

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, July 8, 2019

### **Media contact:**

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## **KEY POINTS**

- State housing program assists 1000th household
- Modifies homes of low-income persons with disabilities
- Program serves an average of 112 households per year

**Editors:** This is a special invitation to attend milestone event in Tyler, Texas; information is below

## **State celebrates milestone for home modification program serving low-income persons with disabilities**

*TDHCA completes 1000th home through Amy Young Barrier Removal Program*

(AUSTIN) — The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) will join family members and Habitat for Humanity Smith County officials at the Tyler home of Robert Lee to celebrate the completion of rehabilitation work on his home through a unique state housing program serving low-income persons with disabilities. Lee's is the 1000th household assisted by TDHCA through its [Amy Young Barrier Removal Program](#) (AYBR).

The AYBR Program provides a one-time grant of up to \$20,000 per unit for home modifications aimed at improving the home's accessibility for low-income persons with disabilities. Lee's home was one of 100 households served through Habitat for Humanity Smith County, an administrator of the AYBR program since its inception in 2010.

"This program has been so beneficial in allowing Habitat to complete critical repairs for low-income East Texans with disabilities so they can safely remain in their homes," said Jack Wilson, CEO for Habitat for Humanity of Smith County. "We are so proud to be a recipient of this state housing program and hope we can continue to help more of our area residents who need help in addressing the inadequacies of their living environment."

Members of the press are invited to attend this special occasion. Information related to the event is as follows:

Who: Robert Lee, Amy Young Barrier Removal homeowner  
Diana Velez, TDHCA program administrator  
Jack Wilson, CEO, Habitat for Humanity Smith County  
What: Amy Young Barrier Removal Milestone, 1000<sup>th</sup> Household Served  
Where: 1840 Gish, Tyler, TX, 75701  
When: Friday, July 12, 2019  
10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The AYBR Program uses a limited amount of state general revenue – approximately \$3.4 million per two-year state funding cycle – to assist persons with disabilities earning less than 80 percent of the area median



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Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.  
Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TTY) and 711 (Voice).



family income. An average of 112 households have been served each year since 2010. Funds are awarded to cities, counties, public housing authorities, and nonprofit organizations that work directly with low-income individuals at the local level.

Habitat for Humanity of Smith County has received over two million dollars in AYBR funding since 2010. These funds were used to demo and replace lower and upper kitchen cabinetry, install counter tops and new sink features, add new flooring to the kitchen and bathroom, as well as additional repairs to make Lee's home more accessible and safe.

To learn more about the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program, or to find the program administrator nearest you, visit the program's web page at <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/htf/single-family/amy-young.htm>.

### **About The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs**

*The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is committed to expanding fair housing choice and opportunities for Texans through the administration and funding of affordable housing and homeownership opportunities, weatherization, and community-based services with the help of for-profits, nonprofits, and local governments. For more information about fair housing, funding opportunities, or services in your area, please visit [www.tdhca.state.tx.us](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us) or the [Learn about Fair Housing in Texas](#) page.*

### **About Habitat for Humanity of Smith County (HFHSC)**

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that makes homeownership possible for low-income working families. The Smith County affiliate was formed in 1989. In the past 30 years, HFHSC has partnered with local volunteers and donors to build 107 homes. Through its home repair program, Habitat has completed over 900 critical repair projects, making it possible for veterans, seniors and the disabled to remain safely in their homes. For more information, call 903-595-6630 or visit [smithcountyhabitat.org](http://smithcountyhabitat.org)

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