

HARRIS COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Open Government Policy

Effective: August 15, 2012

Last Revised: August 15, 2012

It is the policy of the Harris County Housing Authority (“Authority”) to establish and maintain a system of transparency, public participation and collaboration to ensure the public trust and to protect against waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars entrusted to its care.

- **Transparency:** This openness will promote efficiency by making the Authority accountable to Harris County residents for the Authority’s activities and expenditures.
- **Participation:** This openness will promote effectiveness by soliciting input from Harris County residents on how best to meet the need for affordable housing for the county’s seniors, disabled residents, low-income working families, homeless veterans and other homeless individuals.
- **Collaboration:** This openness will promote collaboration between the Authority, Harris County, the City of Houston and other local cities, the State of Texas, the federal government, nonprofit organizations and private businesses as they collectively seek to harness the most innovative tools and methods to address affordable housing needs in Harris County.

Access to Information

Under the Public Information Act, the Authority will make all public information contained in documents it possesses promptly available upon request to all members of the public, subject to any mandatory or permissive exceptions to disclosure as provided in the Act. Unless the Authority is authorized to withhold the information from the public under the Public Information Act, it is the policy of the Authority to provide the requested documents or the cost estimate for providing the documents promptly (defined as within 10 business days).

Public Information Act

All public information requests will be handled in accordance with the [Texas Public Information Act](#) (Texas Government Code, Chapter 552) subject to the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005 as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. All public information requests must be made in writing and submitted to public.records@hchatexas.org or mailed to:

Public Records Officer
Harris County Housing Authority
1933 Interchange Drive
Houston, Texas 77003

The Authority may charge a fee to fill a request for public documents as provided by the Public Information Act. In interpreting and complying with the Public Information Act, the Authority will rely upon the [Public Information Handbook](#) published annually by the Attorney General of Texas.