Texas General Land Office
Community Development and Revitalization
2015 Floods Grant Award (Pub. L. 114-113 and 115-31)
Citizen Participation Plan for the State and Subrecipients

Overview

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) administers Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) funds allocated to Texas by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As part of the administration of CDBG-DR funds, the GLO is required comply with HUD's citizen participation requirements outlined in each Federal Register notice.

HUD's Federal Register Notice Requirements

Public Laws 114–113 and 115-31 appropriated CDBG-DR funds to address disaster relief and long-term recovery from major declared disasters that occurred in 2015; for Texas, two Federal Register notices issued by HUD (81 FR 39687 published June 17, 2016, and 82 FR 36812 published August 7, 2017) allocated a total of $74,568,000 for long-term recovery efforts in response to the impacts of 2015 floods.

The citizen participation plan for the 2015 Floods allocation as required by the Federal Register notice 81 FR 39687 will provide a reasonable opportunity of at least 14 days for citizen comment and ongoing citizen access to information about the use of grant funds.

Citizen Participation Plan

(1) Before the GLO adopts an action plan or any substantial amendment, it will publish the proposed plan or amendment on the GLO's recovery website (GLO-CDR) for a minimum of 14 calendar days.

(2) Upon publication of the action plan or substantial amendments, the GLO will provide a reasonable opportunity of a least 14 days to receive public comments, which can be submitted via USPS mail, fax, email, or through the GLO's recovery website:

Texas General Land Office
Community Development and Revitalization
P.O. Box 12873
Austin, TX 78711-2873
Fax: 512-475-5150
Email: cdr@recovery.texas.gov
Website: recovery.texas.gov

(3) The GLO will notify affected citizens through electronic mailings, press releases, statements by public officials, media advertisements, public service announcements, newsletters, contacts with neighborhood organizations, and/or through social media.

(4) Language Access Plan: The GLO will ensure that all citizens have equal access to information about the programs, including persons with disabilities and limited English proficiency (LEP). The GLO will ensure that program information is available in the appropriate languages for the geographic area served by the jurisdiction. For assistance in ensuring that this information is available to LEP populations, recipients should consult HUD's *Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance*

Recipients Regarding Title VI, Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons in the Federal Register notice published January 22, 2007 (72 FR 2732).

(5) The 2015 Floods Action Plan and any amendments will be translated into Spanish.

(6) At a minimum, the following modifications will constitute a substantial amendment:

(a) A change in program benefit or eligibility criteria;

(b) The allocation or reallocation of more than $1 million; or

(c) The addition or deletion of an activity.

(7) Citizens with disabilities or those who need technical assistance can contact the GLO office for assistance, either via: TDD 512-463-5330 or TX Relay Service 7-1-1.

(8) Stakeholder consultation: The GLO will consult and conduct outreach for affected local governments, Indian Tribes, and public housing authorities, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and other stakeholders and affected parties.

(9) Consideration of public comments: The GLO will consider all written comments regarding specific action plans or substantial amendments. A summary of the comments and the GLO's response to each will be located in the appendix section of the relevant action plan submitted to HUD for approval.

(10) Nonsubstantial amendments: The GLO will notify HUD when it makes any action plan amendment that is not substantial. HUD will be notified at least 5 business days before the amendment becomes effective. HUD will acknowledge receipt of the notification of nonsubstantial amendments via email within 5 business days; subsequently, the nonsubstantial amendment will be posted on the GLO's recovery website (recovery.texas.gov).

(11) Citizen complaints: The GLO will provide a timely written response to every citizen complaint received. The response will be provided within 15 working days of the receipt of the complaint, if practicable. Complaints regarding fraud, waste, or abuse of government funds should be forwarded to the HUD OIG Fraud Hotline (phone: 1-800-347-3735 or email: hotline@hudoig.gov).

(12) Public website: The GLO will make the following items available on recovery.texas.gov:

(a) The action plan (including all amendments);

(b) Each Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) as created using the Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting System (DRGR) system;

(c) Updated procurement, policies, and procedures;

(d) Executed CDBG-DR contracts;

(e) Status of services or goods currently being procured by the GLO (e.g., phase of the procurement, requirements for proposals, etc.); and

Additional Public Participation

County Method of Distribution:

For each of the four HUD-declared most impacted counties (Harris, Hays, Hidalgo, and Travis) that were required to submit a Method of Distribution for funds allocated for housing and infrastructure:

(1) Each county must conduct at least one public planning meeting and one public hearing;

(2) Each MOD must be published for a minimum 14-day public comment period; and

(3) Each received comment shall be responded to and any changes made to the final MOD shall be noted in the response section for GLO review.

Citizen Participation Plan for Local Jurisdictions Administering Housing and Infrastructure Recovery Activities:

Localities receiving a recovery grant under the CDBG-DR Program (the Program) must certify that they are following a detailed Citizen Participation Plan (the Plan) that provides for and encourages citizen participation at all stages of the Program activity. Each applicant is highly encouraged to conduct at least one (1) public hearing prior to submitting an application.

Each applicant must maintain a citizen participation file which includes (1) a copy of the Plan Requirements below, (2) the applicant's complaint procedures, (3) any technical assistance provided by the applicant, and (4) public notices, minutes, and attendance lists for any public hearings. Applicants are cautioned that despite the expedited application process, they are still responsible for ensuring that all citizens have equal access to information about project activities.