



PUBLIC COMMENTS RESPONSE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – MITIGATION PROJECTS

Home Elevation and Family Services of Southeast Texas

JEFFERSON COUNTY

October 16, 2020

1. Comment:

Regarding Home Elevation Project, I am very excited to see the progress you and your team have made to develop a home elevation project that will significantly help many citizens in our county. I have a few concerns that I hope you will take into consideration regarding this application. First, I believe the project description is conflicting with the eligibility requirements. Your Project Description is limiting relief funds to only homes that lie below the BFE, when in-fact hurricane Harvey and tropical storm Imelda flooded thousands of homes that were one foot above the BFE, including my own home. Why does this program limit relief to homes that followed the Counties requirements? Keep in mind, this is not the eligibility requirement that is listed. According to that requirement, we do in fact meet the threshold for this funding. So, will I qualify for this? My recommendation is to add an "or statement" to the project description that includes raising severe repetitive loss properties one foot above the highest recorded historical flood event water level." The proposed post home elevation would only be one foot greater than the counties requirement. Most homes flooded above that level in both flood events. Remediation should be used to eliminate the possibility of future flooding. Please consider this, we are in desperate need of home elevation assistance. Below, I have attached the project description and the eligibility requirements with the concerns highlighted. Thank you for your time."

Response:

Jefferson County staff acknowledge this comment. The county is prioritizing the protection of homes located in the 100- and 500-year floodplain that have a Finished Floor Elevation below the County's Base Floor Elevation + 1 foot standard elevation. Such homes are most at risk of flooding and damage. Prioritizing these homes addresses the most vulnerable property owners with priority to Low to Moderate Income households and seniors. Based on the US Department of Housing and Urban Development source of funding for this program which emphasizes addressing most vulnerable conditions, the county has determined these priorities to be the most appropriate to the funding source. In the coming months, Jefferson County anticipates exploring another viable funding source that may address property owners described in the comment above.



2. Comment:

Regarding Home Elevation Project, *comment was received from a resident supporting the County in applying for the Home Elevation project because repeated flooding.*

Response:

County staff acknowledge this expression of support for the proposed Home Elevation project.

3. Comment:

Regarding Home Elevation Program, *a September 29, 2020 article in the Beaumont Enterprise news described the project applications in Jefferson County. Some readers were confused and contacted the County Auditor's office to apply for the program.*

Response:

Staff of the County Auditor's Office explained to these property owners that the deadline discussed in the article was for application to the Texas General Land Office to fund the program. If funding is awarded, the program will be made available to eligible applicants and at that time home owners will be able to apply for elevation of their individual homes.