Texas General Land Office
Community Development and Revitalization
Hurricane Harvey Grant Award (Pub. L. 115-31)
Citizen Participation Plan for the State

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 115-31 appropriated CDBG-DR funds to address disaster relief and long-term recovery from major declared disasters that occurred in 2017; for Texas, the Federal Register notice issued by HUD (82 FR 247 published December 27, 207) allocated a total of $57.8 million for long-term recovery efforts in response to the impacts of Hurricane Harvey.

The citizen participation plan for the Hurricane Harvey $57.8 million allocation as required by the Federal Register notice 81 FR 83254 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

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) 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

(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 Hurricane Harvey Action Plan and any amendments will be translated into Spanish and Vietnamese.

(5) 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) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) 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.

(9) 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).

(10) 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).

(11) 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; and

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