	Services - Health	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided the following feedback: Substance abuse usage is disproportionately high among people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. Forty percent of people experiencing homelessness abuse alcohol and 35% abuse drugs. In addition, high %'s of this population also experiences extremely high levels of mental and primary health issues. Our ability to treat all within our program is unique. We intend to transfer our knowledge of working with this population (along with providing primary and mental health care) to this vulnerable population that are also High Utilizers of Services.
Houston Area Urban Community Development Corporation	Services - Housing	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Priority: Establishing a Land Bank should be a funding priority.
Stop Talk Overcome Pain (STOP)	Services - Children	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Priority: Assess homelessness and teen suicides and how they go hand and hand.
Guiding Our Youth	Services - Homeless	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Priority: Youth experiencing homelessness or at risk need a stable home, education on becoming self-sufficient, and employable, mental wellness and behavioral health education.
Brooke's Enclave Investments, LLC	Services - Housing	Invited to participate in the	Provided the following needs Need: are a safe place for the tenant and their children. The

		Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	problem is lack of qualified housing. Need: Allowing those with criminal records to reside in affordable housing on a conditional basis. Problem: There are none or very few housing develops to offer such housing to this population of residents.
Brazoria County	Services - Persons	Invited to	Priority: People with disabilities
Center for	with Disabilities	participate in the	depend on SSI or SSDI. The
Independent Living		Home-ARP Plan	elderly depends on SS and
		agency meeting	retirement which none of these
			incomes have kept up with the
			pace of inflation. Cost of living is
			too high for low incomes
			households. They are being forced
			out of their home and
			independence due to the high cost
			of living.
The King's Militia	Services - Veterans	Invited to	Identified the highest needs of
		participate in the	Veterans: Services for homeless
		Home-ARP Plan	Veterans with felonies or have
		agency meeting	been dishonorably discharged.
			Homeless Veterans also need
			awareness to available resources
TD TT 141 C4	g :	т	and services in Brazoria County.
Texas Health Step	Services -	Invited to	Provided feedback to assigned
	Healthcare	participate in the Home-ARP Plan	group at Agency Workshop on
		agency meeting	November 28, 2022.
Lone Star Legal	Services – Fair	Invited to	Provided feedback to assigned
Lone Star Legar	housing/Civil Rights	participate in the	group at Agency Workshop on
	nousing/Civii Rights	Home-ARP Plan	November 28, 2022.
		agency meeting	140 veiliber 20, 2022.
Habitat for Humanity	Services - Housing	Invited to	Provided feedback to assigned
	Services from Sing	participate in the	group at Agency Workshop on
		Home-ARP Plan	November 28, 2022.
		agency meeting	
The Salvation Army	Services - Homeless	Invited to	Provided feedback to assigned
		participate in the	group at Agency Workshop on
		Home-ARP Plan	November 28, 2022.
		agency meeting	
Lake Jackson Police	Services – Law	Invited to	Provided feedback to assigned
Lake Jackson Police Department	Services – Law Enforcement	Invited to participate in the	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on
		Invited to	

Archangels of Texas	Services – Homeless Services	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
Kidz Harbor	Services – Child Services	Invited to participate in the Home-ARP Plan agency meeting	Provided feedback to assigned group at Agency Workshop on November 28, 2022.
Texas Office of Court Administration	Other government - State	Direct request/access to data	Provided the number of evictions filed in the County.
Texas Homeless Network's	Continuum of Care	Direct request/access to data	Provided annual Point-in-Time data.
Brazoria County Sheriff's	Other government - County	Direct request/access to data	Provided criminal cases filed data.
The Texas Protective Order Registry	Other government - State	Direct request/access to data	Provided data on Protection Orders filed by Brazoria County residents.

#### Summarize feedback received and results of upfront consultation with these entities:

During the November 28, 2022, agency workshop with Brazoria County stakeholders, the attendees were divided into three groups with experts in homelessness, services, housing, and housing related activities serving as Table Leaders for each group. Each group discussed the following issues: What are the needs and problems? How can the barriers be addressed? What are alternatives for addressing the problem, given the anticipated barriers? Why should funding be prioritized for programs in this subject area(s)? A representative from each table was given 3 – 5 minutes to respond to a question from the facilitator and if any table leader wanted to respond they were given 2 minutes. After formulating responses, each Table Leader was given an opportunity to report their findings to the entire assembly and receive comments.

#### **Group Session Feedback:**

#### **Group 1 Summary:**

This group consisted mostly of homeless supportive service providers and agreed that barriers such as history of evictions, lack of rental deposits and criminal backgrounds were preventing access to housing choice which makes this qualified population more vulnerable at a higher risk of homelessness. Homeless youth are often unaware of resources available and lack transportation to many places offering assistance.

#### **Group 2 Summary**

This group consisted of housing service providers and determined Non-Congregate Shelters were the highest priority needs due to the lack of affordable and available housing for elderly, disabled and those recently released from incarceration. The cost of living is increasing too fast for low-income households depending on a fixed income. Additional suggestions were made such as purchasing building with tax liens and convert the building into a Non-Congregate Shelter to maximize the HOME ARP Funding.

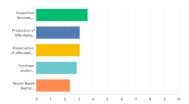
#### **Group 3 Summary**

This group consisted mostly of victim service providers identified the lack of access and knowledge of resources as the greatest barrier to address the qualified population's need. The County should encourage more collaboration and coordination of services between providers to increase case management and referrals. This groups believes there are more than enough assistance programs available such as food, utility, and rent and HOME ARP funding should prioritize to the development of affordable housing units.

#### **Survey Responses:**

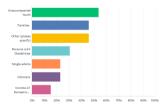
Results from the online survey emailed to each invited agency by the County show Supportive Services as the most pressing need to address homelessness followed by the Production of Affordable Housing and Preservation of Affordable Housing.

Q6 From your organization's perspective, what are the most pressing needs to address homelessness in your area? Please rank the following ARP Funding Categories based on community homeless need, with 1 being your highest homeless priority need and 5 being the lowest homeless priority need. Make sure that each rank (1 to 5) is associated with only one funding category.



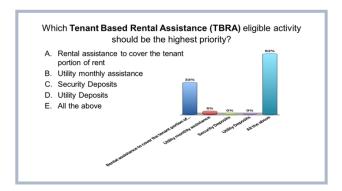
Unaccompanied Youth is showing to be the highest need for services in the County followed by Families.

Q5 Please identify the population with the highest need for services based on your organization's experience (check all that apply).

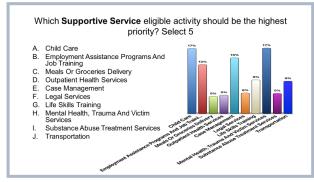


In Person Needs Assessment Survey Results

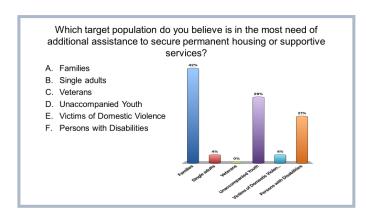
During the agency workshop, community stakeholders participated in a HOME-ARP Needs Assessment Survey. The county reached out to community organizations – including organizations serving the homeless, those at risk of homelessness, public housing organizations, affordable housing developers, housing authority, and civil rights agencies. The survey was conducted in person using Turning Point Polling Software on November 28, 2022, by the twenty-six attendees.



The Needs Assessment Survey asked respondents, Which Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) activity should be the highest priority? Respondents selected "All the above" with 62% followed by "Rental assistance to cover the tenant portion of rent" with 33% as the highest priorities.



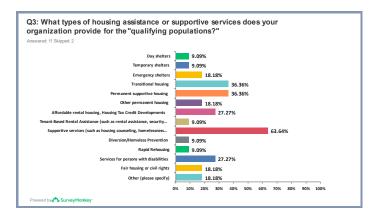
The 5 highest selected Supportive Service eligible activities were Child Care, Mental Health, Trauma and Victim Services, Case Management, Employment Assistance Programs and Job Training and Life Skills Training



Of the 26 survey respondent's 42 percent decided Families were determined to be the target population in the most need of additional assistance to secure permanent housing or supportive services followed by Unaccompanied Youth with 29 percent and Persons with Disabilities with 21 percent of responses

#### **Online Needs Assessment Survey Results**

During the consultation process an online survey was conducted through Survey Monkey and distributed via email to agencies and organizations unable to attend the November 28, 2022, workshop, and included all United Way of Brazoria County participating agencies.



The top services provided by the respondents are Supportive services (such as housing counseling, homelessness prevention, childcare, job training, legal services, case management, etc.) at 63.6 percent, Transitional housing at 36.3 percent and Permanent supportive housing at 36.3 percent.

### **Public Participation**

Describe the public participation process, including information about and the dates of the public comment period and public hearing(s) held during the development of the plan:

- Date(s) of public notice: February 17, 2023 & February 24, 2023
- Public comment period: February 23, 2023- end date March 10, 2023
- Date(s) of public hearing: February 28, 2023

#### Describe the public participation process:

The county held a workshop session for agencies on November 28, 2022, at United Way of Brazoria County to discuss the following issues: What are the needs and problems? How can the barriers be addressed? What are alternatives for addressing the problem, given the anticipated barriers? Why should funding be prioritized for programs in this subject area (s)?

The Public Comment period for the HOME-ARP Allocation plan and Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment will begin on February 23, 2023 and conclude on March 10, 2023. A Public Notice will be published in the local newspaper and include information regarding the proposed plan as well as the scheduled Public Hearing. Comments were allowed to be submitted by mail, phone, fax, email or during the public hearing.

#### Describe efforts to broaden public participation:

Consultation letters were sent via email to community stakeholders requesting their input and participation at the November 28, 2022, agency workshop. Invitations to attend the agency workshop were sent via email to over 100 organizations in Brazoria County. This included social service organizations, homeless service providers, advisory boards, neighborhood associations, and other nonprofit organizations. A list of these organizations and the letter are attached to this plan.

Summarize the comments and recommendations received through the public participation process either in writing, or orally at a public hearing:

Brazoria County considered all comments or views of residents received in writing, or orally at a public hearing, when preparing the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment.

Summarize any comments or recommendations not accepted and state the reasons why: No comments or recommendations were rejected.

## **Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis**

The following table includes data from the HUD 2022 Point-In-Time and Housing Inventory Count Report for Brazoria County.

<u>Table - 1 Homeless Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table</u>

	Homeless												
	Current Inventory				Homeless Population			Gap Analysis					
	Fan	nily	Adults	s Only	Vets	Family	Adult			Far	nily	Adults	s Only
	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	HH (at least 1 child)	HH (w/o child	Vets	Victims of DV	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units
Emergency Shelter	22	1	65	0	0								
Transitional Housing	0	0	6	0	0								
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	0	0	0	0								
Other Permanent Housing	25	25	17	0	0								
Sheltered Homeless						1	40	33	7				
Unsheltered Homeless						2	32	3	0				
Current Gap										37	23	16	-72

Data Sources: 1. Point in Time Count (PIT); 2. Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count (HIC); 3. Consultation.

- Gap Analysis (Family Beds) = Family Beds (47), less Homeless Persons in Households with at least 1 child = 37 beds
- Gap Analysis (Family Units) = Family Units (26), less Homeless Family Households (10) = 23 units
- Gap Analysis (Adult Beds) = Adult Beds (88), less Homeless Adult Persons (78 see Table 3) = 16 beds
- Gap Analysis (Adult Units) = Adults Units (0), less Homeless Adult Households (72) = -72 units

Table – 2 Housing Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table

Non-Homeless						
	<b>Current Inventory</b>	Level of Need	Gap Analysis			
	# of Units	# of Households	# Of Households			
<b>Total Rental Units</b>	32,870					
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI (At Risk of Homelessness)	3,050					
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 50% AMI (Other Populations)	11,060					
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (At Risk of Homelessness)		5,395				
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (Other Populations)		1,075				
Current Gaps			7,640			

Data Sources: 1. American Community Survey (ACS); 2. Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS)

Describe the size and demographic composition of qualifying populations within the boundaries of Brazoria County:

#### Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

In January 2020, the County created its own homeless coalition and conducted its first Point in Time count a month later. The Homeless Coalition of Brazoria County is part of the Texas Homeless Network's Balance of State Continuum of Care program.

According to the 2022 Point-In-Time (PIT) count, there are 82 people who are experiencing homelessness in Brazoria County. The count includes 42 people that are staying in shelters and 40 that are unsheltered. The 2022 Brazoria County PIT count reports that out of the 82 people who are experiencing homelessness in the county 3 are under 18 years old and 2 are age 18 to 24 and 79 are over the age of 18 (count includes ages 18 – 24). Most people participating in the PIT count indicated that they were either White (32), Black or African American (20) while 21 reported no race. The Brazoria County 2022 PIT count finds that of the 82 people experiencing homelessness, 24, or 30%, are Severely Mentally III, 12,or 15%, are Chronic Substance Abuser and 7, or 9 %, are Victims of Domestic Violence. The PIT count also shows there are 36, 44%, Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Although the PIT count includes some homeless data for youth under the age of 18 and between the ages of 18-24, more data was provided by the 8 Independent School Districts in Brazoria County showing a count of 848 homeless students and 471 unaccompanied youth.

Table 3 – Persons and Households Experiencing Homelessness

Overall, Persons	<b>Sheltered Persons</b>	Unsheltered Persons	Total
Individuals	40	32	72
Families	2	8	10
Total	42	40	82
Percent	51.2%	48.7%	100.0%

Overall Households	Sheltered Households	Unsheltered Households	Total
Individuals	39	31	70
Families	1	2	3
Total	40	33	73
Percent	54.7%	45.2%	100.0%

Data Sources: 2022 Point in Time Count (PIT)

Table 4 – Demographics of Persons Experiencing Homelessness (by Household)

Gender	<b>Sheltered Persons</b>	Unsheltered Persons	Total
Male	32	19	51
Female	3	6	9
Transgender	0	0	0

Neither Male/Female	1	0	0
Did not Report	6	15	21
Total	42	40	82

Data Sources: 2021 Point in Time Count (PIT)

Race	Sheltered Persons	Unsheltered Persons	Total
Black	15	5	20
White	20	12	32
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	2	2
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Multiple Races	1	1	2
Did Not Report	6	15	21
Total	42	35	77

Data Sources: 2022 Point in Time Count (PIT)

<b>Ethni</b> city	Sheltered Persons	Unsheltered Persons	Total
Non-Hispanic	32	19	51
Hispanic	5	7	12
Did Not Report	2	14	16
Total	39	31	70

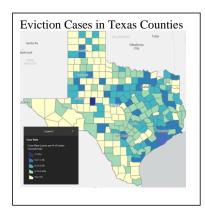
Table 5 - Subpopulations of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

Other Sub-Populations	Sheltered Persons	Unsheltered Persons	Total
Veterans	33	3	36
Survivors of Domestic Violence	7	0	7
Unaccompanied Youth	1	0	1
Parenting Youth	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless	9	6	15
Adults with Severe Mental Illness	19	5	24
Adults with Substance Abuse Disorder	9	3	12

#### At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

Extremely low- and low-income individuals and families with children who are currently housed are often living from one check to the next with no savings or safety net to fall back on should an unexpected event or emergency occur. These households include all types, single person, small family, large family, and elderly. Characteristics include lack of education, lack of transportation, lack of adequate daycare, inadequate health insurance, drug or alcohol abuse or serious illness. These persons are at risk of losing their homes through foreclosure or eviction, and unless they have extended family or other support, they are at risk of needing to reside in a shelter or becoming unsheltered.

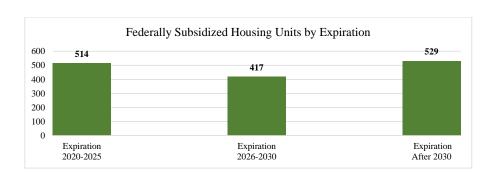
Texas Eviction Case Tracker tracks eviction filings provided by the State of Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA) in all Texas counties. Since 2020 to monitor the impact of Covid-19, OCA shows evictions filed against residents in Brazoria County at a rate of .0071 per number of renter households. The eviction cases filed rate is among the highest counties in Texas. The map provided shows the Evictions Case Rate of all Texas counties with the darker blue areas representing counties with the highest Eviction Case Rate. Because eviction cases against Brazoria County residents are filed at a rate higher than most Texas counties, the risk of homelessness increases substantially if theses renters are unable to receive short term assistance to pay the arrearage.



According to the latest Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) released in 2022 by HUD, renter households earning less than 30 percent of the area median income account for 22 percent of the 33,880 renter households in Brazoria County.

<b>Income Distribution Overview</b>	Owner	%Owner	Renter	%Renter	Total
Household Income <= 30% HAMFI	7,030	8.0%	7,460	22.0%	14,490
Household Income >30% to <=50% HAMFI	8,425	9.6%	6,075	17.9%	14,500
Household Income >50% to <=80% HAMFI	12,735	14.5%	7,980	23.6%	20,715
Household Income >80% to <=100% HAMFI	9,075	10.4%	3,690	10.9%	12,765
Household Income >100% HAMFI	50,380	57.5%	8,675	25.6%	59,055
Total	87,645	100.0%	33,880	100.0%	121,525

By 2025, the affordability restrictions on 514 units of federally subsidized housing in Brazoria County are set to expire. Restrictions on an added 417 units are set to expire by 2030 and 529 units will expire after 2030. Some of these units will remain within the subsidized inventory as owners elect to renew their rent subsidy contracts or recapitalize the properties using new federal subsidies.



The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) is funded by HUD, providing assistance to extremely low and very low-income individuals and families. Through the HCV Program, participants can select housing of their choice from a participating landlord and the voucher allows them to pay a reasonable share of their rent while the program makes up the difference.

The Brazoria County Housing Authority administers the Housing Choice Voucher Program with a combined allocation of 639 vouchers. Of those 639 vouchers 53 are Emergency Housing Vouchers. There are no special purpose vouchers such as Project Based Vouchers, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Units, Mainstream Vouchers or Non-Elderly Disabled Vouchers.

The table below reports the economic and social characteristics of people at risk of homelessness as a percent of the total population. According to the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 368,575 people living in Brazoria County, 36.2 percent are not in the labor force and 3.6 percent are unemployed. Without sufficient employment the people in this group may lack enough income to afford stable housing and would be vulnerable to becoming homeless. Poverty data in Brazoria County reports 7.6 percent of the population with incomes below the poverty line and 6.4 percent of all families living in poverty. A lack of affordable housing units or rental assistance may impact those experiencing poverty and increase the likelihood of homelessness. Brazoria County reports 26.6 percent of households are receiving Social Security Income (34,798) and 20.8 of households are receiving Retirement Income (27,230) which when combined means 62,028 households are living on a fixed income and account for approximately half of the county's 124,284 total households. The risk of becoming homeless may be greater for households living on a fixed income if their housing cost increase significantly.

Table 6 - Characteristics of At Risk and Other Unstably Housed Populations

Unemployment		
Unemployed	10,586	3.6%
Not in Labor Force	106,006	36.2%
People Living in Poverty		
<b>Total Persons Living in Poverty</b>	27,862	7.6%
Families Living in Poverty		
Families Living in Poverty	43,247	6.4%
Female Head of Household Families Living in Poverty	17,161	20.1%
Living on Fixed Income		
Households Receiving Social Security	34,798	26.6%
Households Receiving Supplemental Security Income	5,218	4.0%
Households Receiving Cash Public Assistance	5,797	4.4%
<b>Households Receiving Retirement Income</b>	27,230	20.8%
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP Benefits	10,365	7.9%
Housing Cost Burden		
Households Paying More Than 30% of Income to Housing	52,820	57.5%

Source: 2021 American Community Survey

Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice

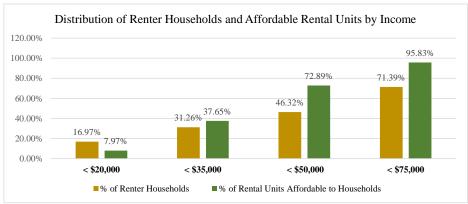
Based on data provided by The Texas Protective Order Registry, in 2022, Civil and Family Case Activity shows 186 protective orders were signed. This group can include physical abuse or threat from a spouse or ex-spouse, but also other persons in dating relationships, being stalked, and victims of sexual assault. This represents almost 200 persons who may be looking to flee their situations and may become precariously housed. In 2021, the county's Point-In-Time counted reported 7 homeless victims of Domestic Violence are currently sheltered.

Data from the Brazoria County Sheriff's office reported since 2016 there has been 127 convictions of Sexual Assault involving adults and children,12 convictions of stalking and 1 case filed for Human Trafficking - Commercial Sex Acts.

Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability, as defined by HUD in the Notice

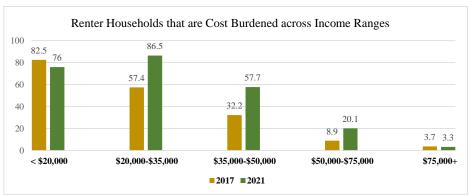
This chart compares the collective share of renters below specified income levels to the share of the rental stock affordable to households within these incomes. In Brazoria County close to 8 percent of renter housing units are affordable to households earning less than \$20,000 which is

less than the 17 percent of renter households in this income group. More households than available housing units in the less than \$20,000 income show an imbalance in housing stock.



Source: 2021 American Community Survey

In Brazoria County, the share of renter households that are moderately or severely cost burdened increased from 38% in 2017 to 41% in 2021. The incidence of housing cost burdens is highest for unassisted renter households with the lowest incomes. In Brazoria County, renter households with incomes of less than \$20,000 had the highest incidence of cost burden in 2021 (82.5%) however, since 2017 cost burden has increased in all households earning more than \$20,000.



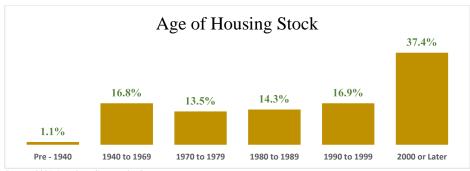
Source: 2021 American Community Survey

Renter households in Brazoria County show 55 percent have housing problems or severe housing problems. HUD defines housing problems as a household that has one or more of the following: lacking a kitchen or plumbing, having more than one person per room, or being housing cost burdened at 30% of more. Renters earning less than 30 percent of the area median account for 17 percent of the household at the greatest risk of housing instability.

Renter Household Income	Renter Households Living with at least 1 Housing Problem	Total	Percent of Total Renter Households
<b>Household Income &lt;= 30%</b>	5,810	7,460	17%
Household Income >30% to <=50%	4,815	6,075	14%
Household Income >50% to <=80%	2,865	7,980	8%
Household Income >80% to <=100%	480	3,690	1%
Household Income >100%	600	8,675	2%
Total	14,570	33,880	43%

Source: CHAS

In Brazoria County, 1.1 percent of the housing units were built before 1940 and 16.8% more between 1940 and 1969. More recently, 37.4% of the housing units have been built since 2000. Typically, older homes tend to require major capital investment or to exhibit lower quality more generally than newer homes. Older housing stock increases the likelihood of issues such as code enforcement violations, the presence of lead-based paint or emergency repairs that immediately threaten the health and safety of the occupants.



Source: 2021 American Community Survey

#### **Disabled Persons**

Analyzing the disabled population in Brazoria County, 33,064 or 9.3 percent are living with a disability of which 8.8 percent are male and 9.7 percent are female. The age group with the highest percentage of persons disabled are those over the age of 75 with 47.0% percent and the age group with the largest population of disabled persons is 35-64 with 12,337 persons living with a disability.

Disability within each race category report 10.7 percent of Whites are disabled followed by

American Indian and Alaska Native alone with 12.1 percent and Black or African Americans with 7.1 percent.

Disabled Population	33,064	9.3%
Male	15,471	8.8%
emale	17,593	9.7%
<b>GE</b>		
Inder 5 years	102	0.4%
to 17 years	2,828	3.9%
8 to 34 years	3,032	3.9%
5 to 64 years	12,337	8.8%
5 to 74 years	7,483	27.7%
5 years and over	7,282	47.0%

RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	Brazoria County	Disabled	Percent Disabled	
White alone	228,431	24,377	10.7%	
Black or African American alone	50,948	3,594	7.1%	
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,105	255	12.1%	
Asian alone	25,029	1,281	5.1%	
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	84	-	0.0%	
Some other race alone	18,510	1,326	7.2%	
Two or more races	31,422	2,231	7.1%	
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	112,650	7,770	6.9%	

Source: 2021 American Community Survey

Analyzing disability by type, 5.2 percent of Brazoria County's disabled population are experiencing ambulatory difficulty followed by 4.1 percent experiencing independent living difficulty and 3.5 percent experiencing cognitive difficulty.

DISABILITY TYPE	Disabled	Percent
	Population	Disabled
Hearing difficulty	9,605	2.7%
Vision difficulty	5,730	1.6%
Cognitive difficulty	11,645	3.5%
Ambulatory difficulty	17,239	5.2%
Self-care difficulty	6,573	2.0%

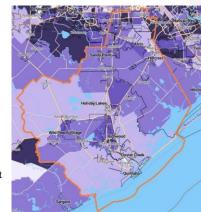
Independent living difficulty10,6984.1%

Source: 2021 American Community Survey

#### Fair Housing /Civil Rights

Lone Star Legal Aid provides free legal aid services for Brazoria County residents based on Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Lone Star Legal Aid reported 630 Fair Housing or Civil Rights cases from 2021 through 2022. The cases mostly involved issues such as non-payment of rent and complaints related to repairs and utilities. Fair Housing rights violations are impediments to Fair Housing choice and can increase a person's risk of homelessness and housing instability.

The map on this page shows the most intense areas of poverty in Brazoria County using HUD's Low Poverty Index. As a part of HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) initiative, The Low Poverty Index uses poverty rates and public assistance receipts to measure the concentration of



poverty by census tracts. The darker purple areas on the map show the highest concentration of poverty in Brazoria County. Populations living in these areas typically have limited options regarding housing choice, transportation, and proximity to jobs. Additionally, this population may become victims to housing discriminatory practices and Fair Housing rights violations such as redlining.

Racially or Ethnically Concentration Areas of Poverty (R/ECAPS) is another indicator a part of HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) initiative. As defined by HUD, R/ECAPS is any census tract with a non-white population of 50 percent or more and poverty threshold of 40 percent or more. Within Brazoria County there are no areas meeting this definition.

#### Veterans and Families that include a Veteran Family Member

Within Brazoria County, Veterans account for 17,156 or 6.1 percent of the population. Male Veterans account for 15,463 or 90.1 percent and female Veteran account 1,693 or 9.9 percent of the population. Veterans by age data shows 30 percent of Brazoria County veterans over the age of 75 followed by veterans 35 to 54 years old at 21.1 percent. Poverty amongst Veterans show 5.8 percent of Brazoria County Veterans living below the poverty line which is lower than the Veterans across the state of Texas at 12.5 percent.

According to the 2022 Point in Time count, 36 Veterans were homeless with 33 in sheltered conditions and 3 were unsheltered. Within the 33 sheltered homeless veterans, 30 of them were men, 16 reported they were white, and 13 were Black African American or African. Of the 33 veterans, 6 were classified as experiencing chronic homelessness.

Identify and consider the current resources available to assist qualifying populations, including congregate and non-congregate shelter units, supportive services, TBRA, and affordable and permanent supportive rental housing (Optional):

Brazoria County receives funding from two federal grant programs, the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) of \$1,813,224, the (HOME) Investment Partnership of \$527,916. The County did not received funding through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) in 2022. The two grant programs combined can support affordable housing, homeless, and community development programs and projects; however, alone are not sufficient to make significant impact towards the development of affordable housing. These funds are used to implement activities in Brazoria County for residents countywide, and the qualifying populations targeted in the HOME-ARP Allocation plan benefit as well.

#### Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations:

Many of the needs of the qualifying populations are similar and include the need for a flexible response system, available housing that is affordable, wrap around services, and supportive services or assistance that could prevent homelessness or greater housing instability.

#### Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

The Sheltered and unsheltered homeless population in Brazoria County have an immediate and urgent need for housing and a path through which they can gain access to available housing units in the community and exit homelessness. Using the 2022 Point in Time data from the Texas Homeless Network's Balance of State CoC, the county has no Permanent Supportive Housing units available for sheltered and unsheltered adults and families. Consultations with local agencies and organizations including survey responses indicate the production of affordable housing as a primary need in the county.

- Production of Permanent Supportive Sousing (PSH) as there are none included in the 2022 Housing Inventory Count to meet the current total system gap of units 37 for single adults, youth, and veterans; this includes a place to live that is affordable paired with supportive services.
- Service agencies in Brazoria County with resources to provide supportive services to low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS as there are none in county currently.
- Encourage the need for services that minimize barriers at risk individuals have when trying to receive permanent housing.
- Expand collaboration and coordination of services between providers to increase case management and referrals.

#### At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

Within Brazoria County individuals and families at risk of homelessness may need housing assistance that could vary from eviction assistance, diversion assistance, or rent and utility assistance in addition to other types of supportive services. Households who need assistance with maintaining or regaining housing to prevent homelessness will benefit from targeted services, like diversion services. Services that may be needed to assist individual and families at risk of homelessness include.

- Legal aid to assist with housing barriers like criminal record expungement, credit repair and eviction assistance.
- Expand the number of agencies providing services to residents with mental health and/or substance use disorders and intellectual disabilities.

By 2025, the affordability restrictions on 514 units of federally subsidized housing in Brazoria County are set to expire. Restrictions on an added 417 units are set to expire by 2030 and 529 units will expire after 2030. Some of these units will remain within the subsidized inventory as owners elect to renew their rent subsidy contracts or recapitalize the properties using new federal subsidies. Additionally, the Public Housing Authority only operates the Housing Choice Voucher Program which includes Emergency Housing Voucher. Additional needs of residents at risk of homelessness include:

- Affordable Housing options such a federally funded programs that offer subsidized renter housing units are needed.
- Maintaining affordability restrictions on expiring subsidized projects so rents do not rise, and reduce stock of units renting at affordable levels..
- Production of affordable housing units targeting to low income Non Disability Elderly residents.

Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice

Women's Center of Brazoria County is the Emergency Shelter available to domestic violence victims and those fleeing Human Trafficking. The expansion of Transitional Housing with resources to offer supportive services like education opportunities, job training, childcare and other services that typically discourage victims from leaving their offenders is needed. Additional needs identified in our consultations include:

- Case Management
- Affordable Housing
- Mental Healthcare

Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability as defined by HUD in the Notice

Households with household income less than or equal to 30% AMI with a cost burden greater than 50% are at risk of homelessness. Based on the CHAS data, there are 4,615 renter households and 2,760 owner households in this category of potential risk. There is a limited supply of truly affordable housing units available for lower-income families. As previously shown households earning less than \$20,000 a year do not have access to enough affordable housing units to accommodate their housing needs.

- With over 43 percent of the renter population living in substandard housing units with at least one housing problem, there is a need to assist residents through supportive service or the rehabilitation of existing units.
- As mentioned in the consultation survey, barriers to affordable housing for these
  residents living in the county include a lack awareness of available resources, and the
  need for legal assistance to expunge criminal records.

#### Veterans

The county began The Veterans Court Program in 2016 designed to provide a judicially supervised regime of treatment and innovative case management to individuals with substance use issues with the goal of returning recovered, law-abiding citizens to communities. The Veterans Court Program is in place to address the county's "High Volume Court System" issue identified in the 2021 Brazoria Community Plan.

- Transitional housing with supportive services to address the issues veterans typically
  face such as the need for legal aid to assist with criminal records related to housing
  barriers
- Rental assistance options through participation in programs like Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program.

Identify any gaps within the current shelter and housing inventory as well as the service delivery system:

The largest gap in the delivery system is geographic. Many agencies serving and sheltering the homeless are located in the adjacent counties of Harris and Galveston. The economies of scale have been such that agencies with Capacity to address the comprehensive needs of the homeless have not found it feasible to locate a satellite program in Brazoria County. There are currently very few agencies that are within Brazoria County's jurisdiction. Compounding the problem, is the shortage of Housing Choice Vouchers and adequate TBRA or Rapid Re-housing funding. Another gap in the services delivery system is coordination of services and centers on the lack of universal participation of providers in the HMIS system.

Under Section IV.4.2.ii.G of the HOME-ARP Notice, the county may provide additional characteristics associated with instability and increased risk of homelessness in their HOME-ARP Allocation plan. These characteristics will further refine the definition of "other populations" that are "At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability," as established in the HOME-ARP Notice. If including these characteristics, identify them here:

The number one indicator of households falling into homelessness from a place of housing instability is a previous history of homelessness. Homeless assistance is the last resort for households in extreme poverty with few resources of their own and limited connections to others who could offer temporary, emergency support. Additionally, when other systems of care, like hospitals, behavioral health settings, child welfare, and criminal justice systems, are unable to address the reasons why people cannot stay housed, people have no alternative than turning

to the homeless response system.

To prevent people from falling into homelessness, public systems for justice, anti-poverty, prevention, health (including behavioral health), child welfare and affordable housing must use data to identify how people are falling into homelessness and target prevention strategies and policies to address these areas.

Additionally, families with children, or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state, including those people who are doubled up in other people's homes because they lack a home of their own, are not considered to be experiencing homelessness by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are not eligible for its homeless assistance. These same families are, however, considered to be experiencing homelessness by the U.S. Department of Education and are eligible for additional educational services and supports. People are "at risk of homelessness" if they are losing their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel or hotel or a doubled-up situation, within the next 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing.

#### Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:

Consultations with local agencies, survey responses and data collected indicate the needs are the greatest for the following populations.

#### **Homeless**

- · Affordable housing
  - o Social Services-Services Associated with Establishing a Permanent Home
  - o Security Deposit Assistance
  - o Rental Assistance
  - o Assistance Enrolling in Government Benefits
  - o Financial Counseling
  - o Transportation
  - o Mental Health Services
  - o Drug And Substance Abuse Counseling

#### At Risk of Becoming Homeless

- Social services services associate with stabilizing a household
  - o Rental Assistance
  - o Financial Counseling
  - o Benefit Navigation
  - Childcare
  - o Mental Health Services
  - o Transportation Assistance

Employment Assistance

# Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking

- Social services services associated with fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, and establishing a safe home.
  - o Transitional Housing
  - o Referral of references
  - o Legal Services
  - o Advocacy Services
  - o Counseling And Case Management

Explain how the level of need and gaps in its shelter and housing inventory and service delivery systems based on the data presented in the plan were determined:

The gaps in services and programs to provide shelter, housing, and services were determined using data from multiple sources, including stakeholder and public engagement. The level of need for unsheltered and shelter households experiencing homelessness was determined by evaluating the number of unsheltered households and the level of resources available to house the families or individuals with permanent supportive housing and critical long-term supportive services to achieve housing stability. For households that are currently housed but have challenges maintaining their home, the level of need was measured by the amount of inventory that had affordable, safe, and adequate living conditions and the number of renter households that are experiencing severe housing cost burdens. These households need housing outcomes that help them stay housed without incumbering them with the cost of their home.

#### **HOME-ARP Activities**

Describe the method(s)that will be used for soliciting applications for funding and/or selecting developers, service providers, subrecipients and/or contractors:

Pending HUD approval of its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, Brazoria County will issue a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for interested and experienced operators and developers of permanent supportive housing and/or affordable housing; tenant based rental assistance; and qualifying supportive services. Preceding the issuing of the RFP, the County will host an advertised pre-solicitation workshop to advise prospective applicants of the process, HOME and HOME-ARP Guidelines and Regulations, and documentations and supportive bid materials that will be required as part of the solicitation. Next, the county will solicit proposals through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The agencies selected through the request for proposal (RFP) will then be contracted to move forward with development, rehabilitation, supportive services, referral, and administration of services for qualified populations and the county will provide oversight, monitoring, and reporting.

#### Describe whether Brazoria County will administer eligible activities directly:

The county will administer the administration and planning activities under the grant. However, administering the remaining eligible activities will be subject to the results of the request for proposal process to identify and contract with agencies, developers, and organizations to submit proposals and those selected for funding will administer activities and projects. Considerations will be given to County Agencies including the Brazoria County Housing Authority and County Departments to assist in the administration of specialized activities.

#### **HOME-ARP** activities

If any portion of Brazoria County's HOME-ARP administrative funds are provided to a subrecipient or contractor prior to HUD's acceptance of the HOME-ARP Allocation plan because the subrecipient or contractor is responsible for the administration of Brazoria County's entire HOME-ARP grant, identify the subrecipient or contractor and describe its role and responsibilities in administering all of Brazoria County's HOME-ARP program:

Brazoria County expects to receive \$1,874,707 from HUD for HOME-ARP. The county through a competitive RFP process will determine the individual activity and amount under category of funding listed in the HOME-ARP Allocation Table below. The County will allocate funds ranging from no dollars for a category and up to the maximum grant amount of \$1,874,707 allocated. The county will indicate the amount of HOME-ARP funding that is planned for each eligible HOME-ARP activity type and demonstrate that any planned funding for nonprofit organization operating assistance, nonprofit capacity building, and administrative costs is within HOME-ARP limits. The following table represents estimates of amount proposed for eligible activities based on our HOME-ARP allocation. These funding amounts are subject to changes based on our request for proposal process and results.

In accordance with Section V.C.2. of the Notice (page 4), Brazoria County must indicate the amount of HOME-ARP funding that is planned for each eligible HOME-ARP activity type and demonstrate that any planned funding for nonprofit organization operating assistance, nonprofit capacity building, and administrative costs is within HOME-ARP limits.

Use of HOME-ARP Funding

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ <del>374,941</del> <u>456,887</u>	2 <u>4</u> 0%	
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ <u>\$806,078</u>	43%	
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ <u>\$300,000</u> #	<u>16%</u>	
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 1,106,078 <u>\$0</u>	<del>59%</del>	
Non-Profit Operating	\$ <del>56,241</del> <u>\$10,536</u>	<u>0.6</u> 3 %	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ <u>\$20,000</u> 56,241	<u>1</u> 3 %	5%

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Administration and Planning	\$ 281,206	15 %	15%
<b>Total HOME-ARP Allocation</b>	\$ 1,874,707		

Describe how Brazoria County will distribute HOME-ARP funds in accordance with its priority needs identified in its needs assessment and gap analysis:

Designated funding amounts in the allocation table are estimates—based on needs demonstrated in the plan and completion of a competitive Request for Applications (RFA) process. The County at its has used its discretion and subject to the selected projects in the Request for ProposalRFA process, will determine to determine the final allocation of funds based on County Commissioners Court approval. Non-Congregate Housing will be eligible for consideration as Affordable Rental Housing and eligible for the dollar amount estimated in the HOME ARP Use of Funds table. Tenant Based Rental Assistance will not be eligible. A determination was made that the County has other needs that surpass the need for increasing the current supply of Tenant Based Rental Assistance. Completion of the RFA process in May 2024, determined that Tenant Based Rental Assistance as a viable and necessary program. Additionally, no viable affordable rental housing projects were selected for funding. The Use of Funds table has been updated to reflect funding made through the RFA process.

Describe how the characteristics of the shelter and housing inventory, service delivery system, and the needs identified in the gap analysis provided a rationale for the plan to fund eligible activities:

There are currently very few agencies that are within Brazoria County's jurisdiction. Many Brazoria County residents visit Harris County or the County of Galveston to get their needs met. Compounding the problem, is the shortage of Housing Choice Vouchers and adequate TBRA or Rapid Re-housing funding. Brazoria County has been able to identify, with the development of the gap analysis and stakeholder meetings, activities that will assist the qualified populations in Brazoria County. The results of the gap analysis shows a need for the production of Permanent Supportive Housing. Additionally, there is a need for an expansion of Affordable Rental Housing which may be achieved through the production of new housing units or the rehabilitation of existing housing units. Cost burdened renters living in substandard conditions remain high at 43 percent. Although the county has Emergency Shelters a lack Transitional Housing for unsheltered homeless population remain a priority.

#### **HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals**

Estimate the number of affordable rental housing units for qualifying populations that Brazoria County will produce or support with its HOME-ARP allocation:

Using HUD's 2022 Unit Total Development Cost Limits, the estimated cost per 700-square-foot 1-bedroom unit is \$222,863 and \$266,214 per 900-square-foot 2-bedroom unit. Since Total Development Cost estimate data is not specifically available for Brazoria County, the estimates provided are based on the greater Houston area. The data along with the housing characteristics

required by the qualifying populations was inserted into HUD's HOME-ARP Housing Production Goal Calculation Worksheet to determine the county's housing production goals. The County's goal is to allocate \$1,106,078 of its funding towards affordable housing and noncongregate housing to leverage and determine a combination of 7-9 newly constructed noncongregate housing units and 9-11 rehabilitated affordable housing rental units. The county intends to provide assistance up \$50,000 per unit or \$500,000 per project to potential developers leveraging multiple sources of funding.

The County's final housing production goals will be determined based on the competitive RFP process allocating funding to specific projects after HUD approval of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. Additionally, the county has the option to adopt the maximum per unit subsidy limit of other federal programs.

Describe the specific affordable rental housing production goal that Brazoria County hopes to achieve and describe how the production goal will address Brazoria County's priority needs:

The county will determine based on the competitive RFP process allocating funding to specific projects after HUD approval of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

#### **Preferences**

Identify whether Brazoria County intends to give preference to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project:

None

If a preference was identified, explain how the use of a preference or method of prioritization will address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or subpopulation of qualifying population, consistent with Brazoria County's needs assessment and gap analysis:

None

#### **Referral Methods**

Identify the referral methods that Brazoria County intends to use for its HOME-ARP projects and activities. Brazoria County may use multiple referral methods in its HOME-ARP program. (Optional):

The county does not intend to use any referral method. Funded project for HOME-ARP will be selected as part of an advertised request for proposal process.

If Brazoria County intends to use the coordinated entry (CE) process established by the CoC, describe whether all qualifying populations eligible for a project or activity will be included in the CE process, or the method by which all qualifying populations eligible for the project or activity will be covered. (Optional):

The county does not intend to use the coordinated entry process for referrals.

If Brazoria County intends to use the CE process established by the CoC, describe the method of prioritization to be used by the CE. (Optional):

N/A

If Brazoria County intends to use both a CE process established by the CoC and another referral method for a project or activity, describe any method of prioritization between the two referral methods, if any. (Optional):

N/A

#### Limitations in a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project

Limiting eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project is only permitted under certain circumstances.

- Brazoria County understands that as a participation jurisdiction it must follow all
  applicable fair housing, civil rights, and nondiscrimination requirements, including but
  not limited to those requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a). This includes, but is not
  limited to, the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, section 504 of
  Rehabilitation Act, HUD's Equal Access Rule, and the Americans with Disabilities Act,
  as applicable.
- Brazoria County may not exclude otherwise eligible qualifying populations from its overall HOME-ARP program.
- Within the qualifying populations, participation in a project or activity may be limited to persons with a specific disability only, if necessary, to provide effective housing, aid, benefit, or services that would be as effective as those provided to others in accordance with 24 CFR 8.4(b)(1)(iv). Brazoria County must describe why such a limitation for a project or activity is necessary in its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan (based on the needs and gap identified by Brazoria County in its plan) to meet some greater need and to provide a specific benefit that cannot be provided through the provision of a preference.
- For HOME-ARP rental housing, section VI.B.20.a.iii of the Notice (page 36) states that
  owners may only limit eligibility to a particular qualifying population or segment of the
  qualifying population <u>if the limitation is described in Brazoria County's HOME-ARP</u>
  Allocation Plan.
- Brazoria County may limit admission to HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS to households who need the specialized supportive services that are provided in such

housing or NCS. However, no otherwise eligible individuals with disabilities or families including an individual with a disability who may benefit from the services provided may be excluded on the grounds that they do not have a particular disability.

Describe whether Brazoria County intends to limit eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project to a particular qualifying population or specific subpopulation of a qualifying population identified in section IV.A of the Notice:

The county does not intend to set any preference

If Brazoria County intends to implement a limitation, explain why the use of a limitation is necessary to address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or subpopulation of qualifying population, consistent with Brazoria County's needs assessment and gap analysis:

The county does not intend to any limitation

If a limitation was identified, describe how Brazoria County will address the unmet needs or gaps in benefits and services of the other qualifying populations that are not included in the limitation through the use of HOME-ARP funds (i.e., through another of Brazoria County's HOME-ARP projects or activities):

N/A

### **HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines**

If Brazoria County intends to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds, Brazoria County must state its HOME-ARP refinancing guidelines in accordance with 24 CFR 92.206(b). The guidelines must describe the conditions under with Brazoria County will refinance existing debt for a HOME-ARP rental project, including:

• Establish a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing to demonstrate that rehabilitation of HOME-ARP rental housing is the primary eligible activity.

Brazoria County does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt

Require a review of management practices to demonstrate that disinvestment in the
property has not occurred; that the long-term needs of the project can be met; and that
the feasibility of serving qualified populations for the minimum compliance period can
be demonstrated.

N/A

• State whether the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units, create additional affordable units, or both.

The county intends to invest HOME-ARP funds to maintain current affordable units and create additional units.

• Specify the required compliance period, whether it is the minimum 15 years or longer.

N/A

• State that HOME-ARP funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG.

The county will not use HOME-ARP funds to refinance any multifamily loans

• Other requirements in Brazoria County's guidelines, if applicable:

N/A

# **Appendices**

APPENDIX A: HOME-ARP NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

APPENDIX B: HOME-ARP NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

APPENDIX C: STAKEHOLDER MEETING PRESENTATION

APPENDIX D: FOCUS GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

APPENDIX E: PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE/ SF-424F SF-424D SF-424B AND

CERTIFICATIONS/RESOLUTION

# APPENDIX A: HOME-ARP NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

	E ARP Allocation Plan
	ria County will Allocated \$1,874,707 for HOME-ARP Qualifying Activities by of Funds Available RFP upon HUD approval of the HOME ARP Allocation
input i	ue our community and citizens' comments, suggestions, and feedback. Your is critical to our success, and public engagement with our citizens and service ies is a top priority
1. Nam	ne of Your Organization?
2. W	hat best describes the organization you are affiliated with? (Select all that ly)
	Homeless Service Provider
	Domestic Violence Service Provider
_	Services Supporting People Fleeing Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking
	Housing Advocate/Developer/Provider
$\Box$	Veterans Group
	Civil Rights
$\overline{\Box}$	Pair Housing
H	People with Disabilities
_	Serving People with High Risk of Housing Instability
	Public Housing Authority
	Addressing the Needs of People Experiencing or at At-Risk Homelessness
_	Other (please specify)
ᆜ	Other (please specify)
L	
3. W	hat types of housing assistance or supportive services does your organization
prov	ide for the
	difying populations?"
	Day shelters
_	Temporary shelters
	Emergency shelters
	Transitional housing
	Permanent supportive housing
	Other permanent housing
	Affordable rental housing, Housing Tax Credit Developments
	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (such as rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits, and utility payments).
	Supportive services (such as housing counseling, homelessness prevention, childcare, job training, legal services, case management, etc.)
	Diversion/Homeless Prevention
	Rapid Rehousing
	Services for persons with disabilities
	Fair housing or civil rights
	Other (please specify)
(Sele	hich of the following "qualifying populations" does your organization serve? ect all that apply).
	Temporary or emergency sheltered individuals/families experiencing homelessness
	Unsheltered individuals/families experiencing homelessness
	Individuals/families at risk of homelessness at or below 30% AMI
	Individuals/families fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
	Individuals/families who serve those at greatest risk of housing instability
	Individuals/families requiring supportive services or housing assistance that would prevent homelessness
	Veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meets one of the preceding criteria
	Other (please specify)
Γ	

	ntify the popula 's experience (c			for services b	ased on your	
Families	o caporionee (c	and the tildt	-PP-3/			
Single adul	lts					
Veterans						
Unaccompa	anied Youth					
Victims of I	Domestic Violence					
Persons wit	th Disabilities					
Other (plea	ase specify)					
. From your or	ganization's pe	rspective, who	at are the mos	t pressing ne	eds to	
	essness in your					
omeless need, with 1 b	eing your highest homele	ess priority need and !	being the lowest hom	eless priority need. I	fake sure that each	
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ink (1 to 5) is associate	ed with only one funding	category.				
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	11. Why should funding be prioritized for programs in this subject area(s)?	
	12. Provide a brief comment on any other areas related to the eligible use of HOME-	
	12. Provide a brief comment on any other areas related to the eligible use of HOME-ARP that should be considered for funding priority.	

# APPENDIX B: HOME-ARP NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY OF RESPONSES 1/17/2023

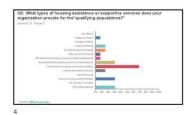




G2: What best describes the organization you are affiliated with? (Select all that apply)

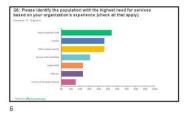
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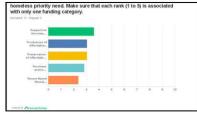
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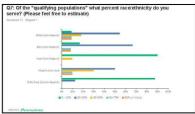


GA: Works of the following "qualifying populations" does your organization enerv? (Select all that apply) 
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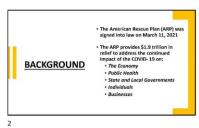




# APPENDIX C: STAKEHOLDER MEETING PRESENTATION

1/17/2023





BACKGROUND Brazoria County \$1,874,707 HOME ARP Congress appropriated \$5,000,000,000 billion dollars to State and Local Jurisdictions (PIs) that qualified for 2021 HOME FUNDS to:

- Provide capital investment for permanent rental housing. Upgrade available stock of shelter to include non-congregate shelter (NCS).
- Provide tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services.
   This funding is used to perform four activities that must primarily benefit qualifying populations (QPs) who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other underselve peopletions.

**HOME-ARP - ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES** INCLUDE: 4

**HOMELESS** QUALIFYING POPULATION







OTHER
POPULATIONS

The act is described to the control of the cont

THEIR FAMILIES VETERANS AND COMPUTATION

VETERANS
AND THEIR
FAMILLES

- Meterans and families that include a veteran member that
- meet the criteria for one of the other qualifying populations.





**ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES** TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE (TBRA)



**ELIGIBLE** • SUPPORTIVE SERVICES **ACTIVITIES** 

16

# SUPPORTIVE SERVICES INCLUDE:

**ELIGIBLE**  NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER **ACTIVITIES** 

18

3

# Dallas, Texas – Transportation Assistance Taxl Cab Transportation to Essential Services – Fare Card Grocery Store, Medical, Pharmacy School, Collage Peauty Salon, Worship Services Salono Accumulate Carryover Balance S300 Caregiver ride fare \$10.00

Shreveport Louisiana - Queensborough Neighborhood Modular Housing



NONPROFIT
OPERATING
AND CAPACITY
BUILDING
ASSISTANCE

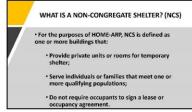
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NCS-**ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES** AND COSTS

- RESTRICTED COSTS:

  Ongoing operating costs of NCS may NOT be pain HOME-ARP funds.

  Costs of Converting HOME-ARP NCS into perman housing during the restricted use period.



Edwin's Leadership Restaurant and Culinary Education Institute 501 (c ) 3 – Cleveland, Ohio

22

Austin, Texas - Tiny Home Development

21



Dallas, Texas - Cluster Housing for Seniors



### APPENDIX D: MEETING SUMMARY

Thank you for attending the in-person agency workshop on November 28, 2022. Your feedback was collected and will be used by the county to determine the highest priority needs. Per HUD, the county is required to prepare a draft identifying the needs of each qualified population while allocating funding to address those needs. Below is a summary of the feedback provided:

# **Group Session Feedback:**

# Group 1 Summary:

This group consisted mostly of homeless supportive service providers and agreed that barriers such as history of evictions, lack of rental deposits and criminal backgrounds were preventing access to housing choice which makes this qualified population more vulnerable at a higher risk of homelessness. Homeless youth are often unaware of resources available and lack transportation to many places offering assistance.

# **Group 2 Summary**

This group consisted on housing service providers and determined Non-Congregate Shelters were the highest priority — needs due to the lack of affordable and available housing for elderly, disabled and those recently released from incarceration. The cost of living is increasing too fast for low income household depending on fixed income. Additional suggestions were made such as purchasing building with tax liens and convert the building into a Non-Congregate Shelter to maximize the HOME ARR Funding.

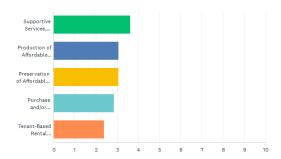
# **Group 3 Summary**

This group consisted mostly of victim service providers identified the lack of access and knowledge of resources as the greatest barrier to address the qualified population's need. The County should encourage more collaboration and coordination of services between providers to increase case management and referrals. This groups believes there are more than enough assistance programs available such as food, utility, and rent and HOME ARP funding should prioritized to the development of affordable housing units.

# **Survey Responses:**

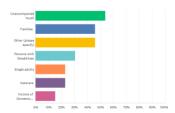
Preliminary results from the online survey posted by the County show Supportive Services as the most pressing need to address homelessness.

Q6 From your organization's perspective, what are the most pressing needs to address homelessness in your area? Please rank the following ARP Funding Categories based on community homeless need, with 1 being your highest homeless priority need and 5 being the lowest homeless priority need. Make sure that each rank (1 to 5) is associated with only one funding category.



Unaccompanied Youth is showing to be the highest need for services in the County.

Q5 Please identify the population with the highest need for services based on your organization's experience (check all that apply).



At this time the county is collecting data on each qualified population to assist with identifying the highest priority need. Robert Joiner with JQUAD Planning Group will continue to contact you individually for any data request. Please take a moment to complete the online survey available here <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MVLBBYN">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MVLBBYN</a>

# APPENDIX E: PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE/ SF-424F, SF-424D, SF424B AND CERTIFICATIONS/RESOLUTION

# PUBLIC NOTICE

# BRAZORIA COUNTY HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN/2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT

The draft Amendment for the 2021 Annual Action Plan (AAP) and the HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP) Allocation Plan is available for review and comment at the Brazoria County Community Development Department located at 1524 E. Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas, 77515 from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, February 23 – March 10, 2023, and on our website at <a href="https://www.brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/housing-and-urban-development/action-plan">https://www.brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/housing-and-urban-development/action-plan</a> .

The PY 2021 Annual Action Plan/HOME ARP allocation plan includes information on funds anticipated to be received and the range of eligible activities that may be undertaken to be included in a report submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

#### **Public Hearing**

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 5:30 pm at the Brazoria County East Annex Lobby located at 1524 East Mulberry, Angleton, Texas to receive input and comments from the public. This venue is accessible for persons with physical disabilities. The public hearing will be conducted in English; however, Spanish and sign language interpreters can be made available upon request, and persons needing other special accommodations to attend the public hearing should contact Daphne Lemelle at (979) 864-1860, at least 48 hours prior to the hearing so that accommodations can be made.

### **Public Comment**

Public comments on the PY 2021 Annual Action Plan/HOME ARP allocation plan can be submitted by mail or in person to the Brazoria County Community Development Department, 1524 E. Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas 77515, by fax to (979) 864-1089, or by email to <a href="Daphnet@brazoriacountytx.qov">Daphnet@brazoriacountytx.qov</a> . Please submit all comments by 5 pm on March 10, 2023. Written comments received by this date and time will be submitted with the 2021 Annual Action Plan Amendment/HOME ARP Allocation Plan to HUD.

Para información general, por favor llame a Daphne Lemelle al (979) 864-1860. Ademas, pueden presentarse observaciones por escrito al Departamento de Desarrollo de Comunidad del Condado de Brazoria, 1524 E. Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas 77515 o por fax al (979) 864-1089. Por favor de enviar cualquier comentario antes de las 5:00 p.m. del 10 de marzo de 2023.



#### **NOTICIA PÚBLICA**

## PLAN DE ASIGNACIÓN HOME-ARP DEL CONDADO DE BRAZORIA/ENMIENDA DEL PLAN DE ACCION ANUAL 2021

El Proyecto de la Enmienda para el plan de acción anual 2021 (AAP) y el plan de asignación HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP) está disponible para su revisión y comentarios en el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario del Condado de Brazoria ubicado en 1524 E. Mulberry, suite 162, Angleton, Texas, 77515 de 8 am a 5 pm, de lunes a Viernes, del 23 de febrero al 10 de marzo de 2023, y en nuestro sitio web en <a href="https://www.brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/housing-and-urban-development/action-plan">https://www.brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/housing-and-urban-development/action-plan</a>.

El plan de asignación del Plan de Acción Anual PY 2021/HOME ARP incluye información sobre los fondos que se prevé recibir y la serie de actividades subvencionables que pueden llevarse a cabo para su inclusión en un informe presentado al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE.UU. (HUD).

#### Audiencia Pública

Se llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el martes 28 de febrero de 2023 a las 5:30 pm en el Brazoria County East Annex Lobby ubicado en 1524 East Mulberry, Angleton, Texas para recibir aportes y comentarios del público. Este lugar es accesible para personas con discapacidades físicas. La audiencia pública se llevará a cabo en Inglés, sin embargo, intérpretes de español y lenguaje de señas pueden estar disponibles bajo petición, y las personas que necesiten otras acomodaciones especiales para asistir a la audiencia pública deben ponerse en contacto con Daphne Lemelle al (979) 864-1860, por lo menos 48 horas antes de la audiencia para que se puedan hacer las acomodaciones.

# Comentarios Públicos

Los comentarios públicos sobre el Plan de Acción Anual PY 2021/Plan de Asignación de ARP a la Vivienda pueden presentarse por correo o en persona al Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario del Condado de Brazoria, 1524 E. Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas 77515, por fax al (979) 864-1089, o por correo electrónico a DaphneL@brazoriacountytx.gov. Sírvase presentar todos los comentarios antes de las 5 p.m. del 10 de marzo de 2023. Los comentarios por escrito recibidos antes de esta fecha y hora se presentarán junto con la Enmienda al Plan de Acción Anual 2021/Plan de Asignación de ARP a HUD.

For general information, please call Daphne Lemelle at (979) 864-1860. Also, written comments can be submitted to the Brazoria County Community Development Department, 1524 E. Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas 77515 or by fax to (979) 864-1089. Please submit any comments by 5:00 pm March 10, 2023.



