



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Houston Field Office, Region VI
Office of Community Planning & Development
1331 Lamar Street, Suite 550
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 718-3199 - FAX (713) 718-3256
www.hud.gov

December 3, 2024

Carol Borrego, Director
Fort Bend
301 Jackson Street
Richmond, TX 77469

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2024 CDBG Grant Agreement Transmittal

Dear Ms. Borrego:

The Houston Field Office would like to thank you for your continued partnership in providing quality affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities for low-and moderate-income persons through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs.

One Grant Agreement is attached for each program awarded as follows:

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)	\$ 3,581,470.00
Total FY 2024 Award	\$ 3,581,470.00

Plan Approval

The transmitting of a grant agreement does not constitute approval of the activities described in your Consolidated Plan. You are reminded that you, as grantee, are responsible for ensuring that all grant funds are used in accordance with all program requirements. By executing the Grant Agreement (or Funding Approval/Agreement) you will be entering into a legally binding agreement with HUD to use the awarded funds and carry out the funded activities in accordance with all Federal statutes, regulations, and award terms and conditions that apply to those funds and activities.

Please note the special conditions that may be attached to each agreement.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

On February 9, 2023, HUD published in the Federal Register a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\) entitled “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.”](#) The proposed rule implements the Fair Housing Act’s statutory mandate to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH), which directs HUD to ensure that the agency and its program participants proactively take meaningful actions to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, eliminate disparities in opportunities, and foster inclusive communities free from discrimination.

The public comment period ended on April 24, 2023, and HUD is in the process of finalizing the rule. More information, including a Fair Housing Planning Toolkit, updates, and, once published, the final rule, is available [here](#). *The AFFH Interim Final Rule (86 FR 30779) remains in effect during proposed rulemaking.*

Preventing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse and Whistleblower Protections

Preventing waste, fraud, and abuse of Federal funds is a shared responsibility and any person who becomes aware of the existence or apparent existence of fraud, waste or abuse of any HUD award must report such incidents to both the HUD official responsible for the award and to HUD's Office of Inspector General (OIG). HUD OIG is available to receive allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse related to HUD programs via its hotline number (1-800-347-3735) and its [online hotline form](#).

Please be reminded of the Whistleblower Protection requirements contained in 41 U.S.C. § 4712, which, as amended, protect employees of a government contractor, subcontractor, grantee, and subgrantee from retaliation or reprisal as a result of protected disclosures of gross mismanagement, gross waste, abuse of authority, and other violations in connection with Federal contracts or grants. Grantee must inform employees in writing of their rights and remedies.

Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)

The FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) is a reporting tool that Federal prime awardees (i.e., prime grant recipients and prime contractors) use to capture and report subaward and executive compensation data to meet the FFATA reporting requirements. For FSRS reporting, prime awardees will report on all subawards they make. In accordance with 2 CFR part 170, prime awardees awarded a Federal grant are required to file a FFATA subaward report by the end of the month following the month in which the prime awardee awards any subaward equal to or greater than \$30,000 in Federal funds. Additional information can be found on the FSRS website, at <https://www.fsrs.gov/>.

Revised Federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200)

In April 2024, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued revised OMB Guidance for Grants and Agreements, which is now called the OMB Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance. In this update, there have been significant changes made to 2 CFR Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, commonly known as the "Uniform Guidance." More information on these revision is available [here](#) and [here](#). Of particular note, the revisions increase of the **Single Audit threshold** from \$750,000 to \$1 million and the *de minimis* indirect cost rate will increase from 10 percent to up to 15 percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). The revisions to 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F (Audit Requirements) will be effective for fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2024. The rest of the changes will take effect on October 1, 2024, for (1) awards issued on or after October 1, 2024, and (2) awards HUD has expressly made subject to the regulations as may be amended.

Environmental Review Requirements

You are reminded that all activities are subject to the provisions at 24 CFR Part 58 (Environmental Review Procedures). Furthermore, funds for certain activities may not be obligated or expended until HUD has approved a Request for Release of Funds (RROF) and issued an Authority to Use Grant Funds (AUGF). A RROF must be signed by a certifying officer and submitted to HUD along with proof of public notice. Until the AUGF has been issued, no HUD funds can be committed. If the project or activity is Exempt per 24 CFR 58.34 or Categorically Excluded Not Subject to 58.5 per 24 CFR 58.35(b), no RROF is required.

On April 23, 2024, HUD published the [Federal Flood Risk Management Standard \(FFRMS\) Final Rule](#) to better protect communities from flooding. This Rule amends HUD's existing floodplain regulations to require a greater level of flood protection for HUD-funded projects. The Rule, with a compliance date of June 24, 2024, applies to all CPD programs (with the exception of HTF) as part of the environmental review process. Additional information can be found at https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/environment_energy/ffrms.

Build America, Buy America (BABA)

The Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act established a Buy America Preference (BAP) which requires that certain CPD-funded infrastructure projects procure all iron and steel, construction materials, and manufactured products from domestic sources, unless exempted by a general or project-specific waiver. HUD issued a Phased Implementation Waiver that phases in the BAP based on the program funding and materials used. In FY24, the BAP will apply to additional covered CPD programs and materials. Grantees are encouraged to utilize BABA resources on the [HUD Exchange](#), including the CPD BABA Implementation Guidance, for information on how to determine if the BAP applies to a specific project and resources to maximize the flexibilities provided by current HUD general waivers.

Executing the Agreement

Please execute each agreement with electronic signature and date and return to this office to the attention of Stacia L. Johnson, Director, Community Planning and Development. Please ensure the Chief Elected Official or authorized official electronically signs the agreement and maintain a copy of each signed agreement in your local program files.

Indirect Cost Rate Addendum: New for FY2024, the authorized official **must** complete the Indirect Cost Rate Addendum to each agreement. Please mark one (and only one) checkbox to reflect how indirect costs will be calculated and charged under the grant. Complete this section in full by applying the authorized official's name, title, date, and signature. **For grantees electing to use the *de minimis* indirect cost rate:** As noted above, under the 2024 Revisions to 2 CFR Part 200, the *de minimis* indirect cost rate will increase from 10 percent to up to 15 percent of MTDC. For FY2024 grants, any grantee that elects to use the *de minimis* indirect cost rate, and indicates this selection on the Indirect Costs Rate Addendum to the agreement (2nd checkbox), is permitted to utilize the *de minimis* rate of up to 15 percent when the 2 CFR revisions become effective on October 1, 2024, regardless of whether the grant agreement is executed before, on, or after

October 1, 2024. However, Grantees using the *de minimis* rate may only apply the higher rate to MTDC amounts that are incurred on or after October 1, 2024.

For additional information and guidance on grant-based accounting, please refer to the HUD Exchange at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/manage-a-program/grant-based-accounting/>.

To establish a Line of Credit for Fiscal Year 2024 grant funds, you will need to sign, execute and return one copy of each agreement. If you need to add or remove individuals authorized to access the Integrated Disbursement Information System (IDIS), please complete an IDIS Online Access Request Form (HUD 27055), notarize it, and return it to this office. Additionally, if you need to establish or change the depository account where these funds are to be wired, a Direct Deposit Sign-Up form (SF-1199A) must be completed by your financial institution and returned to this office with a copy of a voided check.

HUD congratulates Fort Bend on your grant award, and we look forward to assisting you in accomplishing your programs goals. If you have any questions or need further information or assistance, please contact Mary M. Elo, CPD Representative at (713) 718-3124 or Mary.M.Elo@hud.gov.

Sincerely,

Stacia L. Johnson

Stacia L. Johnson, Director
Office of Community Planning and
Development

Enclosure(s)