

WHAT DID ENFORCEMENT OF FAIR HOUSING LAWS MEAN FOR SURVIVORS OF TEXAS HURRICANES?

Texas received \$3 billion in federal disaster recovery funds for Hurricanes Ike and Dolly in two rounds. Between Round 1 and Round 2, Texas Appleseed and Texas Low Income Housing Information Service filed a Fair Housing Complaint that resulted in changes to how the Round 2 program was implemented.

THE RESULTS



An additional **\$208 million** for the devastated Gulf Coast.



An additional **\$150 million** in funding for low and moderate income households.

REBUILDING HOUSING IN SAFER AND HIGHER OPPORTUNITY AREAS

“Carver Terrace epitomizes the Environmental Justice challenges that exist across the nation. It is located in close proximity to large refineries and various other industrial facilities...residents of Carver Terrace face greater chronic risks from air pollution...as well as a higher risk of emergency events. Significantly during hurricanes these risks become more amplified and more probable.”¹



204 units of multifamily housing relocated in Port Arthur.

“The relocation of the Carver Terrace housing project away from the industrial fence line is in the public interest, and is important to the health and safety of the project residents.”¹



HOMEOWNER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (HOP)

The total number of families participating in HOP = 363 (or 11% of families receiving funds) in Round 2. That's **363 families** who have chosen to rebuild their homes in a safer and higher opportunity area.



MORE MONEY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

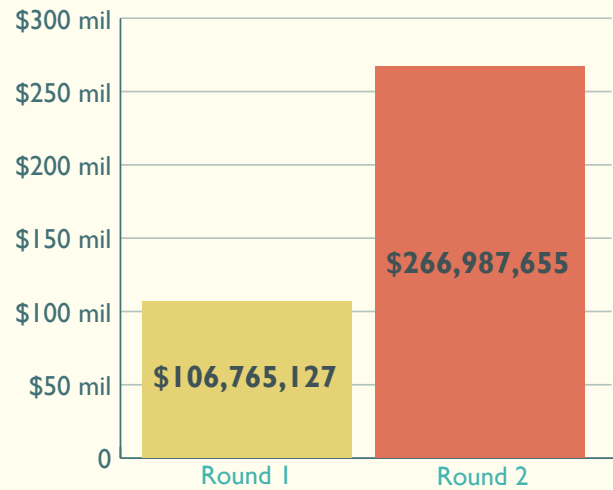
\$30 million specifically dedicated to fixing infrastructure in low-income minority communities.

INCREASED FUNDING FOR HOME REPAIR



Funding for home repair to low-income families increased by 150%.

Amount Paid to Low-Income Families (i.e., 0-30% AMFI) for Home Repair and Reconstruction



Equitable recovery is successful recovery. One of the legacies of segregation is that historically underserved populations — the poor, people of color, persons with disabilities — are more likely to live in areas most vulnerable to natural disasters. The same communities are often overlooked during recovery efforts.²

LESSONS LEARNED

Done well, the disaster recovery process emphasizes the needs of populations most affected by the disaster and results in recovery for the whole community; done poorly, it shortchanges actual recovery needs and results in delay, waste of funds, inequity, lack of accountability, and prolonged displacement and hardship for families whose lives have been disrupted by natural disasters.

TEXAS SHOULD ENGAGE IN PRE-DISASTER PLANNING, NOT REINVENT THE WHEEL FOR EVERY NEW DISASTER.

COLLECTING GOOD DATA IS CRITICAL, AND THE PUBLIC SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE AND HOW DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDS ARE BEING SPENT.

CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES NEED TO BE CONSIDERED AT EVERY STEP OF PRE-DISASTER PLANNING AND RECOVERY.



¹ Ltr. From Lawrence E. Stanfield, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 6, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to Shaun Davis, Executive Director of the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission (April 1, 2011).

² See, e.g., Thomas Gabe, Gene Falk, Maggie McCarty, and Virginia Mason, Hurricane Katrina: Social-Demographic Characteristics of Impacted Areas, Congressional Research Service Report to Congress (November 5, 2005); Alice Fothergill and Peek Lori, Poverty and Disasters in the United States: A Review of Recent Sociological Findings, *Natural Hazards* 32: 89-110, 2004; and Shannon Van Zandt, Walter Gillis Peacock, Wesley E. Highland, and Samuel D. Brody, "Mapping social vulnerability to enhance housing and neighborhood resilience", *Housing Policy Debate* 22(1):29-55 (January 2012).

