

POSTED

DEC 13 2021

TIME 12:10 P
BY: Sandra K. Duckworth
SANDRA K. DUCKWORTH, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION No. 7841 Regarding Civil Rights

Newton County, Texas

Whereas, Newton County, Texas, (hereinafter referred to as "Newton County") has been awarded TxCDBG funding through a TxCDBG-MIT grant from the Texas General Land Office (hereinafter referred to as "GLO");

Whereas, Newton County, in accordance with Section 109 of the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act. (24 CFR 6); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101-6107); and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and for construction contracts greater than \$10,000, must take actions to ensure that no person or group is denied benefits such as employment, training, housing, and contracts generated by the CDBG activity, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability;

Whereas, Newton County, in consideration for the receipt and acceptance of federal funding, agrees to comply with all federal rules and regulations including those rules and regulations governing citizen participation and civil rights protections;

Whereas, Newton County, in accordance with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, and 24 CFR Part 135, is required, to the greatest extent feasible, to provide training and employment opportunities to lower income residents and contract opportunities to businesses in the TxCDBG project area;

Whereas, Newton County, in accordance with Section 104(1) of the Housing and Community Development Act, as amended, and State's certification requirements at 24 CFR 91.325(b)(6), must adopt an excessive force policy that prohibits the use of excessive force against non-violent civil rights demonstrations;

Whereas, Newton County, in accordance with Executive Order 13166, must take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to services in federally assisted programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) and must have an LEP plan in place specific to the locality and beneficiaries for each TxCDBG project;

Whereas, Newton County, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, does not discriminate on the basis of disability and agrees to ensure that qualified individuals with disabilities have access to programs and activities that receive federal funds; and

Whereas, Newton County, in accordance with Section 808(e)(5) of the Fair Housing Act (42 USC 3608(e)(5)) that requires HUD programs and activities be administered in a manner affirmatively to further the policies of the Fair Housing Act, agrees to conduct at least one activity during the contract period of the TxCDBG contract, to affirmatively further fair housing;

Whereas, Newton County, agrees to maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY, TEXAS, that NEWTON COUNTY ADOPTS/REAFFIRMS THE FOLLOWING:

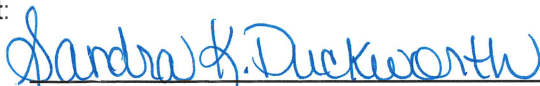
1. Citizen Participation Plan and Grievance Procedures (Exhibit 1);
2. Section 3 Policy (Exhibit 2);
3. Excessive Force Policy (Exhibit 3);
4. Section 504 Policy and Grievance Procedures (Exhibit 4);
5. Code of Conduct Policy (Exhibit 5);
6. Limited English Proficiency Plan (Exhibit 6); and
7. Fair Housing Policy (Exhibit 7).

PASSED AND APPROVED BY COMMISSIONER'S COURT OF THE COUNTY OF NEWTON, TEXAS on December 13, 2021.



Kenneth Weeks, County Judge

Attest:



Sandra K. Duckworth, County Clerk

EXHIBIT 1

NEWTON COUNTY CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These complaint procedures comply with the requirements of the Texas General Land Office's Texas Community Development Block Grant (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 Newton County, 110 E. Court Street, Newton, Texas 75966, 409-379-5691 during regular business hours.

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

1. A person who has a complaint or grievance about any services or activities with respect to the CDBG-MIT project, whether it is a proposed, ongoing, or completed CDBG-MIT project, may during regular business hours submit such complaint or grievance, in writing to the Grants Officer, at P.O. Box 296, Newton, Texas 75966 or may call 409-379-5691.
2. A copy of the complaint or grievance shall be transmitted by the Grants Officer to the entity that is the subject of the complaint or grievance and to the Newton County Attorney within five (5) working days after the date of the complaint or grievance was received.
3. The Grants Officer 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 GLO 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 County 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 County, 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 County, 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-MIT 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 County 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-MIT 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 County shall comply with the following citizen participation requirements for the preparation and submission of an application for a CDBG-MIT project:

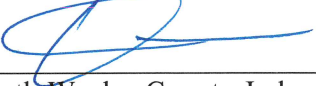
1. At a minimum, the County shall hold at least one (1) public hearing to prior to submitting the application to the Texas General Land Office.
2. The County shall retain documentation of the hearing notice(s), a listing of persons attending the hearing(s), minutes of the hearing(s), and any other records concerning the proposed use of funds for three (3) years from closeout of the grant to the state. 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-MIT 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-MIT program, and the use of past CDBG-MIT 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 County must comply with the following citizen participation requirements in the event that Newton County receives funds from the CDBG-MIT program:

1. The County shall also hold a public hearing concerning any substantial change, as determined by GLO, proposed to be made in the use of CDBG-MIT funds from one eligible activity to another again using the preceding notice requirements.
2. Upon completion of the CDBG-MIT project, the County shall hold a public hearing and review its program performance including the actual use of the CDBG-MIT 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-MIT project or for the closeout of the CDBG-MIT 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 County shall retain documentation of the CDBG-MIT 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.



Kenneth Weeks, County Judge

12/13/21

Date

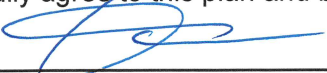
EXHIBIT 2

Section 3 Policy

In accordance with 12 U.S.C. 1701u Newton County agrees to implement the following steps, which, to *the greatest extent feasible*, will provide job training, employment and contracting opportunities for Section 3 residents and Section 3 businesses of the areas in which the program/project is being carried out.

- A. Introduce and pass a resolution adopting this plan as a policy to strive to attain goals for compliance to Section 3 regulations by increasing opportunities for employment and contracting for Section 3 residents and businesses.
- B. Assign duties related to implementation of this plan to the designated Civil Rights Officer.
- C. Notify Section 3 residents and business concerns of potential new employment and contracting opportunities as they are triggered by CDBG-MIT grant awards through the use of: Public Hearings and related advertisements; public notices; bidding advertisements and bid documents; notification to local business organizations such as the Chamber(s) of Commerce or the Urban League; local advertising media including public signage; project area committees and citizen advisory boards; local HUD offices; regional planning agencies; and all other appropriate referral sources. Include Section 3 clauses in all covered solicitations and contracts.
- D. Maintain a list of those businesses that have identified themselves as Section 3 businesses for utilization in CDBG-MIT funded procurements, notify those businesses of pending contractual opportunities, and make this list available for general Grant Recipient procurement needs.
- E. Maintain a list of those persons who have identified themselves as Section 3 residents and contact those persons when hiring/training opportunities are available through either the Grant Recipient or contractors.
- F. Require that all Prime contractors and subcontractors with contracts over \$100,000 commit to this plan as part of their contract work. Monitor the contractors' performance with respect to meeting Section 3 requirements and require that they submit reports as may be required by HUD or TDA to the Grant Recipient.
- G. Submit reports as required by HUD or TDA regarding contracting with Section 3 businesses and/or employment as they occur; and submit reports within 20 days of the federal fiscal year end (by October 20) which identify and quantify Section 3 businesses and employees.
- H. Maintain records, including copies of correspondence, memoranda, etc., which document all actions taken to comply with Section 3 regulations.

As officers and representatives of Newton County, we the undersigned have read and fully agree to this plan and become a party to the full implementation of this program.



Signature

County Judge

Title Date

EXHIBIT 3

Excessive Force Policy

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.325(b)(6), Newton County hereby adopts and will enforce the following policy with respect to the use of excessive force:

1. It is the policy of Newton County to prohibit the use of excessive force by the law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individual engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations;
2. It is also the policy of Newton County to enforce applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location that is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.
3. Newton County will introduce and pass a resolution adopting this policy.

As officers and representatives of Newton County we the undersigned have read and fully agree to this plan and become a party to the full implementation of this program.



Signature

County Judge _____

Title

December 13, 2021 _____

Date

EXHIBIT 4

Section 504 Policy Against Discrimination based on Handicap and Grievance Procedures

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 8, Nondiscrimination based on Handicap in federally assisted programs and activities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), and Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5309), Newton County hereby adopts the following policy and grievance procedures:

1. Discrimination prohibited. No otherwise qualified individual with handicaps in the United States shall, solely by reason of his or her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
2. Newton County does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities.
3. Newton County's recruitment materials or publications shall include a statement of this policy in 1. above.
4. Newton County shall take continuing steps to notify participants, beneficiaries, applicants and employees, including those with impaired vision or hearing, and unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the recipients that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in violation of 24 CFR Part 8.
5. For hearing and visually impaired individuals eligible to be served or likely to be affected by the CDBG-MIT program, Newton County shall ensure that they are provided with the information necessary to understand and participate in the CDBG-MIT program.
6. Grievances and Complaints
 - a. Any person who believes she or he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability may file a grievance under this procedure. It is against the law for Newton County to retaliate against anyone who files a grievance or cooperates in the investigation of a grievance.
 - b. Complaints should be addressed to: Elizabeth Holloway, P.O. Box 296, Newton, TX 75966, (409) 379-5691, who has been designated to coordinate Section 504 compliance efforts.
 - c. A complaint should be filed in writing or verbally, contain the name and address of the person filing it, and briefly describe the alleged violation of the regulations.

- d. A complaint should be filed within thirty (30) working days after the complainant becomes aware of the alleged violation.
- e. An investigation, as may be appropriate, shall follow a filing of a complaint. The investigation will be conducted by Elizabeth Holloway, Grants Officer. Informal but thorough investigations will afford all interested persons and their representatives, if any, an opportunity to submit evidence relevant to a complaint.
- f. A written determination as to the validity of the complaint and description of resolution, if any, shall be issued by Elizabeth Holloway, Grants Officer, and a copy forwarded to the complainant with fifteen (15) working days after the filing of the complaint where practicable.
- g. The Section 504 coordinator shall maintain the files and records of the Newton County relating to the complaints files.
- h. The complainant can request a reconsideration of the case in instances where he or she is dissatisfied with the determination/resolution as described in f. above. The request for reconsideration should be made to the Newton County within ten working days after the receipt of the written determination/resolution.
- i. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a Section 504 complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Utilization of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.
- j. These procedures shall be construed to protect the substantive rights of interested persons, to meet appropriate due process standards and assure that Newton County complies with Section 504 and HUD regulations.



Kenneth Weeks, County Judge

12/13/21

Date

EXHIBIT 5

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

These procedures are intended to serve as guidelines for the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction services and professional services for the Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-MIT) Program. The regulations related to conflict of interest and nepotism may be found at the Texas Government Code Chapter 573, Texas Local Government Code Chapter 171, Uniform Grant Management Standards by Texas Comptroller, 24 CFR 570.489(g) & (h), and 2 CFR 200.318.

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Grant Recipient of a CDBG-MIT contract, Newton County shall avoid, neutralize or mitigate actual or potential conflicts of interest so as to prevent an unfair competitive advantage or the existence of conflicting roles that might impair the performance of the CDBG-MIT contract or impact the integrity of the procurement process.

For procurement of goods and services, no employee, officer, or agent of Newton County shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by CDBG-MIT funds if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict could arise if the employee, officer or agent; any member of his/her immediate family; his/her partner; or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

No officer, employee, or agent of Newton County shall solicit or accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from contractors or firms, potential contractors or firms, or parties to sub-agreements, except where the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal intrinsic value.

Contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements.

For all other cases, no employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected or appointed official of the state, or of a unit of general local government, or of any designated public agencies, or subrecipients which are receiving CDBG-MIT funds, that has any CDBG function/responsibility, or is in a position to participate in a decision-making process or gain inside information, may obtain a financial interest or benefit from the CDBG-MIT activity.

The conflict of interest restrictions and procurement requirements identified herein shall apply to a benefitting business, utility provider, or other third party entity that is receiving assistance, directly or indirectly, under a CDBG-MIT contract or award, or that is required to complete some or all work under the CDBG-MIT contract in order to meet the National Program Objective.

Any person or entity including any benefitting business, utility provider, or other third party entity that is receiving assistance, directly or indirectly, under a CDBG-MIT contract or award, or that is required to complete some or all work under the CDBG-MIT contract in order to meet a National Program Objective,

that might potentially receive benefits from CDBG-MIT awards may not participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by CDBG funding.

Any alleged violations of these standards of conduct shall be referred to the Newton County Attorney. Where violations appear to have occurred, the offending employee, officer or agent shall be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to dismissal or transfer; where violations or infractions appear to be substantial in nature, the matter may be referred to the appropriate officials for criminal investigation and possible prosecution.

Passed and approved this 13th day of December 2021



Kenneth Weeks, Judge
Newton County

EXHIBIT 6

Limited English Proficiency Plan

Name Grantee:	Newton County
Community Population:	13282
LEP population:	58 / 0.44%
Languages spoken: 1) by more than 5% of the eligible population or beneficiaries and has more than 50 in number; or 2) By more than 5% of the eligible population or beneficiaries but has less than 50 or less in number; or 3) By more than 1,000 individuals in the eligible population in the market area or among current beneficiaries.	N/A

Program activities to be accessible to LEP persons:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Notices and hearings regarding applications for grant funding, amendments to project activities, and completion of grant-funded project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publications regarding TxCDBG application, grievance procedures, <i>complaint procedures, complaint procedures, answers to complaints, notices, notices of rights and disciplinary action</i> , and other vital hearings, documents, and program requirements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other program documents: _____

Resources available to Grant Recipient:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Translation services: _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interpreter services: _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other resources: _____ _____

Language Assistance to be provided:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Translation (oral and/or written) of advertised notices and vital documents for: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referrals to community liaisons proficient in the language of LEP persons _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public meetings conducted in multiple languages: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Notices to recipients of the availability of LEP services: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other services: _____



 Signature - Chief Elected Official or Civil Rights Officer


Date: 12/13/21

EXHIBIT 7 Fair Housing Policy

In accordance with Fair Housing Act, the Newton County hereby adopts the following policy with respect to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:

1. Newton County agrees to affirmatively further fair housing choice for all seven protected classes (race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, and national origin).
2. Newton County agrees to plan at least one activity during the contract term to affirmatively further fair housing.
3. Newton County will introduce and pass a resolution adopting this policy.

As officers and representatives of Newton County, we the undersigned have read and fully agree to this plan and become a party to the full implementation of this program.



Signature

County Judge
Title

12/13/21

Date