

RESOLUTION No. 01-09-20

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF RISING STAR, TEXAS REGARDING CIVIL RIGHTS.**

Whereas, the City of Rising Star, Texas, has been awarded TxCDBG funding through a TxCDBG grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as "TDA");

Whereas, the City of Rising Star, Texas, 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, the City of Rising Star, Texas, 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, the City of Rising Star, Texas, 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, the City of Rising Star, Texas 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;

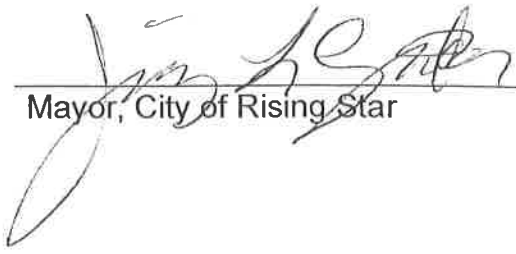
Whereas, the City of Rising Star, Texas, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, does not discriminate on the basis of disability and agrees to ensure that qualified individuals with disabilities have access to programs and activities that receive federal funds; and

Whereas, the City of Rising Star, Texas 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;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RISING STAR, TEXAS, THAT THE CITY OF RISING STAR ADOPTS/REAFFIRMS THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Citizen Participation Plan and Grievance Procedures (A1013);
2. Section 3 Policy (A1002);
3. Excessive Force Policy (A1003);
4. Fair Housing Policy (A1015); and
5. Fair Housing Resolution (A1007).

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2020.**



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Mayor, City of Rising Star

**ATTEST:**



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City Secretary, City of Rising Star

**CITY OF RISING STAR  
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN (A1013)  
TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

In accordance with federal law, if there is a significant number of the population who are non-English speaking residents and are affected by the TxCDBG project, such citizens should have 'meaningful access' to all aspects of the TxCDBG project. To provide 'meaningful access', Grant Recipients may need to provide interpreter services at public hearings or provide non-English written materials that are routinely provided in English. Examples of such vital documents include application, complaint procedures, complaint procedures, answers to complaints, notices, notices of rights and disciplinary action, and any additional documents that contain information that is critical for obtaining federal services and/or benefits, or is required by law. For more information, see LEP.gov

**COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

These complaint procedures comply with the requirements of the Texas Department of Agriculture's Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) 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 Rising Star City Hall, 104 N. Miller, Rising Star, Texas 76471 – Phone 254/643-4601 during regular business hours.

Below are the formal complaint and grievance procedures regarding the services provided under the TxCDBG project.

1. A person who has a complaint or grievance about any services or activities with respect to the TxCDBG project, whether it is a proposed, ongoing, or completed TxCDBG project, may during regular business hours submit such complaint or grievance, in writing to City Secretary, City of Rising Star, City of Rising Star City Hall, 104 N. Miller, Rising Star, Texas 76471 or may call 254/643-4601.
2. A copy of the complaint or grievance shall be transmitted by the City of Rising Star 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 of Rising Star 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 TxCDBG 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 TxCDBG 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.

#### PUBLIC HEARING PROVISIONS

For each public hearing scheduled and conducted by the City, 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 TxCDBG 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 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 TxCDBG 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 shall comply with the following citizen participation requirements for the preparation and submission of an application for a TxCDBG project:

1. At a minimum, the City shall hold at least one (1) public hearing to prior to submitting the application to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

2. The City 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 TxCDBG 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 TxCDBG program, and the use of past TxCDBG 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 must comply with the following citizen participation requirements in the event that the City receives funds from the TxCDBG program:

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

  
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City of Rising Star Mayor

January 9, 2020  
Date

## Excessive Force Policy (A1003)

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

1. It is the policy of the City of Rising Star 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 the City of Rising Star 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. The City of Rising Star will introduce and pass a resolution adopting this policy.

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

  
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Mayor, City of Rising Star

January 9, 2020


Date

## Section 3 Policy (A1002)

In accordance with 12 U.S.C. 1701u the City of Rising Star 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 TxCDBG 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 TxCDBG 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 calendar year end 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 City of Rising Star, we the undersigned have read and fully agree to this plan and become a party to the full implementation of this program.

  
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Mayor, City of Rising Star

January 9, 2020

Date

## Fair Housing Policy (A1015)

In accordance with Fair Housing Act, the City of Rising Star hereby adopts the following policy with respect to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:

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

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

  
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for, City of Rising Star

January 9, 2020  
Date



**PROCLAMATION OF FEBRUARY AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

*WHEREAS Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it a national policy to provide, within constitutional limits, for fair housing in the United States; and*

*WHEREAS The principle of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans; and*

*WHEREAS The National Fair Housing Law, provides an opportunity for all Americans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the City Council of Rising Star, do proclaim February as Fair Housing Month in Rising Star, and do hereby urge all the citizens of this locality to become aware of and support the Fair Housing law.*

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF we have affixed our signatures and seal on this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 9, 2020.

  
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Mayor, City of Rising Star

## CITY OF RISING STAR – CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Grant Recipient of a TxCDBG contract the City of Rising Star 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 TxCDBG contract or impact the integrity of the procurement process.

For procurement of goods and services, no employee, officer, or agent of the City of Rising Star shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by TxCDBG 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 the City of Rising Star 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.

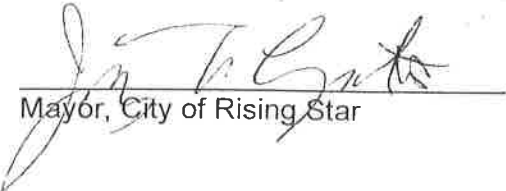
For all other cases, no employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected or appointed official of the state, or of a unit of general local government, or of any designated public agencies, or subrecipients which are receiving TxCDBG funds, that has any CDBG function/responsibility, or is in a position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

, 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 TxCDBG contract or award, or that is required to complete some or all work under the TxCDBG 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 TxCDBG contract or award, or that is required to complete some or all work under the TxCDBG contract in order to meet a National Program Objective, that might potentially receive benefits from TxCDBG 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 City of Rising Star 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020.

  
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Mayor, City of Rising Star