

Resolution Regarding Civil Rights Brazoria County, Texas

Whereas, Brazoria County, Texas, (hereinafter referred to as "Brazoria County") has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) grant from the Texas General Land Office (hereinafter referred to as "GLO");

Whereas, Brazoria 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-MIT activity, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability;

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

Whereas, Brazoria 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 CDBG-MIT project area;

Whereas, Brazoria 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), has adopted an excessive force policy that prohibits the use of excessive force against non-violent civil rights demonstrations;

Whereas, Brazoria 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, Brazoria 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, to affirmatively further fair housing;

Whereas, Brazoria County, has designated an overseer and will 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 BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT BRAZORIA COUNTY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING:

1. Citizen Participation Plan and Grievance Procedures;
2. Section 3 Policy;
3. Section 504 Policy and Grievance Procedures;
4. Code of Conduct Policy; and
5. Fair Housing Policy.

Passed and approved this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Signature of Elected Official
Brazoria County

Printed Name of Elected Official

**BRAZORIA COUNTY
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN
TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO)
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – MITIGATION (CDBG-MIT) PROGRAM**

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These complaint procedures comply with the requirements of the Texas General Land Office's 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 Brazoria County offices, 237 E Locust, Angleton, TX 77515-4642, (Street Address), (979) 849-1200 (Phone) 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(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 the County Judge of Brazoria County at 237 E Locust or may call (979) 849-1200.
2. A copy of the complaint or grievance shall be transmitted by the County Judge to the entity that is the subject of the complaint or grievance and to the District Attorney within five (5) working days after the date of the complaint or grievance was received.
3. The County Judge 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 office 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 OUTREACH EFFORTS

The County 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 to be made available
 - 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/or unmet need.
 - 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:
 - i. Certified mail
 - ii. Electronic mail or fax
 - iii. First-class (regular) mail
 - iv. 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:

1. 1. Furnish citizens information, including but not limited to:
 - (a)** The amount of CDBG-MIT funds available per application;
 - (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 or unmet needs; and
 - (d)** 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.
2. 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 public posting 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.
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 an applicant must make arrangements for individuals who require auxiliary aids or services if contacted at least two days prior to each hearing.

4. When a significant 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.
5. County 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 so as to ensure that those individuals without necessary technology are able to participate.
6. 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.

Signature

L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr., County Judge
Name, Title

Date

SECTION 3 POLICY

In accordance with 12 U.S.C. 1701u, (Section 3), Brazoria 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 Section 3 Coordinator.
- 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 GLO to the Grant Recipient.
- G. Submit reports as required by HUD or GLO regarding contracting with Section 3 businesses and/or employment as they occur; and submit reports within 20 days of 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 the Brazoria County, we the undersigned have read and fully agree to this plan, and become a party to the full implementation of this program.

Signature

L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr., County Judge
Name, Title

Date

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), Brazoria 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. Brazoria 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. Brazoria County's recruitment materials or publications shall include a statement of this policy in 1. above.
 4. Brazoria 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, Brazoria 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 Brazoria County to retaliate against anyone who files a grievance or cooperates in the investigation of a grievance.
 - b. Complaints should be addressed to the County Judge, 237 E Locust, Angleton, TX, 77515-4642 or call (979) 849-1200, 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 the County Judge. 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 County Judge, 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 Brazoria County relating to the complaint 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 Brazoria 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 Brazoria County complies with Section 504 and HUD regulations.

Signature

L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr., County Judge
Name, Title

Date

Code of Conduct Policy of Brazoria County

As a Grant Recipient of a CDBG-MIT contract Brazoria 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 Brazoria 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 Brazoria 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-MIT 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-MIT funding.

Any alleged violations of these standards of conduct shall be referred to the Brazoria County District 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.

	L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr., County Judge
Signature	Name, Title

Date

These procedures are intended to serve as guidelines for the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction services and professional services for the 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

Fair Housing Policy

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

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

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

Signature

L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr., County Judge
Name, Title

Date