



## FAMILY WELCOME LETTER

**October 2008**

Dear Potential DHAP Participant:

Welcome to the Disaster Housing Assistance Program - Harris County's -orientation meeting. Here are some key things you need to know about the program:

- DHAP-Ike is a HUD-FEMA initiative to provide monthly rental assistance, case management services, security deposit and utility deposit assistance for certain families displaced from their homes by Hurricanes Ike or Gustav.
- DHAP-Ike has been modeled after the current Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) for families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that is administered by HUD's network of public housing agencies (PHAs).
- Rental assistance payments for the initial phase of referred families will commence no earlier than November 1, 2008. However, a PHA administering DHAP will commence pre-transitional activities for the first group of families transitioning to DHAP once a Grant Agreement is executed and families are referred to the PHA. FEMA will continue to provide housing assistance for the eligible family until the family is placed under a DHAP Disaster Rent Subsidy Contract (DRSC), but no later than May 1, 2009.
- To be eligible for DHAP, the family must have been displaced by Hurricanes Ike or Gustav and referred to HUD by FEMA. FEMA is solely responsible for determining if the family is initially eligible to receive assistance under DHAP. The PHA verifies that a family has been determined eligible for DHAP by FEMA through HUD's web-based Disaster Information System (DIS). Initially there are no income eligibility requirements for DHAP assistance. However, the DHAP under Hurricanes Gustav and Ike will only allow families with housing costs that exceed 30 percent of the family's monthly income are eligible for continued DHAP rental assistance and case management services after the earlier of July 31, 2009, or six months following the effective date of the initial DRSC executed on behalf of the family.
- DHAP is a temporary housing assistance program. DHAP for Hurricane Gustav and Ike will terminate March 2010. In order to prepare the family for this eventuality, case management services are provided for the entire duration of DHAP.
- In addition, beginning on May 1, 2009, families will be required to pay a portion of the rent (in addition to the family's share in cases where the monthly rent exceeds the monthly rent subsidy) of \$50.00, which will increase by an additional \$50.00 each subsequent month, except for families that qualify for an exception on the basis of economic hardship as defined by HUD. This gradual increase in the family share will

further prepare the family to assume full responsibility for their housing costs at the end of DHAP.

You will find in your DHAP Family Toolkit the forms you will need to complete in order to enroll in the DHAP program. We are available to help you to complete the forms and answer any questions you may have.

If you have questions you can call your Housing Authority's DHAP Center at:

**PHONE NUMBER**

866-497-6036

**HOURS**

M – F: 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sat: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**WEB SITE**

[www.dhapusa.org](http://www.dhapusa.org)

Sincerely,  
DHAP Administration