

**THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN
TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT –
DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM**

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These complaint procedures comply with the requirements of the Texas General Land Office Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG - DR) Program and Local Government Requirements found in 24 CFR §570.486 (Code of Federal Regulations). Citizens can obtain a copy of these procedures at the City of Huntsville, Texas, 1212 Avenue M, Huntsville, TX 77340, (936) 291-5428 during regular business hours.

Below are the formal complaint and grievance procedures regarding the services provided under the CDBG - DR project:

1. A person who has a complaint or grievance about any services or activities with respect to the CDBG-DR project, whether it is a proposed, ongoing, or completed CDBG-DR project, may during regular business hours submit such complaint or grievance, in writing to the City Manager, at City of Huntsville, Texas, 1212 Avenue M, Huntsville, TX 77340 or may call (936) 291-5428.
2. A copy of the complaint or grievance shall be transmitted by the City Manager to the entity that is the subject of the complaint or grievance and to the City Attorney within five (5) working days after the date of the complaint or grievance was received.
3. The City Manager shall complete an investigation of the complaint or grievance, if practicable, and provide a timely written answer to person who made the complaint or grievance within ten (10) days.
4. If the investigation cannot be completed within ten (10) working days per Statement # 3 above, the person who made the grievance or complaint shall be notified, in writing, within fifteen (15) days where practicable after receipt of the original complaint or grievance and shall detail when the investigation should be completed.
5. If necessary, the grievance and a written copy of the subsequent investigation shall be forwarded to the CDBG-DR for their further review and comment.
6. If appropriate, provide copies of grievance procedures and responses to grievances in both English and Spanish, or other appropriate language.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

When requested, the City shall provide technical assistance to groups that are representative of persons of low- and moderate-income in developing proposals for the use of CDBG-DR funds. The City of Huntsville, based upon the specific needs of the community's residents at the time of the request, shall determine the level and type of assistance.

PUBLIC HEARING PROVISIONS

For each public hearing scheduled and conducted by the City of Huntsville, the following public hearing provisions shall be observed:

1. Public notice of all hearings must be published at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled hearing. The public notice must be published in a local newspaper. Each public notice must include the date, time, location, and topics to be considered at the public hearing. A published newspaper article can also be used to meet this requirement so long as it meets all content and timing requirements. Notices should also be prominently posted in public buildings and distributed to local Public Housing Authorities and other interested community groups.
2. When a significant number of non-English speaking residents are a part of the potential service area of the CDBG-DR project, vital documents such as notices should be published in the predominant language of these non-English speaking citizens.
3. Each public hearing shall be held at a time and location convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries and will include accommodation for persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities must be able to attend the hearings and the City of Huntsville must make arrangements for individuals who require auxiliary aids or services if contacted at least two days prior to the hearing.
4. A public hearing held prior to the submission of a CDBG-DR application must be held after 5:00 PM on a weekday or at a convenient time on a Saturday or Sunday.
5. When a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate in a public hearing, an interpreter should be present to accommodate the needs of the non-English speaking residents.

The City of Huntsville shall comply with the following citizen participation requirements for the preparation and submission of an application for a CDBG-DR project:

1. At a minimum, the City of Huntsville shall hold at least one (1) public hearing prior to submitting an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture.
2. The City of Huntsville shall retain documentation of the hearing notice(s), a listing of persons attending the hearing(s), minutes of the hearing(s), and any other records

concerning the proposed use of funds for three (3) years from closeout of the grant to the State of Texas. Such records shall be made available to the public in accordance with Chapter 552, Texas Government Code.

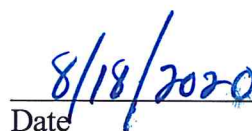
3. The public hearing shall include a discussion with citizens as outlined in the applicable CDBG-DR application manual to include, but is not limited to, the development of housing and community development needs, the amount of funding available, all eligible activities under the CDBG-DR program, and the use of past CDBG-DR contract funds, if applicable. Citizens, with particular emphasis on persons of low- and moderate-income who are residents of slum and blight areas, shall be encouraged to submit their views and proposals regarding community development and housing needs. Citizens shall be made aware of the location where they may submit their views and proposals should they be unable to attend the public hearing.
4. When a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate in a public hearing, an interpreter should be present to accommodate the needs of the non-English speaking residents.

The City of Huntsville must comply with the following citizen participation requirements in the event that the City of Huntsville receives funds from the CDBG-DR program:

1. The City of Huntsville shall also hold a public hearing concerning any substantial change, as determined by CDBG-DR, proposed to be made in the use of CDBG-DR funds from one eligible activity to another again using the preceding notice requirements.
2. Upon completion of the CDBG-DR project, the City of Huntsville shall hold a public hearing and review its program performance including the actual use of the CDBG-DR funds.
3. When a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate in a public hearing, for either a public hearing concerning substantial change to the CDBG-DR project or for the closeout of the CDBG-DR project, publish notice in both English and Spanish, or other appropriate language and provide an interpreter at the hearing to accommodate the needs of the non-English speaking residents.
4. The City of Huntsville shall retain documentation of the CDBG-DR project, including hearing notice(s), a listing of persons attending the hearing(s), minutes of the hearing(s), and any other records concerning the actual use of funds for a period of three (3) years from closeout of the grant to the state. Such records shall be made available to the public in accordance with Chapter 552, Texas Government Code.



Andy Brauninger, Mayor



Date