



City of Wharton

120 E. Caney Street ° Wharton, TX 77488
Phone (979) 532-2491° Fax (979) 532-0181

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 21, 2019
From: Gwyneth Teves, Community Development Coordinator
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
City Attorney Paul Webb
Subject: Status of City of Wharton Grant Projects Report No. 2019-01

Below, I have outlined a report on the status of the City of Wharton Grant Projects:

Infrastructure/Construction:

1. FEMA – Sewer Infrastructure Mitigation

Application submitted 10/13/16 under the DR-4269. On 10/17/17 the City staff received notification that the project has been selected for FEMA review. City staff has responded to 6 RFI's on this project as of January 2019. FEMA review has found the BCA of the project to be less than 1.00. City staff is working with TDEM/FEMA to attempt to enhance the BCA.

2. FEMA – Warning System Mitigation (Siren Warning System)

Application submitted 10/13/16 under the DR-4269. This project was awarded 02/26/2018 and was accepted by the City Council on 03/26/18. Scope change approval was received February 1, 2019. City staff is preparing bid documents to go out for bid on equipment and installation.

3. HMGP – Riverfront Park Soil Stabilization

Application submitted by GrantWorks Inc. in December 2018.

4. CDBG-DR – Infrastructure

Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City is designated to receive \$1,650,172.00 for infrastructure projects related to Hurricane Harvey. Project applications will be completed and submitted by GrantWorks for eligible projects.

5. NRCS – Alabama Channel Repairs

NRCS has awarded a grant of \$307,167.84 for repairs. The project was awarded at the January 28, 2019 Council Meeting. Jones & Carter is currently executing construction contracts.

6. TPWD – Harris Park Improvements

Wharton Economic Development submitted on behalf of the City of Wharton an

application for Grant Funds through the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation for improvements to the Harris Park. Notice of awards should be available in March 2019.

7. HMGP – FEMA Shelter/Dome

HMGP Application submitted by WISD for FEMA Shelter/Dome. Project has been forwarded from TDEM to FEMA for review and approval.

8. 2019-2020 CDBG – South East Ave. Sanitary Sewer Repairs

Application is currently being created by GrantWorks Inc. Jones & Carter is assisting in the development of the application. The application to be submitted by March 2019.

Housing:

9. HMGP – Residential Elevation/Reconstruction of 100 Homes

Application completed and submitted by GrantWorks Inc. in December 2019.

10. FEMA – Residential Mitigation (Elevation/Reconstruction of Homes)

Submitted on 1/20/17 under a second funding opportunity for DR 4272 and we are awaiting a response.

11. TDHCA – HOME Reservation Participation

Applicants are currently being notified of any outstanding paperwork for their applications and are being asked to send this information in to finalize their applications. There were 73 applicants from throughout the city that submitted applications to participate in the program. There are currently 43 still working on applications. There are 7 applicants in title phase and 2 have been fully approved through TDHCA. 1 applicant has been awarded funding as of 2/16/19. Contracts are being created for signature.

12. GLO Community Development and Revitalization Program

The City Council procured GrantWorks, Inc. for administration and Jones & Carter for engineering.

13. FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

Call for application was made on August 11, 2017. The application was submitted 10/30/17 for the Nan Ya Lift Station and we are awaiting a response.

14. CDBG-DR – Buyouts/Acquisitions

Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City is designated to receive \$1,693,784.00 for buyout/acquisition projects related to Hurricane Harvey. Project applications will be completed and submitted by GrantWorks for eligible projects.

15. 2016 CDBG-DR – Housing Elevation/Reconstruction

Notification of \$2,000,000 funding was received by city staff on February 4, 2019. This funding will assist homeowners with elevation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of homes to address existing damage and mitigate future damage. Contracts with the GLO are pending.

Studies:

Other:

16. HMGP – Critical Facility Generators

HMGP Application was submitted on 9/11/18 and we are awaiting a response.

17. FEMA – Temporary Housing Units

The FEMA Texas Recovery Office issued a news release on January 30, 2019 advising occupants of Temporary Housing Units that they will be required to pay rent if still occupying the units beginning March 1, 2019. City staff is currently aware of 19 THU still in the City. Occupants have been working with the Wharton Long Term Recovery Team to request appeals on the amount of rents being requested. City staff is also going to be taking a proactive approach with these 19 citizens and will be mailing a letter to each resident of the THU to advise of the need to begin making preparations for the expiration of the FEMA housing on August 25, 2019. City staff will be contacting each resident to discuss the current status on their permanent residence and providing information on available assistance programs.

18. GLO – Homeowner Assistance Program

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) allocated \$1.098 billion in Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), for rehabilitation and reconstruction of thousands of owner-occupied single-family homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

Wharton County has had 148 applications submitted to this program since the application opening in December 2018. Numerous applicants are in the environmental process which precedes the construction phase.

19. GLO – Homeowner Reimbursement Program

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) allocated \$100 million in Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to reimburse homeowners for up to \$50,000 in out-of-pocket expenses to repair their Hurricane Harvey damaged homes. To be eligible for this program, the home must be the owner's primary residence and eligible repairs must have been completed prior to the applications launch date of Feb. 28, 2019.