

Public Notice

The City of Houston (City), through its Housing and Community Development (HCD), is making changes to its Harvey Economic Development Program (HEDP) Guidelines. The objective of the HEDP is to assist Small Businesses impacted by Hurricane Harvey in establishing, stabilizing, and/or expanding business operations. Funding for this program is made available through Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Hurricane Harvey funds to provide assistance to eligible small businesses located within the City of Houston limits.

The following changes will be implemented to the Guidelines:

- Reorganizing content to address the discontinuation of Dream Fund Loan Program by removing Dream Fund Program related guidelines.
- Revise and increase job creation maximum amount to \$52,200.00 to align with 2023 HUD LMI limits.
- Add information about the Federal Government transition from the use of DUNS to Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- Update Applicant Eligibility and Monitoring Requirements
 - Add ineligibility for privately owned utility companies
 - Add information about Debarment Verification
 - Clarifying the use of 2 consecutive months of payroll to meet National Objective
- Address independent contractor's use of 1099
- Revise and update Crosscutting Federal Regulations

The HEDP draft guidelines have been updated and may be viewed at:

- HCDD website – [Economic Development Program - City of Houston \(houstontx.gov\)](https://houstontx.gov/economic-development-program)
- HCDD Office – 2100 Travis Street, 9th Floor, Houston, TX 77002 (copies may be obtained at this location upon request)

The public has thirty (30) days to comment on this proposed item. The thirty-day period extends from Tuesday, February 13, 2024, through Wednesday, March 13, 2024. For additional information on this item, contact Metchm Lohoues-Washington at (832) 394-6180. Written comments can be submitted by email to Anne.Lohoues-Washington@houstontx.gov. Upon completion of the thirty-day public comment period, HCDD will take these guideline changes to City Council.

For any information about our Complaints and Appeals Process, please access the following: <https://houstontx.gov/housing/complaints.html> and <https://houstontx.gov/housing/appeals.html>. For more information about HCDD and its programs, please access HCDD's website at www.houstontx.gov/housing.