



# GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 67

## NEWSLETTER

August 2022

Friends,

As the fall semester begins, I want to wish all the students and families good luck as they return to classes!

ALL Texans (6 months old and up) are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are provided through the city, county, and many other providers.

The Gulfton Superneighborhood Council and Air Alliance Houston hosted a bike ride to collect air pollution data.

The State of Texas has resources for homeowners.

The suicide hotline has changed numbers for easier access.

Applications will open soon for the Texas Travel Industry Recovery Grant Program.

Houston residents are encouraged to take a survey about Winter Storm Uri.

If you would like to have an announcement featured in our newsletter, please contact us at [district137.wu@house.texas.gov](mailto:district137.wu@house.texas.gov) for information on submissions and deadlines.

Sincerely,



Rep. Wu meeting with members of the National Asian Police Officers Association at their conference in Houston earlier this month.

### In this Issue...

- COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- Gulfton Bike Ride
- Homeowner Resources
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## COVID-19 Vaccine Information

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With recent surges in COVID-19 infections, vaccination is more urgent than ever. Data shows that receiving full doses of the vaccine, including booster shots, most effectively combats the most serious symptoms of the virus. Children as young as 6 months old are eligible to receive the vaccine.

Learn more on the [CDC website](#). Click the image below to view a [map](#) of Houston Health Departments offering the vaccine.

**Getting vaccinated is FREE and does not require ID, proof of residency, citizenship, or insurance.**

**People age 6 months and older are eligible for FREE COVID-19 vaccination.** Houston Health Department-affiliated vaccination sites are located across the city for walk-ins or appointments. Find nearby sites below or call 832-393-4220 for assistance. Appointments can also be found at local pharmacies.



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## Gulfton Superneighborhood & Air Alliance Houston

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Gene with GSNC President Sandra Rodriguez and Houston City Council At-Large Member David Robinson

The Gulfton Superneighborhood Council partnered with the Air Alliance Houston this past month to conduct a bike ride through our Gulfton neighborhood to collect data about air pollution.

Air Alliance Houston is working with the Superneighborhood to install air monitors throughout the area to see if and where pollution hot spots exist.

I was thrilled to take part in this community event with our local leaders and families!

# Homeowner Resources

[The Texas Homeowner Assistance Fund Program](#) provides financial assistance to qualified homeowners who have fallen behind on mortgage payments and related expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This program gives eligible homeowners grants to cover past due mortgage payments and property taxes, insurance, and homeowner/condo association fees. The program is administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) with funding provided by the Homeowner Assistance Fund under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Please click the images below for more information.



## Past due on mortgage payments?

**The Texas Homeowner Assistance Fund may help.**

We have money available to help qualified Texas homeowners who have fallen behind on mortgage payments, property and insurance taxes, and HOA or condo fees due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Households must have incomes at or below 100% of the Area Median Income and meet other eligibility requirements. For full details, visit [www.TexasHomeownerAssistance.com](http://www.TexasHomeownerAssistance.com).

### What can the program cover?

**\$65,000 max assistance provided as a grant**

- Up to \$40,000 in mortgage assistance
- Up to \$25,000 in related housing expenses (property and/or insurance taxes; HOA or condo fees)

For more information and to apply

[www.TexasHomeownerAssistance.com](http://www.TexasHomeownerAssistance.com)

Questions?

Call toll free 1-833-651-3874, Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CST)



## ¿Está atrasado en los pagos de la hipoteca?

**El Fondo de Asistencia para Propietarios de Vivienda de Texas puede ayudar**

Tenemos dinero disponible para ayudar a los propietarios de viviendas calificados de Texas que se han atrasado en los pagos de la hipoteca, los impuestos sobre la propiedad, el seguro de propiedad y las tarifas de las Asociaciones de propietarios de vivienda o de condominios debido a la pandemia de COVID-19.

Los hogares deben tener ingresos iguales o inferiores al 100 % del ingreso medio del área y cumplir con otros requisitos de elegibilidad. Para obtener todos los detalles, visite [www.TexasHomeownerAssistance.com](http://www.TexasHomeownerAssistance.com).

### ¿Qué puede cubrir el programa?

**\$65,000 de asistencia máxima proporcionada como subvención**

- Hasta \$40,000 en asistencia hipotecaria
- Hasta \$25,000 en gastos relacionados con la vivienda (impuestos sobre la propiedad y/o seguros; tarifas de las Asociaciones de propietarios de vivienda o de condominios)

Para obtener más información y postularse:

[www.TexasHomeownerAssistance.com](http://www.TexasHomeownerAssistance.com)

¿Tiene preguntas?

Lláme gratis al 1-833-651-3874, de lunes a viernes de 8 a.m. a 6 p.m. (hora del Centro)



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## Suicide Hotline

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People coping with suicidal thoughts can now call 988, the new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

[The simplified number](#), which replaces a longer 800 number, allows people to get help via phone, text, or online chat for any mental health-related distress.

Counselors on the hotline can assist callers with suicidal ideation, mental illness or substance abuse concerns, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

In addition to this update, the Health Resources & Services Administration in May launched a separate [National Maternal Mental Health Hotline](#) – 1-833-9-HELP4MOMS (1-833-943-5746).

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## Texas Travel Insurance Recovery Grant

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The Texas Travel Industry Recovery Grant Program (TTIR) was established by Senate Bill 8 and signed into law by the Governor following the 87th Legislature (Third Called Session) to administer \$180 million received from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The TTIR Program was established to provide one-time reimbursement grants of up to \$20,000 for the recovery of Texas businesses in the tourism, travel, and hospitality industries that were negatively impacted due to COVID-19. These one-time grants are to reimburse eligible costs to these qualifying businesses.

### Eligibility Details

For full eligibility details and eligible costs for reimbursement, please refer to the [FAQs page](#). More information about the program can be viewed by clicking on the image below.

**Texas Travel Industry**  
**RECOVERY  PROGRAM**

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# Winter Storm Recovery Survey

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The City of Houston will receive over \$30 million in long-term disaster recovery assistance to address the impacts of Winter Storm Uri and enhance the resilience of Houstonians in future disasters.

**We want to hear from you:**

- How did the freeze impact you and your family?
- What was your recovery process?
- What do you need to prepare for future disaster events?
- What are your priorities for disaster recovery programs?

To provide feedback on the City's long-term disaster recovery program for Winter Storm Uri, click the survey button below. Click the image to the left for more information about the funds.

[Take the Survey](#)

If you require accommodation to enable you to participate in the survey, please contact Megan Rowe, [Megan.Rowe@houstontx.gov](mailto:Megan.Rowe@houstontx.gov) or 832.394.6330.