

CITY OF VICTORIA
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN
TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
REGIONAL MITIGATION PROGRAM (CDBG-MIT)

PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

The City shall provide for reasonable public notice, appraisal, examination, and comment on the activities proposed for the use of CDBG-MIT funds. These efforts shall include:

1. Provide for and encourage citizen participation, particularly by low- and moderate-income persons who reside in slum or blighted areas and areas in which CDBG-MIT funds are proposed to be used;
2. Ensure that citizens will be given reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records relating to an entity's proposed and actual use of CDBG-MIT funds;
3. Furnish citizens information, including but not limited to:
 - a. the amount of CDBG-MIT funds expected;
 - b. the range of activities that may be undertaken with the CDBG-MIT funds;
 - c. the estimated amount of the CDBG-MIT funds proposed to be used for activities that will meet the national objective of benefit to low- and moderate-income persons; and
 - d. if applicable, the proposed CDBG-MIT activities likely to result in displacement and the entity's anti- displacement and relocation plan;
4. Provide citizens with reasonable advance notice of, and opportunity to comment on, proposed activities in an application to the state and, for grants already made, activities which are proposed to be added, deleted, or substantially changed from the entity's application to the state. Substantially changed means changes made in terms of purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries as defined by criteria established by the state; and
5. These outreach efforts may be accomplished through one or more of the following methods:
 - a. Publication of notice in a local newspaper—a published newspaper article may be used so long as it provides sufficient information regarding program activities and relevant dates;
 - b. Notices prominently posted in public buildings and distributed to local Public Housing Authorities and other interested community groups;
 - c. Posting of notice on the local entity website (if available);
 - d. Public Hearing; or

- e. Individual notice to eligible cities and other entities as applicable using one or more of the following methods:
 - 1) Certified mail
 - 2) Electronic mail or fax
 - 3) First-class (regular) mail
 - 4) Personal delivery (e.g., at a Council of Governments [COG] meeting)

PUBLIC HEARING PROVISIONS

For each public hearing scheduled and conducted by a CDBG-MIT applicant or recipient, the following public hearing provisions shall be observed:

Furnish citizens information, including but not limited to:

The amount of CDBG-MIT funds per activity;

The range of activities that may be undertaken with the CDBG-MIT funds;

The estimated amount of the CDBG-MIT funds proposed to be used for activities that will meet the national objective of benefit to low- and moderate-income persons; and

If applicable, the proposed CDBG-MIT activities likely to result in displacement and the unit of general local government's anti-displacement and relocation plans required under 24 CFR 570.488.

Public notice of any 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 may 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.

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 an applicant must make arrangements for individuals who require auxiliary aids or services if contacted at least two days prior to each hearing.

When a considerable number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate in a public hearing, an interpreter will be present to accommodate the needs of the non-English speaking residents.

City may conduct a public hearing via webinar if they also follow the provisions above. If the webinar is used to conduct a public hearing, a physical location with associated reasonable accommodations must be made available for citizens to participate to ensure that those individuals without necessary technology are able to participate.

If applicable, the locality must retain documentation of the hearing notice(s), attendance lists, minutes of the hearing(s), and any other records concerning the actual use of funds for a period of

three years after the project is closed out. Such records must be made available to the public in accordance with Chapter 552, Government Code.

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-MIT funds. The City, based upon the specific needs of the community's residents at the time of the request, shall determine the level and type of assistance.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These complaint procedures comply with the requirements of the Texas General Land Office Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) 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 Victoria, 105 W. Juan Linn St., Victoria, Texas 77902-1758, (361) 485-3040 during regular business hours.

Below are the formal complaint and grievance procedures regarding the services provided under the CDBG-MIT project(s).

1. A person who has a complaint or grievance about any services or activities with respect to the CDBG-MIT project(s), whether it is a proposed, ongoing, or completed CDBG-MIT project(s), may during regular business hours submit such complaint or grievance, in writing to City Manager, at PO Box 1758 or may call (361) 485-3000.
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 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-MIT program 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.