



July 9, 2019

The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM), a Wireless Emergency Alert Originator, seeks to participate in the upcoming targeted test of the WEA system. As this letter outlines, we feel we more than meet the criteria for inclusion.

HCOHSEM is recognized as a leader in emergency public information. Our ability to connect with the public through multiple channels is unparalleled. We have been an IPAWS alert originator since 2013 and have been active, through the Communications Security Reliability and Interoperability Council, in helping to promote and improve the system. We maintain a large database of non-IPAWS alert subscribers and are very active in social media. Facebook named HCOHSEM as the number one user of their platform for emergency information in the United States and Next Door has recognized us as one of their power user agencies.

Given our strong partnership with the major CMS providers in the Harris County region, and a very large sample population of 4.75 million, we feel confident we can coordinate a creditable base of users. We will work with the providers to help determine the best way to reach and recruit members of the public who subscribe to their services. We will be sensitive to privacy concerns and work to establish a methodology that will return the maximum amount of data while minimizing exposure of personal information.

Harris County spans 1,777 square miles encompassing areas from shoreline, to urban interface, to dense forest, to prairie, we can meet this requirement. Though the county is fairly flat in elevation, the density of CMS broadcast towers also varies. Subscribers of different providers will experience different levels of coverage depending on those factors.

HCOHSEM will utilize Harris County Universal Services (HCUS) to assist in analyzing data collected from the test. HCUS has expertise in all areas of communication and data management and is well suited to act as partner for the test.

We look forward to working with the FCC, our partners, and peers in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Brian Murray
Public Information Officer
Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management