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HARRIS COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY RECOGNIZED BY HUD FOR DISASTER RESPONSE EFFORTS

HUD SECRETARY HONORS HOUSING AUTHORITY'S INTEGRAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISASTER HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

January 26, 2010 (HOUSTON) – The Harris County Housing Authority (HCHA) was recently honored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its vital efforts to implement and facilitate the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP), which provided rental assistance and case management to more than 37,000 families nationwide who were displaced by the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. HCHA operated DHAP Harris County and DHAP USA, a national program supporting disaster victims throughout the United States.

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan praised the HCHA's integral role in the program, along with nearly 20 other housing authorities from across the U.S., in an official recognition ceremony in Washington D.C.

Over the past two years, the HCHA has worked to successfully facilitate the program in Harris County as well as across 41 other states. Since DHAP launched, the HCHA's staff—alongside expert social service partners that provided essential case management services—worked tirelessly to assist DHAP families in achieving permanent self-sufficiency. The success of the program locally has made DHAP a model for the rest of the nation. Since its launch, DHAP has been implemented all over the country and is now being used to assist families displaced by Hurricane Ike.

“In 2005, Hurricane Katrina brought more than 250,000 evacuees to Houston. Through our efforts, we were able to help them find safe and sanitary housing in the immediate aftermath of the storm, and then guide them back to self-sufficiency by providing social services and case management through the DHAP Program,” said Guy Rankin, CEO and executive director of the HCHA. “We are thrilled to be receiving a national honor for these achievements, which we hope will serve to help displaced residents in any city after disaster strikes.”

About the Harris County Housing Authority

The Harris County Housing Authority operates housing-choice voucher programs and family self-sufficiency programs for more than 4,100 residents of Harris County. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has given the Authority its highest performance rating for six years in a row. For more information visit: www.hchatexas.org.

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