Texas received $3 billion in federal disaster recovery funds for Hurricanes Ike and Dolly in two rounds. Between Round 1 and Round 2, Texas Appleseed and Texas Low Income Housing Information Service filed a Fair Housing Complaint that resulted in changes to how the Round 2 program was implemented.

**THE RESULTS**

- **HOMEOWNER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (HOP)**
  - The total number of families participating in HOP = 363 (or 11% of families receiving funds) in Round 2. That’s **363 families** who have chosen to rebuild their homes in a safer and higher opportunity area.

  **204 units** of multifamily housing relocated in Port Arthur.

- **REBUILDING HOUSING IN SAFER AND HIGHER OPPORTUNITY AREAS**
  - “Carver Terrace epitomizes the Environmental Justice challenges that exist across the nation. It is located in close proximity to large refineries and various other industrial facilities...residents of Carver Terrace face greater chronic risks from air pollution...as well as a higher risk of emergency events. Significantly during hurricanes these risks become more amplified and more probable.”

  - “The relocation of the Carver Terrace housing project away from the industrial fence line is in the public interest, and is important to the health and safety of the project residents.”

- **MORE MONEY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE**
  - $30 million specifically dedicated to fixing infrastructure in low-income minority communities.
Done well, the disaster recovery process emphasizes the needs of populations most affected by the disaster and results in recovery for the whole community; done poorly, it shortchanges actual recovery needs and results in delay, waste of funds, inequity, lack of accountability, and prolonged displacement and hardship for families whose lives have been disrupted by natural disasters.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

Equitable recovery is successful recovery. One of the legacies of segregation is that historically underserved populations — the poor, people of color, persons with disabilities — are more likely to live in areas most vulnerable to natural disasters. The same communities are often overlooked during recovery efforts. ²

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1 Letter From Lawrence E. Stanfield, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 6, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to Shaun Davis, Executive Director of the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission (April 1, 2011).


All data obtained from the Texas General Land Office.

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