

**Harris County Substantial Amendment to PY2008 Annual Action Plan  
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG-R)  
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**

Harris County has prepared this Amendment to the Program Year 2008 Annual Action Plan (Action Plan) submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on January 15, 2008 to include the additional allocation to Harris County of \$2,919,475 in Community Development Block Grant Program Funds (CDBG) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The CDBG-R provided \$1 billion under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) to state and local governments to carry out eligible activities under the CDBG program.

Harris County, under this Amendment to the Action Plan, is proposing to fund three infrastructure projects. These are shovel-ready projects that will be managed by an experienced subgrantee. The projects will stimulate the local economy by modernizing infrastructure that serves Harris County low-income residents.

**A. Recovery Act Funding for Projects**

Harris County selected three infrastructure activities that will improve the wastewater system for Harris County Water Control & Improvement District (WCID) No. 36. Below is a list of the projects that will be funded:

1. North Zone #1 Wastewater Improvements Project
2. North Zone #2 Wastewater Improvements Project
3. Southzone Wastewater Improvements Project

Because of the nature of these projects, Harris County is not including other Recovery Act funding as part of the total budget for the CDBG-R activities.

**B. Section 1602 Requirements**

These projects originally applied for funding under Harris County's regular PY2009 Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The projects were not funded initially because of limitations of available funding through the RFP and regular entitlement, but are shovel-ready projects having the ability to quickly expend CDBG-R funds. Environmental reviews for these projects are already complete, and, upon approval of the Amendment, Harris County will be able to move quickly toward contract. Harris County fully anticipates that all three projects will begin funding immediately upon approval of contract and should be able to spend 50 percent of the funds expeditiously.

**C. Selected Activities and Economic Benefit**

These stimulus fund improvements will create new jobs or extend existing jobs that will otherwise be lost in this low-income area. Historically, most of the General Contractors that bid work in this area are local and hire local residents. Work will employ both higher skilled and less skilled workers. Jobs include engineers, designers, managers, superintendents, clerical, inspectors, testers, equipment operators, and labor. Secondary employment includes suppliers of concrete, asphalt, pipe, fittings, aggregate, construction equipment, fuel, signs and safety equipment. Direct and indirect employment will average 30 people in the field with at least 20 additional indirect employees during the Project.

Government statistics indicate that for each \$1.00 spent on infrastructure creates \$2.70 of GDP expenditure. These projects will provide in excess of \$3,300,000.00 (includes match) direct expenditure and a total impact of over \$9,000,000.00. These economic recovery funds will be used for projects and programs that have a lasting impact, not simply a short-term fix. Replacing these badly deteriorated sewer lines will provide a long term benefit for the District by extending the life expectancy of the system by at least 50 years.

**D. Job Creation**

The table below describes the expected jobs created and retained by each project

	North Zone #1	North Zone #2`	Southzone
Full Time Created	30	30	30
Full Time Retained	8	8	8
Part Time Created	30	30	30
Part Time Retained	0	0	0

**E. Reducing Pollution and Green Building Technologies**

All three projects reduce pollution because eliminating Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) reduces the cost of collecting, pumping, maintaining, operating & treating sewer water. Improving the wastewater lines also reduces pollution by reducing sewer backups, line cleaning and disposal of contaminated material as a result of such backups. Replacing collection lines and manholes will reduce leakage into the system, increasing energy & water movement efficiency. Wet weather reductions make the infrastructure system more “green.”

**F. Grantee Administrators**

The Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD) is housed is a public office and all employees’ contact information is available through the Harris County online directory found at [http://www.co.harris.tx.us/hc\\_phone\\_dir/deptinfo.asp?DropDown=11&Submit=List+Department](http://www.co.harris.tx.us/hc_phone_dir/deptinfo.asp?DropDown=11&Submit=List+Department) In addition, HCCSD has created a webpage for the CDBG-R funds that contains all relevant Amendment and contact information. The public can access this webpage through the HCCSD website or by going to <http://www.csd.hctx.net/Article.aspx?ArticleID=870>