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Houston Organizing Coalition Lays Groundwork for 2019

A Year in Review for HOME Coalition: Community Power Leads to Community Input in Harvey Rebuilding

An affordable, healthy, and dignified Houston for all to live and work an equitable life

HOUSTON -- For over 12 months, HOME Coalition has been working tirelessly to make sure equity is at the forefront of disaster recovery efforts following Hurricane Harvey. Reflecting on triumphs and challenges of 2018, HOME Coalition released the top 6 influential moments that is leading to equitable recovery efforts after Harvey.

“As Houston and Harris County continue to take action to rebuild after Harvey, longtime community advocates are extremely clear that our communities need to not only be built back, but be built back better. We must address generational systemic issues of inequity to truly recover and thrive,” **said Chrishelle Palay, executive director of HOME.** “The HOME coalition has only begun to build upon years of community efforts towards a more equitable Houston and will continue to lead by putting people over the bureaucratic process.”

1. **Over 6,250 Houstonians served by HOME** coalition and partners through direct service, assistance in applying for federal aid, and intensive neighborhood relief aid across Houston.
2. HOME attended over 20 City of Houston Council and Harris County Commissioner’s Court Meetings, provided public testimonies, and submitted public comment to Houston, Harris County, Texas General Land Office, House Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Ensuring the voices of residents most affected by Harvey and inequities are represented in policy decision making.
3. HOME uncovers the deficiencies in the FEMA funded and Stare run PREPS (Partial Repair and Essential Power for Sheltering) Program PREPS. This program was intended to provide homeowners rapid temporary repair to their homes. HOME members brought light to the inconsistencies and failures of this program.

<https://texashousers.net/2018/05/23/west-street-recovery-makes-recommendations-to-improve-state-run-rapid-repair-program/>.
<https://www.fox26houston.com/news/327977573-video>

4. HOME presented The People's Tribunal on Harvey Recovery, where community members, advocates and experts shared testimony unpacking how housing, immigration, employment and environmental crises facing Houston & Harris County are impacting the most vulnerable populations.
5. Putting People First, in 2018 HOME coalition and partners
FIEL efforts led to the creation of a tenant organizing group after working with Houston families whose apartments were damaged by Harvey.
<https://vimeo.com/251741719>

Texas Housers organized over 120 women in high flood impacted areas. The demand for a just recovery led to a lawsuit being filed against HUD earlier this year.

<https://abc13.com/home/lawsuit-tax-money-paying-for-apartments-that-keep-flooding/3865659/>

COCO and West Street Recovery most recently have worked to repair homes in 5th Ward reaching those that fallen between the cracks that are ineligible for FEMA, have not receive relief assistance after Harvey, or are awaiting the process. Among those helped have been elderly Houstonians, a veteran with disabilities, a young couple with piling medical bills, and a family of five.



Texas Organizing Project organize 550 people from 6 historically underserved communities to meet with the City of Houston to demand an equitable recovery.

A.C.T.I.O.N. CDC continues to provide household goods, furniture and appliances to Houstonians recovering from Hurricane Harvey.

6. HOME held a 2018 Candidate Forum in September to ask candidates for office and incumbents tough questions that impact working Houstonians facing recovery ahead of the 2018 elections. Through this process educating candidates on the issues and holding them accountable to their political promises.

HOME members look forward to a productive 2019 by holding elected officials and decision makers accountable and seeking equity and justice for all.

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Houston Organizing Movement for Equity (HOME) is a coalition of community, policy and service-based organizations committed to an equitable recovery from Hurricane Harvey for all Houstonians. For updates, follow us on Twitter [@HOME_Coalition](https://twitter.com/HOME_Coalition).