



To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

March 5, 2024

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SUBJECT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide an update on the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding, including the approved Action Plan, budget, and impact on housing in Fort Worth.

The City of Fort Worth received CDBG-DR funds due to the impact of the 2021 winter storm, Uri. The unprecedentedly low temperatures led to treacherous travel conditions and extensive electricity and water outages statewide, significantly impacting residents, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Consequently, in response to this crisis, President Biden declared the storm a major disaster on February 19, 2021.

The City of Fort Worth received an allocation of \$27,420,000.00 in CDBG-DR funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). An initial allocation of \$16,614,000.00 was awarded on March 22, 2022, and an additional allocation of \$10,858,000.00 was awarded on September 30, 2022. These funds are designated to support disaster relief efforts, long-term recovery, infrastructure restoration, housing initiatives, and economic revitalization endeavors. To ensure transparency and community engagement, Neighborhood Services conducted public hearings on August 31, 2022, and December 28, 2022, providing the community with information about the program, including the proposed plan, and soliciting feedback regarding funding allocations. The CDBG-DR Action Plan was submitted to HUD on February 15, 2023, and approved on May 8, 2023.

Neighborhood Services took proactive steps to collaborate with various departments and community partners in assessing the impacts of Winter Storm Uri. All funded activities must be directly or indirectly linked to the storm event. Data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) were used to assess the extent of impact across the city, including insights into residents and businesses that may have received assistance from these resources. The City received reports indicating that two apartment complexes, The Reserve at Bellevue, 7301 Ederville Road (263 units in Council District 5), and Bellevue Chase, 9200 N. Normandale (264 units in District 3), experienced damage during the storm, leading to a reduction in available units for low to moderate-income tenants due to water pipe bursts on both properties. The following programs and activities were approved:

- Single-Family (1-4 units) Housing Rehabilitation and reconstruction of units impacted by the storm
- Multifamily (5+ units) Housing Rehabilitation and reconstruction of properties impacted by the storm
- Mitigation Initiatives to address potential hazards to which the city is susceptible, enhancing its resilience in the face of adversity
- Infrastructure Assistance in development and/or repair of City-owned buildings and land improvements due to damages caused by storm then

In the CDBG-DR Action Plan, \$8 million has been allocated for multifamily rehabilitation and development, which may encompass permanent supportive housing (PSH). If a prospective developer can provide evidence of adequate funding for supportive services and operating expenses, then City staff will assign priority to projects including PSH units in the allocation of funding for multifamily projects. It is important to note that, in compliance with federal regulations, CDBG-DR funds cannot be used for supportive services, vouchers, or general operating expenses.

Please contact Neighborhood Services Director Victor Turner at 817-392-7540 for additional information.

David Cooke
City Manager