

## **PIER Allocations-Round 2**

Harris County Emergency Management Partners:

The second round of PIER site allocations has been announced. Details, as provided by PIER coordinators, are below.

Harris County's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (OHSEM) will also be hosting a meeting soon to discuss how partner organizations and stakeholders can integrate with our regional Joint Information Center (JIC) Web site when it is launched in the near future. More information about that meeting will be distributed when details become available.

As a reminder, the regional PIER initiative is part of a larger effort to enhance our regional public information capabilities. You are encouraged to review the information below to determine your agency's interest in participating. However, it is not necessary for partner agencies to have a PIER site in order to be part of our ongoing regional JIC efforts.

### PIER MESSAGE:

Please forward this to anyone you know of who may benefit from using the PIER System.

## **Apply now for a UASI funded PIER Site**

### **What is the PIER System?**

The PIER System is an all-in-one, web based platform for managing communications tasks such as mass notification, document creation and control, press release distribution, media monitoring, contact lists, inquiry and response, social media, web content and more.

PIER provides flexible solutions for handling relations with internal and external stakeholders—making it easier than ever to deliver messages, streamline internal processes, automate tedious tasks, prevent inaccuracy and eliminate duplicated efforts.

For more information about the PIER system, visit the [PIER Systems, Inc. homepage](#).

### **What are some examples of PIER Centers?**

Here are a few regional PIER centers:

- [Fort Bend County OEM](#)
- [Harris County Hospital District](#)
- [Texas Medical Center](#)
- [University of Houston](#)
- [Houston METRO Solutions](#)
- [Galveston County OEM](#)
- [NASA Johnson Space Center](#)

- [Houston Police Department](#)

## Is this really free for my organization?

If your PIER center is approved, there will be no additional charges for your organization for the first year of use. We have paid for the lifetime license cost with UASI grant funds, and one year of Hosting, Upgrades and Support (HUS). One year from the start date of your implementation group, your organization will be billed for HUS fees from PIER Systems, Inc. This fee is nominal, and we can calculate for you what it will be if you are awarded a center.

## How do I apply?

You can apply for your PIER center by filling out the [PIER Center Application](#) form.

## How long do I have to apply?

The application period runs from February 15, 2010 to March 31, 2010. As with the last round, late applications will not be accepted.

Please take some time to review the [transfer agreement](#) (link also on [application form](#)) and be sure your organization can agree to the terms contained in the document. It is probably a good idea to have your legal team review and approve it **before** you hear back regarding the status of your application. If your application is accepted, we will send you a transfer agreement with all the required fields filled in for you to sign and return.

## Questions?

Two Kickoff meetings will be held this month:

- Thursday, **February 25**, 1:30 p.m. at the **Stafford Civic Center** [\[map\]](#)
- Friday, **February 26**, 7:30 a.m. at **Chevron in Downtown Houston** [\[map\]](#)

Please [RSVP for one of the Kick-off meetings](#) so we will know how many people to expect. We will be sending directions and confirmations to individuals who RSVP for the Kick-off meetings.

If you cannot make it to either of the meetings contact the regional PIER Administrator, Lach Mullen, at [lachlan.mullen@co.fort-bend.tx.us](mailto:lachlan.mullen@co.fort-bend.tx.us).