

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

**AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES
FORT BEND COUNTY FAMILY RENT AND UTILITY TRANSITION PROGRAM**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between Fort Bend County, (hereinafter “County”), a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas, and MPACT Strategic Consulting, LLC (hereinafter “Consultant”), a company authorized to conduct business in the State of Texas.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, County desires that Consultant provide certain professional consulting services to provide Case Management support and staff augmentation services for the Fort Bend County Rent and Utility Transition Program as will be more specifically described in this Agreement (hereinafter “Services”); and

WHEREAS, County has determined that this Agreement is for personal or professional services and therefore exempt from competitive bidding under Chapter 262 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, Consultant represents that it is qualified and desires to perform such services.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions set forth below, the parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

Section 1. Scope of Services

Consultant shall render Services to County as defined in the MPACT Proposed Scope of Services, (attached hereto as Exhibit A).

Section 2. Personnel

2.1 Consultant represents that it presently has, or is able to obtain, adequate qualified personnel in its employment for the timely performance of the Scope of Services required under this Agreement and that Consultant shall furnish and maintain, at its own expense, adequate and sufficient personnel, in the opinion of County, to perform the Scope of Services when and as required and without delays.

2.2 All employees of Consultant shall have such knowledge and experience as will enable them to perform the duties assigned to them. Any employee of Consultant who, in the opinion of County, is incompetent or by his conduct becomes detrimental to the County, upon request of the County Judge, shall immediately be removed from association with the County.

Section 3. Compensation and Payment

3.1 Consultant's fees shall be calculated at the rates set forth in the attached Exhibit A. The Maximum Compensation for the performance of Services within the Proposed Scope of Services described in Exhibit A is a fee in an amount not to exceed one hundred eighty-seven thousand two hundred and 0/100 dollars (\$187,200.00) including reimbursable expenses. In no case shall the amount paid by the County under this Agreement exceed the Maximum Compensation without written amendment executed by the parties.

3.2 All performance of the Scope of Services by Consultant including any changes in the Scope of Services and revision of work satisfactorily performed will be performed only when approved in advance and authorized by County.

3.3 County will pay Consultant based on the following procedures: Upon completion of the tasks identified in the Scope of Services, Consultant shall submit to County staff designated by the County Auditor, one (1) electronic (pdf) and/or one (1) original invoice showing the amounts due for services performed in a form acceptable to County. Contractor may submit electronically via: apauditor@fortbendcountytexas.gov. County shall review such invoices and approve them within thirty (30) calendar days with such modifications as are consistent with this Agreement and forward same to the County Auditor for processing. County shall pay each such approved invoice within thirty (30) calendar days. County reserves the right to withhold payment pending verification of satisfactory work performed.

3.4 Mutually approved travel and mileage expenses incurred in the performance of required services will be reimbursed to Consultant to the extent that those costs that do not exceed Fort Bend County travel reimbursement allowances. A copy of the County's Travel Policy with those reimbursement limits is attached and incorporated as Exhibit B to this Agreement. Consultant will not be reimbursed for costs in excess of those listed in Exhibit A.

Section 4. Limit of Appropriation

4.1 Consultant clearly understands and agrees, such understanding and agreement being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that County shall have available the total maximum sum of one hundred eighty-seven thousand two hundred and 0/100 dollars (\$187,200.00), specifically allocated to fully discharge any and all liabilities County may incur.

4.2 Consultant does further understand and agree, said understanding and agreement also being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that the total maximum compensation that Consultant may become entitled to and the total maximum sum that County may become liable to pay to Consultant shall not under any conditions, circumstances, or interpretations thereof exceed one hundred eighty-seven thousand two hundred and 0/100 dollars (\$187,200.00).

Section 5. Time of Performance

The time for performance of the Scope of Services by Consultant shall begin upon final execution of this Agreement and end no later than ninety (90) calendar days thereafter. Consultant shall complete the tasks described in the Scope of Services within this time or within such additional time as may be extended by the County.

Section 6. Modifications and Waivers

6.1 The parties may not amend or waive this Agreement, except by a written agreement executed by both parties.

6.2 No failure or delay in exercising any right or remedy or requiring the satisfaction of any condition under this Agreement, and no course of dealing between the parties, operates as a waiver or estoppel of any right, remedy, or condition.

6.3 The rights and remedies of the parties set forth in this Agreement are not exclusive of, but are cumulative to, any rights or remedies now or subsequently existing at law, in equity, or by statute.

Section 7. Termination

7.1 Termination for Convenience – County may terminate this Agreement at any time upon thirty (30) days written notice issued by the County or the Department Head.

7.2 Termination for Default

7.2.1 County may terminate the whole or any part of this Agreement for cause in the following circumstances:

7.2.1.1 If Consultant fails to perform services within the time specified in the Scope of Services or any extension thereof granted by the County in writing;

7.2.1.2 If Consultant materially breaches any of the covenants or terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement or fails to perform any of the other provisions of this Agreement or so fails to make progress as to endanger performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, and in any of these circumstances does not cure such breach or failure to County’s reasonable satisfaction within a period of ten (10) calendar days after receipt of notice from County specifying such breach or failure.

7.2.2 If, after termination, it is determined for any reason whatsoever that Consultant was not in default, or that the default was excusable, services may continue in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement or the rights and obligations of the parties shall be the same as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of the County in accordance with Section 7.1 above.

7.3 Upon termination of this Agreement, County shall compensate Consultant in accordance with Section 3, above, for those services which were provided under this Agreement

prior to its termination and which have not been previously invoiced to County. Consultant's final invoice for said services will be presented to and paid by County in the same manner set forth in Section 3 above.

7.4 If County terminates this Agreement as provided in this Section, no fees of any type, other than fees due and payable at the Termination Date, shall thereafter be paid to Consultant.

Section 8. Ownership and Reuse of Documents

All documents, data, reports, research, graphic presentation materials, etc., developed by Consultant as a part of its work under this Agreement, shall become the property of County upon completion of this Agreement, or in the event of termination or cancellation thereof, at the time of payment under Section 3 for work performed. Consultant shall promptly furnish all such data and material to County on request.

Section 9. Inspection of Books and Records

Consultant will permit County, or any duly authorized agent of County, to inspect and examine the books and records of Consultant for the purpose of verifying the amount of work performed under the Scope of Services. County's right to inspect survives the termination of this Agreement for a period of four years.

Section 10. Insurance

10.1 Prior to commencement of the Services, Consultant shall furnish County with properly executed certificates of insurance which shall evidence all insurance required and provide that such insurance shall not be canceled, except on 30 days' prior written notice to County. Consultant shall provide certified copies of insurance endorsements and/or policies if requested by County. Consultant shall maintain such insurance coverage from the time Services commence until Services are completed and provide replacement certificates, policies and/or endorsements for any such insurance expiring prior to completion of Services. Consultant shall obtain such insurance written on an Occurrence form from such companies having Bests rating of A/VII or better, licensed or approved to transact business in the State of Texas, and shall obtain such insurance of the following types and minimum limits:

10.1.1 Workers' Compensation insurance. Substitutes to genuine Workers' Compensation Insurance will not be allowed. Employers' Liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per injury by accident, \$1,000,000 per injury by disease, and \$1,000,000 per bodily injury by disease.

10.1.2 Employers' Liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per injury by accident, \$1,000,000 per injury by disease, and \$1,000,000 per bodily injury by disease.

10.1.3 Commercial general liability insurance with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the annual aggregate. Policy shall cover liability for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage and products/completed operations arising out of the business operations of the policyholder.

10.1.4 Business Automobile Liability insurance with a combined Bodily Injury/Property Damage limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each accident. The policy shall cover liability arising from the operation of licensed vehicles by policyholder.

10.2 County and the members of Commissioners Court shall be named as additional insured to all required coverage except for Workers' Compensation. All Liability policies including Workers' Compensation written on behalf of Consultant shall contain a waiver of subrogation in favor of County and members of Commissioners Court. For Commercial General Liability, the County shall be named as an Additional Insured on a Primary & Non-Contributory basis.

10.3 If required coverage is written on a claims-made basis, Consultant warrants that any retroactive date applicable to coverage under the policy precedes the effective date of the contract; and that continuous coverage will be maintained or an extended discovery period will be exercised for a period of 2 years beginning from the time that work under the Agreement is completed.

10.4 Consultant shall not commence any portion of the work under this Agreement until it has obtained the insurance required herein and certificates of such insurance have been filed with and approved by Fort Bend County.

10.5 No cancellation of or changes to the certificates, or the policies, may be made without thirty (30) days prior, written notification to Fort Bend County.

10.6 Approval of the insurance by Fort Bend County shall not relieve or decrease the liability of the Consultant.

Section 11. Indemnity

CONSULTANT SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS COUNTY AGAINST ALL LOSSES, LIABILITIES, CLAIMS, CAUSES OF ACTION, AND OTHER EXPENSES, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEYS FEES, ARISING FROM ACTIVITIES OF CONSULTANT, ITS AGENTS, SERVANTS OR EMPLOYEES, PERFORMED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT THAT RESULT FROM THE NEGLIGENT ACT, ERROR, OR OMISSION OF CONSULTANT OR ANY OF CONSULTANT'S AGENTS, SERVANTS OR EMPLOYEES. THE PARTIES AGREE THAT THIS INDEMNIFICATION PROVISION SHALL APPLY DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES AS WELL AS DURING THE PERORMANCE OF ANY CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS THAT MAY EXIST (IF ANY) AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THIS AGREEMENT.

Section 12. Confidential and Proprietary Information

12.1 Consultant acknowledges that it and its employees or agents may, in the course of performing their responsibilities under this Agreement, be exposed to or acquire information that is confidential to County. Any and all information of any form obtained by Consultant or its employees or agents from County in the performance of this Agreement shall be deemed to be confidential information of County ("Confidential Information"). Any reports or other documents or items (including software) that result from the use of the Confidential Information by Consultant shall be treated with respect to confidentiality in the

same manner as the Confidential Information. Confidential Information shall be deemed not to include information that (a) is or becomes (other than by disclosure by Consultant) publicly known or is contained in a publicly available document; (b) is rightfully in Consultant's possession without the obligation of nondisclosure prior to the time of its disclosure under this Agreement; or (c) is independently developed by employees or agents of Consultant who can be shown to have had no access to the Confidential Information.

12.2 Consultant agrees to hold Confidential Information in strict confidence, using at least the same degree of care that Consultant uses in maintaining the confidentiality of its own confidential information, and not to copy, reproduce, sell, assign, license, market, transfer or otherwise dispose of, give, or disclose Confidential Information to third parties or use Confidential Information for any purposes whatsoever other than the provision of Services to County hereunder, and to advise each of its employees and agents of their obligations to keep Confidential Information confidential. Consultant shall use its best efforts to assist County in identifying and preventing any unauthorized use or disclosure of any Confidential Information. Without limitation of the foregoing, Consultant shall advise County immediately in the event Consultant learns or has reason to believe that any person who has had access to Confidential Information has violated or intends to violate the terms of this Agreement and Consultant will at its expense cooperate with County in seeking injunctive or other equitable relief in the name of County or Consultant against any such person. Consultant agrees that, except as directed by County, Consultant will not at any time during or after the term of this Agreement disclose, directly or indirectly, any Confidential Information to any person, and that upon termination of this Agreement or at County's request, Consultant will promptly turn over to County all documents, papers, and other matter in Consultant's possession which embody Confidential Information.

12.3 Consultant acknowledges that a breach of this Section, including disclosure of any Confidential Information, or disclosure of other information that, at law or in equity, ought to remain confidential, will give rise to irreparable injury to County that is inadequately compensable in damages. Accordingly, County may seek and obtain injunctive relief against the breach or threatened breach of the foregoing undertakings, in addition to any other legal remedies that may be available. Consultant acknowledges and agrees that the covenants contained herein are necessary for the protection of the legitimate business interest of County and are reasonable in scope and content.

12.4 Consultant in providing all services hereunder agrees to abide by the provisions of any applicable Federal or State Data Privacy Act.

12.5 Consultant expressly acknowledges that County is subject to the Texas Public Information Act, TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. §§ 552.001 *et seq.*, as amended, and notwithstanding any provision in the Agreement to the contrary, County will make any information related to the Agreement, or otherwise, available to third parties in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act. Any proprietary or confidential information marked as such provided to County by Consultant shall not be disclosed to any third party, except as directed by the Texas Attorney

General in response to a request for such under the Texas Public Information Act, which provides for notice to the owner of such marked information and the opportunity for the owner of such information to notify the Attorney General of the reasons why such information should not be disclosed. The terms and conditions of the Agreement are not proprietary or confidential information.

Section 13. Independent Consultant

13.1 In the performance of work or services hereunder, Consultant shall be deemed an independent Consultant, and any of its agents, employees, officers, or volunteers performing work required hereunder shall be deemed solely as employees of Consultant or, where permitted, of its subcontractors.

13.2 Consultant and its agents, employees, officers, or volunteers shall not, by performing work pursuant to this Agreement, be deemed to be employees, agents, or servants of County and shall not be entitled to any of the privileges or benefits of County employment.

Section 14. Notices

14.1 Each party giving any notice or making any request, demand, or other communication (each, a "Notice") pursuant to this Agreement shall do so in writing and shall use one of the following methods of delivery, each of which, for purposes of this Agreement, is a writing: personal delivery, registered or certified mail (in each case, return receipt requested and postage prepaid), or nationally recognized overnight courier (with all fees prepaid).

14.2 Each party giving a Notice shall address the Notice to the receiving party at the address listed below or to another address designated by a party in a Notice pursuant to this Section:

County:	Fort Bend County Attn: County Judge 401 Jackson Street, 1 st Floor Richmond, Texas 77469
With a copy to:	Fort Bend County Health & Human Services Attn: Director and Local Health Authority 4520 Reading Rd. Ste. A Rosenberg, Texas 77471
Consultant:	MPACT Strategic Consulting, LLC Attn: Spurgeon Robinson 4635 Southwest Freeway, Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77027

14.3 A Notice is effective only if the party giving or making the Notice has complied with subsections 14.1 and 14.2 and if the addressee has received the Notice. A Notice is deemed received as follows:

14.3.1 If the Notice is delivered in person, or sent by registered or certified mail or a nationally recognized overnight courier, upon receipt as indicated by the date on the signed receipt.

14.3.2 If the addressee rejects or otherwise refuses to accept the Notice, or if the Notice cannot be delivered because of a change in address for which no Notice was given, then upon the rejection, refusal, or inability to deliver.

Section 15. Compliance with Laws

Consultant shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, and the orders and decrees of any courts or administrative bodies or tribunals in any matter affecting the performance of this Agreement, including, without limitation, Worker's Compensation laws, minimum and maximum salary and wage statutes and regulations, licensing laws and regulations. When required by County, Consultant shall furnish County with certification of compliance with said laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, orders, and decrees above specified.

Section 16. Performance Representation

16.1 Consultant represents to County that Consultant has the skill and knowledge ordinarily possessed by well-informed members of its trade or profession practicing in the greater Houston metropolitan area and Consultant will apply that skill and knowledge with care and diligence to ensure that the Services provided hereunder will be performed and delivered in accordance with the local professional standard of care.

16.2 Consultant represents to County that the Services will be free from material errors and will materially conform to all requirements and specifications contained in the attached Exhibit A.

Section 17. Assignment

17.1 Neither party may assign any of its rights under this Agreement, except with the prior written consent of the other party. That party shall not unreasonably withhold its consent. All assignments of rights are prohibited under this subsection, whether they are voluntarily or involuntarily, by merger, consolidation, dissolution, operation of law, or any other manner.

17.2 Neither party may delegate any performance under this Agreement.

17.3 Any purported assignment of rights or delegation of performance in violation of this Section is void.

Section 18. Applicable Law

The laws of the State of Texas govern all disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The parties hereto acknowledge that venue is proper in Fort Bend County, Texas, for all legal actions or proceedings arising out of or relating to this Agreement and waive the right

to sue or be sued elsewhere. Nothing in the Agreement shall be construed to waive the County's sovereign immunity.

Section 19. Successors and Assigns

County and Consultant bind themselves and their successors, executors, administrators and assigns to the other party of this Agreement and to the successors, executors, administrators and assigns of the other party, in respect to all covenants of this Agreement.

Section 20. Third Party Beneficiaries

This Agreement does not confer any enforceable rights or remedies upon any person other than the parties.

Section 21. Severability

If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions remain in full force, if the essential terms and conditions of this Agreement for each party remain valid, binding, and enforceable.

Section 22. Publicity

Contact with citizens of Fort Bend County, media outlets, or governmental agencies shall be the sole responsibility of County. Under no circumstances whatsoever, shall Consultant release any material or information developed or received in the performance of the Services hereunder without the express written permission of County, except where required to do so by law.

Section 23. Captions

The section captions used in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

Section 24. Conflict

In the event there is a conflict between this Agreement and the attached exhibit, this Agreement controls.

Section 25. Certain State Law Requirements for Contracts For purposes of section 2252.152, 2271.002, and 2274.002, Texas Government Code, as amended, Contractor hereby verifies that Contractor and any parent company, wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, and affiliate:

25.1 Unless affirmatively declared by the United States government to be excluded from its federal sanctions regime relating to Sudan or Iran or any federal sanctions regime relating to a foreign terrorist organization, is not identified on a list prepared and maintained by

the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts under Section 806.051, 807.051, or 2252.153 of the Texas Government Code.

25.2 If employing ten (10) or more full-time employees and this Agreement has a value of \$100,000.00 or more, Contractor does not boycott Israel and is authorized to agree in such contracts not to boycott Israel during the term of such contracts. "Boycott Israel" has the meaning provided in section 808.001 of the Texas Government Code.

25.3 If employing ten (10) or more full-time employees and this Agreement has a value of \$100,000.00 or more, Contractor does not boycott energy companies and is authorized to agree in such contracts not to boycott energy companies during the term of such contracts. "Boycott energy company" has the meaning provided in section 809.001 of the Texas Government Code.

25.4 If employing ten (10) or more full-time employees and this Agreement has a value of \$100,000.00 or more, Contractor does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association and is authorized to agree in such contracts not to discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association during the term of such contracts. "Discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association" has the meaning provided in section 2274.001(3) of the Texas Government Code. "Firearm entity" and "firearm trade association" have the meanings provided in section 2274.001(6) and (7) of the Texas Government Code.

Section 26. Human Trafficking

BY ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT, CONSULTANT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE COUNTY IS OPPOSED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THAT NO COUNTY FUNDS WILL BE USED IN SUPPORT OF SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES THAT VIOLATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed or have caused their respective names to be signed to multiple counterparts to be effective on the date signed by the last party hereto.

FORT BEND COUNTY

MPACT STRATEGIC CONSULTING, LLC

KP George, County Judge

Spurgeon Robinson

Authorized Agent – Signature

Date

Spurgeon Robinson
Authorized Agent – Printed Name

ATTEST:

President
Title

Laura Richard, County Clerk

06/30/2023
Date

AUDITOR’S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that funds are available in the amount of \$_____ to accomplish and pay the obligation of Fort Bend County under this contract.

Robert Ed Sturdivant, County Auditor

Exhibit A: MPACT Proposed Scope of Services

Exhibit B: Fort Bend County Travel Policy

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EXHIBIT A

Fort Bend County Family Rent and Utility Transition Program

MPACT Proposed Scope of Services

PROJECT: Fort Bend County Family Rent and Utility Transition Program

Scope of Services: Vendor will provide Case Management support and staff augmentation services for the Fort Bend County Rent and Utility Transition Program. Activities include but are not limited to:

Case Management/Applicant Support Services

- As directed by Fort Bend County’s Social Services Supervisors, MPACT will provide case management and need assessments to current ERA II Applicant pool.
- Conduct applicant reviews and updates to data and reporting tools as requested.
- Provide program information, review documentation and assist ERA 2 clients with their transition from the ERA 2 program to other available resources.

Location of Services

- TBD by Fort Bend County

Resources and Estimated Fees

- MPACT will provide six (6) case managers for the duration of the performance period.
- The performance period is estimated at 3 months (90 days)
- Project will be based upon servicing approximately 532 applicants.
- Fort Bend County will provide technology and systems for performance of the scope of work.
- The total costs for professional services is approximately **\$187,200.00**.
 - Assumes staffing of 6 FTEs for the entire period of performance at 40 hours per week.
 - Any reductions in staff over time will reduce the fee during the performance period.

Fee Schedule

LCAT	Hourly Rate	Staff hours per week	FTEs	Total Monthly Fee	Period of Performance	Total Project Fee
Case Manager	65	40	6	\$ 62,400.00	3	\$ 187,200.00

MPACT will invoice monthly for the case management staff augmentation services.

EXHIBIT B

Annex B

Fort Bend County Travel Policy

Approved in Commissioners' Court on November 3, 2009

Effective November 4, 2009

Revised September 7, 2010

Revised June 2, 2015, Effective August 1, 2015

Revised July 28, 2015, Effective August 1, 2015

Revised July 26, 2016, Effective August 1, 2016

Revised December 12, 2017, Effective January 1, 2018

The Commissioners' Court allocates funds annually for the payment of travel expenditures for county employees and officials within the individual departmental budgets. Travel expenditures paid from these budgets must serve a public purpose for Fort Bend County. These expenditures may be paid directly to the vendor or provided as a reimbursement to the employee/official upon completion of their travel. Advance payments to vendors may be accommodated by issuance of a check or use of a County procurement card. Eligible expenditure categories under this policy include: Lodging, meals, transportation, registration fees, and other fees (with justification). Each category is further defined below.

CONTRACT RATES:

Fort Bend County is a 'Cooperative Purchasing Participating Entity' with the State of Texas. This program is also known as TPASS (Texas Procurement and Support Services) State Travel Management Program (STMP). This gives County employees and officials access to the contract rates negotiated by the State for hotels and rental cars. Procurement procedures for these contract services are explained within the categories below.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL:

Authorization: The traveler must obtain Commissioners' Court approval for out-of-state travel before departure. The duration must include travel days along with the event scheduled days. To prevent delays in processing travel reimbursement, ensure that the travel duration is accurately defined when submitting the agenda request.

Documentation: The traveler must provide an excerpt from the Commissioners' Court minutes (<http://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/index.aspx?page=55>) with the travel reimbursement form.

LODGING (In and Out of State):

Hotel:

Hotel reimbursements are limited to the Federal Travel Regulations set forth by US General Services Administration (GSA) by location not including taxes. The rates are set annually and vary by month and location. The maximum rates for lodging per day can be found at:

http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877?utm_source=OGP&utm_medium=print-radio&utm_term=perdiem&utm_campaign=shortcuts based on travelers destination.

Fort Bend County is a 'Cooperative Purchasing Participating Entity' with the State of Texas. This gives County employees and officials access to the contract rates negotiated by the State for hotels. Participating hotels can be found at: https://portal.cpa.state.tx.us/hotel/hotel_directory/index.cfm (be sure to check the correct fiscal year).

Traveler must verify confirmed rate matches the negotiated contract rates found on the State's website listed above and does not exceed the GSA daily allowance.

If the organizer of a conference/seminar has negotiated discount rates with a hotel(s), the traveler may choose these lodging services without penalty but the traveler must reserve the room at the group rate and provide documentation of the group rate with reimbursement request.

The traveler will be responsible for the excess charge over the GSA per diem rate for the city/county even if using the State rate. The Auditor's Office will deduct from the travelers' reimbursement any excess charges over the GSA per diem rate. Travel websites including but not limited to Expedia and Travelocity should not be used to book lodging.

Travel Days: If the traveler must leave before 7:00AM to arrive at the start of the event and/or return to the County after 6:00PM after the event concludes, an additional night's lodging is allowable before and/or after the event.

Additional fees allowable: Self-parking

Additional fees allowable with justification: Valet parking is allowable if an extreme hardship exists due to physical disability of the traveler or if no self-parking is available.

Fees not allowable: Internet, phone charges, laundry, safe fees

Gratuities: Gratuities are not reimbursable for any lodging services.

Overpayments by County: Any lodging overpayment by the County must be reimbursed by the hotel before processing a reimbursement to the traveler for any of the categories addressed in this policy. Prepaid lodging services should be accurately calculated or underestimated by excluding the taxes to prevent delays in processing travel reimbursements.

Procurement Card: The traveler may use the procurement card to make lodging reservations. Contact Purchasing to arrange or use the procurement card assigned to the department or traveler.

Documentation: **A final settled hotel bill with a zero balance from the front desk is required even if lodging is paid by the procurement card. The hotel bill left under the door is not acceptable.** The hotel bill should be scrutinized before traveler departs to make sure all charges are valid and notify hotel of any invalid charges and resolve issues before departing. Make sure all parking has been added to your bill and all personal incidentals have been paid by traveler. Any invalid charges will be the responsibility of the traveler. A copy of the itemized hotel statement must be submitted with the travel reimbursement claim if the traveler used a County procurement card to purchase lodging services or prepaid by County check. Event agenda/documentation or a letter from the traveler describing the event/meeting is required. If utilizing conference negotiated hotel rates, documentation of rates is required.

Changes/Modifications to Reservation – Any modifications including cancellation of reservation, the traveler must obtain a confirmation number and note the name of the person they spoke with in case the hotel charges the traveler. If the traveler does not obtain a confirmation number then any expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the traveler. Expenses resulting from changes or modifications to travel reservations will be paid by the County if the traveler produces documentation that a family emergency exists.

County Exemption Status – Fort Bend County Employees traveling on County Business are not exempt from State and local hotel taxes, state taxes, etc. with the exception of District Judges and the District Attorney.

MEALS:

Texas: Meals including gratuities will be reimbursed to the traveler at a flat rate of \$36/day. The travelers per diem on the departure day and final day of travel will be at 75% of the per diem which is \$27/day.

Out-of-state: Meals including gratuities will be reimbursed to the traveler at a flat rate of \$48/day. The travelers per diem on the departure day and final day of travel will be at 75% of the per diem which is \$36/day.

Late Night Arrival – If a traveler arrives in Fort Bend County between midnight and 6am the traveler will receive a full day per diem for the previous day.

Day trips: Meals will not be reimbursed for trips that do not require an overnight stay.

Procurement Card: No meal purchases are allowed on any County procurement card.

Documentation: No meal receipts are required for reimbursement. Event agenda/documentation or a letter from the traveler describing the event/meeting is required.

TRANSPORTATION:

Personal Vehicle: Use of personal vehicle will be reimbursed at the current rate/mile set by Commissioners' Court. Mileage should be calculated using the County office location of the traveler and the event location. Mileage may not be calculated using the traveler's home. Mileage should be calculated using an employee's vehicle odometer reading or by a readily available online mapping service for travel out of Fort Bend County. If using the mileage of an online mapping service, state which mapping service was used or provide a printout of your route detailing the mileage. For local travel, odometer readings or mapping service details are not required. Departments should develop a mileage guide for employees for local travel points, if a department does not have a mileage guide, the Auditor's Office will determine if the mileage listed is reasonable.

Allowable expenses: Parking and tolls with documentation.

County Vehicle: Fuel purchases when using a County vehicle should be made with the County Procurement card if available. Original receipts will accompany the Procurement Card statement but a copy must be provided with the travel reimbursement request.

Allowable expenses: Parking and tolls with documentation required.

Airfare: Airfare is reimbursable at the lowest available rate based on 14 day advance purchase of a discounted coach/economy full-service seat based on the required arrival time for the event. The payment confirmation and itinerary must be presented with the travel reimbursement form. The traveler will be responsible for the excess charges of an airline ticket purchase other than a coach/economy seat. When using Southwest Airlines a traveler should choose the "wanna get away" flight category.

Allowable Expenses: Bag fees. Fare changes are allowable if business related or due to family emergency.

Unallowable Expenses/Fees: Trip insurance, Early Bird Check In, Front of the line, Leg Room, Fare changes for personal reasons.

Rental Car: Rental cars are limited to the negotiated TPASS rates listed at: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/stmp/stmp-rental-car-contract/vendor-comparison/>. The contact information for Avis is listed here: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/stmp/stmp-rental-car-contract/Avis/>. The contact information for Enterprise is listed here: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/stmp/stmp-rental-car-contract/Enterprise/>. When making a reservation traveler should provide the County's [REDACTED] The traveler will not be reimbursed for any amount over the negotiated contract rates if a non-contract company is used at a higher rate. The traveler should

select a vehicle size comparable to the number of County travelers. The traveler may use a non-contract vendor at an overall rate lower than the contract rates with no penalty. The original contract/receipt must be presented with the travel reimbursement form or a copy if a County procurement card is used. . The traveler will be responsible for any excess charges not included in the TPASS rates or for choosing a vehicle size not comparable with the number of travelers on the trip. Insurance is included in the negotiated TPASS rates, if a traveler chooses to take out additional insurance the cost is on the traveler.

Enterprise:

● [REDACTED]
● [REDACTED]
● [REDACTED]

Avis:

● [REDACTED]
● [REDACTED]

Unallowable Fees/Charges: GPS, prepaid fuel, premium radio, child safety seats, additional insurance, one way rentals.

Allowable expenses: Parking and tolls allowed with documentation.

Other Transportation: Other forms of transit (bus, taxi, train) are reimbursable with an original receipt.

Gratuities: Gratuities are permitted if original receipt includes gratuity (20% maximum allowed) for any transportation services.

Procurement Card: The traveler may use a County procurement card to make transportation reservations for air travel and rental car services. Contact Purchasing to arrange or use the procurement card assigned to the department or traveler.

Documentation: Original receipts are required for all transportation reimbursements paid by the traveler. Transportation services obtained with a County procurement card require a copy of the receipt. Additional requirements are noted within each category above. Event agenda/documentation or a letter from the traveler describing the event/meeting is required.

REGISTRATION:

Registration fees: Registration fees are reimbursable for events that serve a Fort Bend County purpose. Registration fees for golf tournaments, tours, guest fees and other recreational events are not reimbursable.

Procurement Card: The traveler may use a County procurement card to register for an event. Contact Purchasing to arrange or use the procurement card assigned to the department or traveler.

Documentation: An original receipt must be obtained upon registration and submitted with the reimbursement request if paid by the traveler. A copy of the receipt must be provided if registration is paid on a County procurement card. Event agenda/documentation or a letter from the traveler describing the event/meeting is required.

GRANTS:

Travel expenditures from Federal and State grants must also conform to the granting agency's funding requirements.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FORM:

The traveler must use the current travel reimbursement form (<http://econnect/index.aspx?page=55>) for all travel related services addressed in this policy. No other expenditures may be submitted for reimbursement on the travel reimbursement form. After completing all required information, the travel form must be signed/dated by the traveler and the department head/elected official. Travel reimbursement request should be submitted within 30 days from when traveler returns from trip. Mileage reimbursement request should be submitted no less frequently than quarterly. Mileage reimbursement request for the fourth quarter should be submitted no later than October 30th for yearend processing.

EXCLUSIONS:

If the traveler has custody of a person pursuant to statute or court order or if the traveler is required by court or legal entity to appear at a particular time and place the traveler will not be penalized for accommodations that require a 14 day advance purchase ticket if travel is required with less than 14 days' notice.

If the traveler has custody of a person pursuant to statute to court order the traveler will not be held to the 75% per diem on the departure and final day of travel.