



Citizen Participation Plan
COG Method of Distribution
Hurricane Harvey CDBG-Disaster Recovery Allocation

Summary Information

Contact Information

Council of Government (COG): **Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC)**

Principle Contact Name, Title: **Michael Ada; Director of Economic Development, Response, & Recovery**

Principle Contact Telephone: **(361) 578-1587 ext 204**

Principle Contact Email: **michaela@gcrpc.org**

Principle Contact Address: **1908 N. Laurent, Suite 600**

City, State, Zip: **Victoria, Texas 77901**

Citizen and Non-Governmental Organization Outreach

The COG will encourage citizens, with particular emphasis on persons of low-to-moderate income and other vulnerable populations to submit their views regarding community development and housing needs resulting from the disaster(s) in the following ways:

GCRPC will engage in Citizen and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) outreach through 1) the GCRPC website, 2) public notices, and 3) press releases. Citizens and NGOs will be encouraged to review the GCRPC Method of Distribution (MOD) made available through the GCRPC website and participation in scheduled public hearings. Citizens and NGOs may submit written comments to the GCRPC via letter or email. Additionally, citizens and NGOs may comment when attending scheduled public hearings where comments will be recorded.

The following local organizations that provide services or housing for low-to-moderate income persons, including but not limited to, the local Public Housing Authorities, the local Health and Human Services offices, the local mental health and MHMR offices, Community Development Corporations and Community Housing Development Organizations, will receive written notification concerning the date, time, location and topics to be covered at the method of distribution public hearings:

Calhoun-Port Lavaca Housing Authority; Yoakum City Housing Authority; Cuero Housing Authority; Yorktown Housing Authority; Goliad Housing Authority; Gonzales Housing Authority; Jackson County Mauritz Village Apartments; Lavaca County Hallettsville Housing Authority; Victoria Housing Authority; Bluebonnet Trails Community Services; Gulf Bend Center; Devereux Victoria; Victoria Economic Development; Texas Health and Human Services Commission Offices (City of Port Lavaca – Calhoun County, City of Cuero – DeWitt County, and City of Victoria – Victoria, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, and Lavaca Counties)

The following organizations interested in fair housing issues and representing protected classes of individuals will be contacted to gain additional perspective on fair housing and civil rights issues in the region, and how the people they represent were affected by the disaster(s). Approaches beyond simple written notification of public hearings are required and detailed below:

Victoria Long Term Recovery Group; Texas Rio Grande Legal Aide – Victoria Law Center. In addition to written notification of the public hearings, the GCRPC will be releasing public hearing information to local media outlets (print and radio).

The COG acknowledges that language differences may play a role in effectively reaching non-English speaking residents. The COG will address these potential barriers by providing notification efforts as follows:

Notices of public hearings will be provided in English and Spanish text. Notices will be posted on the GCRPC website, in regional transit vehicles (Victoria Transit), regional newspapers (The Victoria Advocate, Cuero Record, Goliad Advanced-Guard, Gonzles Inquierer, Jackson County Herald Tribune, and Hallettsville Tribune-Herald), the regional Spanish Language newspaper (Revista de Victoria), and forwarded to all cities and counties in the Golden Crescent Region to be posted in their respective public areas.

Public Hearing Content

The public hearings will include a discussion of the following topics:

- The development of housing and community development needs resulting from the disaster(s);
- The amount of funding available;
- All eligible activities under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program, including linking activities to the disaster(s) through direct damage or failure to function;
- Proposed objective factors;
- The COG's draft Method of Distribution.
- Any public comments received up to the date of each public hearing.
- Proposed responses to received public comments.

Required Meeting and Public Hearing Information

To the extent possible, the COG will adhere to the following schedule of hearings and notifications:

Posting of Draft Method of Distribution for Public Review

Date/Time: 6/3/2018 to 7/3/2018 Website Address: www.gcrpc.org

Public Hearings Scheduling Information

Public Planning Meeting – 1st Public Hearing

Date/Time: 6/18/2018 – 6:00 PM Location: Victoria Tower Conference Room, 1908 N. Laurent, 2nd Floor, Victoria, Texas 77901

2nd Public Hearing During Comment Period

Date/Time: 7/9/2018 – 6:00 PM Location: Victoria Tower Conference Room, 1908 N. Laruent, 2nd Floor, Victoria, Texas 77901

Notification consistent with GLO requirements will be provided on or before the following dates:

Dates Personal Notice of Hearings will be sent to entities: 6/4/2018, 6/15/2018, and 7/6/2018

Dates Notice of Hearings will be published on the COG's Website: 6/4/2018 through 7/9/2018

Dates Notice of Hearings will be published in regional newspaper(s): 6/3/2018, 6/17/2018, 6/24/2018, 7/1/2018, and 7/8/2018

The COG understands public hearings shall be held at a time and location compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries. The hearing must include accommodations for persons with disabilities.. The COG will accommodate these needs in the following ways:

Public hearing locations will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Public hearing announcements will include information on accessibility request for individuals requiring an interpreter, auxiliary aids, or other services.

The COG understands its responsibility to provide interpretive services when a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate in the public hearing. If these services are determined to be necessary, the COG will address this need as follows:

Should a significant number of non-English residents be expected at any of the GCRPC's scheduled public hearings, Spanish interpreters will be in attendance to provide assistance.

Efforts Exceeding Minimum Participation Requirements

The GLO has encouraged the COG to seek public participation when developing the method of distribution. In pursuit of this goal, the COG held additional meetings and took other additional actions as follows:

In addition to the two public hearings required by GLO, the GCRPC will address MOD at its Board of Director's meetings scheduled for Wednesday, May 30, 2018, at 4:00 pm, and Wednesday June 27, 2018, at 4:00 pm. Public Comments will be received during these meetings.

Further, an updated draft version of the GCRPC MOD will be posted and maintained on the GCRPC website and available at the GCRPC offices for public review. The GCRPC will request that all local cities and counties post hearing notices in their public areas and have a copy of the MOD available for public review.