



"Growing our Economy. Strengthening our Community."

BEXAR COUNTY

2016-2020 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN DRAFT AMENDMENT

Amended in compliance with HUD the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-136) Supplemental Funding, Flexibilities, and Waivers in Response to COVID-19

The Economic and Community Development Department (ECD) is amending its 2016-2020 Citizen Participation Plan, to promote and support "social distancing" while continuing to offer the public an opportunity to provide valuable input and insight into the policies and procedures, particularly as it relates to the administration and implementation of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. This notice serves as an addendum to the existing 2016-2020 Citizen Participation Plan; all other requirements for citizen participation efforts as they relate to the CPD programs are still in effect.

HUD issued a memo on March 31, 2020 regarding "Availability of Waivers of Community Planning and Development (CPD) Grant Program and Consolidated Plan Requirements to Prevent the Spread of Covid-19 and Mitigate Economic Impacts Caused by COVID-19". These waivers include the ability to establish new process requirements to the Citizen Participation Plan in order to draft, propose, or amend the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan expeditiously due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Public Hearing Requirements:

Under expedited procedures, and in the interest of public health and safety, in-person public hearings would not be held; however to meet HUD's public hearing requirements, Bexar County can hold virtual public hearings if:

1. National/local health authorities recommend social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons; and
2. Virtual hearings provide reasonable notification and access for citizens in accordance with the grantee's certifications, timely responses to all citizen questions and comments, and public access to all questions and responses.

Notice(s) for Public Comment:



"Growing our Economy. Strengthening our Community."

Under expedited procedures, a notice of public hearing(s) on the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan still must be advertised in the San Antonio Express News in English and Spanish for no less than 5 days, instead of 15 days, prior to the date of the public hearing.

Substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan will be publicly advertised for a public comment period of no less than 5 days, instead of 30 days, prior to consideration of the amendments by the Commissioners Court.

Any proposed changes to the Citizen Participation Plan must be publicly advertised no less than 5 days, instead of 15 days, prior to the adoption or amendment of the Citizen Participation Plan by the Bexar County Commissioners Court.

During this expedited process, amendments to the Action Plan and amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan may run concurrently for public comment. A public comment notice must still also include sufficient information about the purpose of the public hearing to permit informed comments from the citizen. However, due to social distancing and limits on public gatherings for public health requirements, Bexar County ECD staff must make reasonable efforts to advertise to all sectors of the community digitally, whether through the County website, and/or social media platforms. Under expedited procedures, the County will still prepare a summary of the comments or views received from citizens. Written comments may be submitted to Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff C/O Economic and Community Development Department, 233 N. Pecos Suite 320, San Antonio, TX 78207 or via email to rhreyna@bexar.org

Applicability of Expedited Procedures:

The expedited procedures described above only apply to the planned use of supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG- CV) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG- CV) coronavirus funding administered to Bexar County through the CARES Act during County FY 2020, as well as the County's CDBG and ESG entitlement grants for Federal FYs 2019 and 2020 (or County FYs 2020 and 2021, respectively).