

RESOLUTION No. R 08-09

COUNTY OF GRANT
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the 1987 revisions to the Housing and Community Development Act and in an effort to further encourage citizen participation, the County of Grant has prepared and adopted this Citizen Participation Plan.

OBJECTIVE A

The County of Grant will provide for and encourage citizen participation within its area of jurisdiction, with particular emphasis on participation by person of low and moderate income. Action items:

1. Adopt and circulate an Open Meetings Resolution which provides citizens with reasonable notice of County upcoming meetings, actions and hearings and circulate to newspapers, radio and television media.
2. Develop press releases on County actions and hearings and circulate to newspapers, radio and television media.
3. Develop and maintain listing of groups and representatives of low and moderate income persons, and include on mailing list of announcements, notices and press releases, etc.

OBJECTIVE B

The County of Grant will provide citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information and records relating to the proposed and actual use of CDBG funds. Action items:

1. Public notices, press releases, ect., should allow for a maximum length of notice to citizens.
2. Appropriate information and records relating to the ' proposed and actual use of CDBG funds must be available upon request to all citizens. Personnel and income records may be exempted from these requirements.
3. Meetings, hearing, ect., should be conducted at times and locations conducive to public attendance, e.g., evenings, Saturdays.

OBJECTIVE C

The County of Grant will provide technical assistance to groups and representatives of low and moderate income persons that request assistance in developing proposals. Note: the level and type of assistance is to be determined by the County. Action items:

1. Low and moderate income groups should be advised that technical assistance, particularly in the area of community development, is available from the County upon request.
2. Document technical assistance provided to such groups and have documentation available for review.

OBJECTIVE D

The County of Grant will provide a minimum of two public hearings to obtain citizen participation and respond to proposals and questions at all stages of the Community Development Block Grant Program. Action items:

1. Advise citizens of the CDBG program objectives, range of activities that can be applied for and other pertinent information.
2. Conduct a minimum of two public hearings:
 - a. One public hearing will be held to advise citizens of the program objectives and range of activities that can be applied for, and to obtain the citizen views on community development and housing needs, to include the needs of low and moderate income people. This hearing will take place prior to the selection of the project to be submitted to the state for CDBG funding assistance.
 - b. A second public hearing will be held to review program performances, past use of funds and make available to the public its community development and housing needs, including the needs of low and moderate income families, and the activities to be undertaken to meet such needs.
3. Publish public hearing notices in the non-legal section of newspapers or in other local media. Evidence of compliance with these regulations will be provided with each CDBG application, i.e., hearing notice minutes of public meetings, list of needs and activities to be undertaken, etc. Amendments to goals, objectives and applications arts also subject to public participation.

OBJECTIVE E

The County of Grant will provide timely written answers to written complaints and grievances within 15 working days where practical. Action items:

1. Adopt complaint handling procedures or policies to insure that complaints or grievances are responded to within 15 days, if possible.
2. Allow appeal of a decision to a neutral authority.
3. File a detailed record of all complaints or grievances and responses in one central location with easy public access.


OBJECTIVE F

The County of Grant will identify how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the case of public hearings where a significant number of residents can be reasonably expected to participate. Action items:

1. Identify areas where large majorities of non-English persons speaking reside and make appropriate provisions when issues affecting these areas are to be discussed at public meetings, hearings, etc. Appropriate provisions will include having interpreters available at the meeting and having briefing material available in the appropriate language.
2. Maintain records/rosters of public hearing attendees and proceedings to verify compliance with this objective.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Grant approved, passed, and adopted the Citizen Participation Plan this 10th day of April 2008.


Henry Torres, Chairman


Mary Ann Sedillo, Commissioner


Jovita Gonzales, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Robert Zamarripa, County Clerk

