Texas General Land Office
Community Development and Revitalization
2018 South Texas Floods (Pub. L. 115-254 and 116-120)
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 115–254 and 116-120 appropriated CDBG-DR funds to address disaster relief and long-term recovery from major declared disasters from DR-4377 that occurred in 2018; for Texas, three Federal Register notices issued by HUD (83 FR 5844 published February 9, 2018, 83 FR 40314 published August 14, 2018, and 85 FR 17 published January 27, 2020) allocated a total of $72,913,000 for long-term recovery efforts in response to the impacts of the 2018 South Texas Floods.

In paragraph IV.A.3 of HUD's Federal Register notice published August 14, 2018, the agency amends the first portion of its prior language issued in the February 9, 2017, Federal Register notice for the grantee's provision of citizen participation; notably, HUD increased the time period from 14 days to at least 30 days where grantee's must provide a reasonable opportunity for citizen comment and ongoing citizen access to information about the use of grant funds.

Citizen Participation Plan

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, recovery.texas.gov.

(1) Subsequent to publication of the action plan or substantial amendment, the GLO will provide a reasonable opportunity of at least 30 days and have a method(s) for receiving comments. 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.

The GLO will take comments 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

(2) The GLO and/or subrecipients 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.

(3) 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).

(4) The action plan in its entirety will be translated to Spanish. The languages selected were selected based on the entire eligible area of the CDBG-DR funds and a natural break in the numbers of Limited English Proficiency individuals. Recognizing there may be a need for individuals to have access to the document in additional languages the GLO will be contracting with a translation service to provide personalized translations of the action plan upon request. Any public places that work directly in programs available to private individuals will carry signage detailing this service in applicable languages. The GLO website will include similar notations.

(5) In the action plan, the GLO will specify criteria for determining what changes in the GLO's plan constitute a substantial amendment to the plan. 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 $5 million; or

(c) The addition or deletion of an activity.

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

(7) 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.

(8) 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).

(9) 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).

(10) The GLO will maintain a public website that provides information accounting for how all grant funds are used and managed/administered, including: links to all action plans; action plan amendments; CDBG–DR program policies and procedures; performance reports; citizen participation requirements; and activity/program information for activities described in its action plan, including details of all contracts and ongoing procurement policies. 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

(f) Application status.

In addition to the specific items listed above, the GLO will maintain a comprehensive website regarding all disaster recovery activities assisted with these funds. This includes reporting information on the GLO's recovery website, recovery.texas.gov.. The website will be updated in a timely manner to reflect the most up-to-date information about the use of these funds and any changes in policies and procedures, as necessary. At a minimum, updates will be made on a monthly basis.

Additional Public Participation

2018 South Texas Floods GLO Housing Guidelines

The 2018 South Texas Floods GLO Housing Guidelines contain the guidelines for the following programs: Homeowner Assistance Program, Homeowner Reimbursement, Affordable Rental Program, and subrecipient housing programs.

(1) The GLO's *2018 South Texas Floods Housing Guidelines* (the Guidelines) will be posted for a minimum 15-day period.