



HOUSTON
HOUSING AUTHORITY

Transforming Lives & Communities

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Affordable Housing Begins Journey for Long Road to Recovery for Houston

Housing Authority begins the rebuilding process with relocation and volunteer efforts

Houston – (Sept. 19, 2017) – Working together with FEMA, the City, the State and volunteers, the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) aims to help Houston come back stronger than ever before, and the safety and wellbeing of residents remains top priority.

After a proactive stance in collecting data, it is estimated 2,000 HHA households were impacted by Harvey. Across seven damaged HHA developments, more than 600 units of HHA’s portfolio has been affected. Public housing developments impacted by the flood include Forest Green Townhomes, Clayton Homes and Irvinton Village. Affected Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) properties, the federal government's primary program for encouraging the investment of private equity in the development of affordable rental housing, include Uvalde Ranch, Sweetwater Point, Mansions at Turkey Creek and 2100 Memorial Senior Living.

“Our residents are an extension of our family, and we will do everything in our power to assist them,” HHA President and CEO Tory Gunsolley said. “So far, some of our displaced residents have been relocated to hotels and vacant HHA units. To assist with recovery efforts, we set up work crews at multiple properties, established volunteer programs and launched an online portal where residents can update us on their status.”

After thorough and careful assessment, it has been determined that some developments do not meet required safety and quality standards. At 2100 Memorial Senior Living, a large number of units received water penetration during the storm. Engineers and inspectors who evaluated the building recommend residents vacate the facility for health and safety reasons.

Assessments are still underway, and the HHA provided the following update to residents at 2100 Memorial Senior Living:

- The devastating and extensive flood damage have rendered the apartments to be a health and safety concern due to several building systems being compromised and other issues identified by professional engineers and inspectors.
- All 188 households have received a notice to vacate and remove all property by Sept. 23 at 5 p.m. HHA has identified a number of other LIHTC units that residents can explore as an option for relocation.
- Of the 188, there are a subset of 35 households in the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) who will be issued relocation vouchers on Sept. 20. The HCVP program provides tenant-based assistance, in the form of a voucher, to low-income families, seniors and those with disabilities for rental units.

“We understand that losing one’s home is a painful process, and we are working to ensure our residents can quickly and safely recover,” Gunsolley said. “During this time, we will have FEMA on-site to register residents and have property management representatives available to respond to questions.”

The HHA provides affordable homes and services to thousands of Houstonians. Immediately after Harvey, HHA launched an online system for the region that allows any public housing resident impacted by the storm to update their status and receive real-time updates at www.housingforhouston.com. Residents can contact HHA at 713-260-0600.

ABOUT HHA:

The Houston Housing Authority provides affordable homes and services to more than 58,000 low-income Houstonians, including over 17,000 families housed through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and another 5,700 living in 25 public housing and tax credit developments around the city. HHA also administers one of the nation’s largest voucher program exclusively serving homeless veterans. More information about the Houston Housing Authority can be found at www.housingforhouston.com.

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