

THE COUNTY OF POLK
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN
TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Note to Grant Recipients regarding Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements:

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 may include Citizen Participation notices (e.g., complaint procedures, hearings notices), civil rights notices, and any other published notice that may allow an eligible person with limited English proficiency to participate in discussing proposed CDBG activities.

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 County of Polk, Texas, 101 West Church Street, Livingston, Texas 77351, 936-327-6813 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 the County Judge, at 101 West Church Street, Livingston, Texas 77351 or may call 936-327-6813.
2. A copy of the complaint or grievance shall be transmitted by the County Judge to the entity that is the subject of the complaint or grievance and to the County Attorney within five (5) working days after the date of the complaint or grievance was received.
3. The County Judge 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 County 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 County, 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 County, 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 County 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.

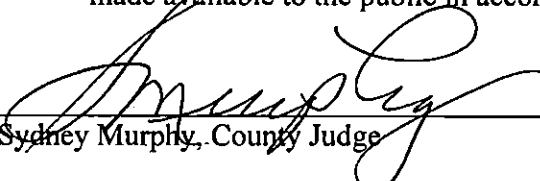
The County shall comply with the following citizen participation requirements for the preparation and submission of an application for a TxCDBG project:

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

2. The County 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 County must comply with the following citizen participation requirements in the event that the County receives funds from the TxCDBG program:

1. The County 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 County 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 County 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.



Sydney Murphy, County Judge

3/28/2023

Date

CONDADO DE POLK
PLAN DE PARTICIPACIÓN CONDADOANA
PROGRAMA DE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Nota a los receptores de subvención en relación a requisitos de Dominio Limitado del Inglés:

De acuerdo con la ley federal hay un número significativo de población que son residentes y que no hablan inglés y son afectados por el proyecto TxCDBG, estos Condadoanos deben tener "acceso significativo" a todos los aspectos del proyecto TxCDBG . Para proporcionar "acceso significativo", receptores de la subvención pueden ser utilizados para proporcionar servicios de interpretación en las audiencias públicas o proporcionar materiales no escritos en inglés que se proporcionan de manera rutinaria en Inglés. Para obtener más información, consulte LEP.gov.

PROCEDIMIENTOS DE QUEJA

Estos procedimientos de queja cumplen con los requisitos del Departamento de Programa de Agricultura de Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) y los requisitos del gobierno local de Texas se encuentran en 24 CFR §570.486 (Código de Regulaciones Federales). Los Condadoanos pueden obtener una copia de estos procedimientos en la Condado de Polk, 101 West Church Street, Livingston, Texas 77351, 936-327-6813, en horario de oficina.

A continuación se presentan los procedimientos formales de quejas y quejas relativas a los servicios prestados en el marco del proyecto TxCDBG.

1. Una persona que tiene una queja o reclamación sobre cualquiera de los servicios o actividades en relación con el proyecto TxCDBG, o si se trata de una propuesta, en curso o determinado proyecto TxCDBG, pueden durante las horas regulares presentar dicha queja o reclamo, por escrito a la Administrador de la Condado, a 101 West Ben Franklin, Polk, Texas 75939 o puede llamar a 936-398-4126.
2. Una copia de la queja o reclamación se transmitirá por el Jueza de la Condado a la entidad que es encargada de la queja o reclamación y al Abogado de la Condado dentro de los cinco (5) días hábiles siguientes a la fecha de la queja o día que la reclamación fue recibida.
3. El Jueza de la Condado deberá complir una investigación de la queja o reclamación, si es posible, y dara una respuesta oportuna por escrito a la persona que hizo la denuncia o queja dentro de los diez (10) días.
4. Si la investigación no puede ser completada dentro de los diez (10) días hábiles anteriormente, la persona que hizo la queja o denuncia sera notificada, por escrito, dentro de los quince (15) días cuando sea posible después de la entrega de la queja original o quejas y detallará cuando se debera completar la investigación.

5. Si es necesario, la queja y una copia escrita de la investigación posterior se remitirán a la TxCDBG para su posterior revisión y comentarios.
6. Se proporcionara copias de los procedimientos de queja y las respuestas a las quejas, tanto en Inglés y Español, u otro lenguaje apropiado.

ASISTENCIA TÉCNICA

Cuando lo solicite, la Condado proporcionará asistencia técnica a los grupos que son representantes de las personas de bajos y moderados ingresos en el desarrollo de propuestas para el uso de los fondos TxCDBG. La Condado, en base a las necesidades específicas de los residentes de la comunidad en el momento de la solicitud, deberá determinar el nivel y tipo de asistencia.

DISPOSICIONES AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Para cada audiencia pública programada y llevada a cabo por la Condado, se observarán las disposiciones siguientes de audiencias públicas:

1. Aviso público de todas las audiencias deberá publicarse al menos setenta y dos (72) horas antes de la audiencia programada. El aviso público deberá publicarse en un periódico local. Cada aviso público debe incluir la fecha, hora, lugar y temas a considerar en la audiencia pública. Un artículo periodístico publicado también puede utilizarse para cumplir con este requisito, siempre y cuando cumpla con todos los requisitos de contenido y temporización. Los avisos también deben ser un lugar prominente en los edificios públicos y se distribuyen a las autoridades locales de vivienda pública y otros grupos interesados de la comunidad.
2. Cuando se tenga un número significativo de residentes que no hablan inglés serán una parte de la zona de servicio potencial del proyecto TxCDBG, documentos vitales como las comunicaciones deben ser publicados en el idioma predominante de estos Condadoanos que no hablan inglés.
3. Cada audiencia pública se llevará a cabo en un momento y lugar conveniente para los beneficiarios potenciales o reales e incluirá alojamiento para personas con discapacidad. Las personas con discapacidad deben poder asistir a las audiencias y la Condado debe hacer los arreglos para las personas que requieren ayudas o servicios auxiliares en caso de necesitarlo por lo menos dos días antes de la audiencia será pública.
4. Una audiencia pública celebrada antes de la presentación de una solicitud TxCDBG debe hacerse después de las 5:00 pm en un día de semana o en un momento conveniente en sábado o domingo.

5. Cuando un número significativo de residentes que no hablan inglés se registra para participar en una audiencia pública, un intérprete debe estar presente para dar cabida a las necesidades de los residentes que no hablan inglés.

La Condado deberá cumplir con los siguientes requisitos de participación Condadoana para la elaboración y presentación de una solicitud para un proyecto TxCDBG:

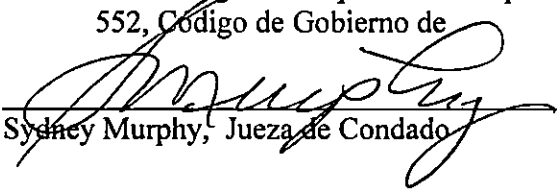
1. Como mínimo, la Condado deberá tener por lo menos un (1) audiencia pública antes de presentar la solicitud al Departamento de Agricultura de Texas.
2. La Condado conservará la documentación de la convocatoria(s) audiencia, un listado de las personas que asistieron a la audiencia(s), acta de la vista(s), y cualquier otra documentación relativa a la propuesta de utilizar los fondos para tres (3) años a partir de la liquidación de la subvención para el Estado . Dichos registros se pondrán a disposición del público, de conformidad con el Capítulo 552, Código de Gobierno de Texas.
3. La audiencia pública deberá incluir una discusión con los Condadoanos como se indica en el manual correspondiente de aplicación TxCDBG, pero no se limita a, el desarrollo de las necesidades de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario, la cantidad de fondos disponibles, todas las actividades elegibles bajo el programa TxCDBG y el uso de fondos últimos contratos TxCDBG, en su caso. Los Condadoanos, con especial énfasis en las personas de bajos y moderados ingresos que son residentes de las zonas de tugurios y tizón, se fomentará a presentar sus opiniones y propuestas sobre el desarrollo de la comunidad y las necesidades de vivienda. Los Condadoanos deben ser conscientes de la ubicación en la que podrán presentar sus puntos de vista y propuestas en caso de que no pueda asistir a la audiencia pública.
4. Cuando un número significativo de residentes que no hablan inglés se registra para participar en una audiencia pública, un intérprete debe estar presente para dar cabida a las necesidades de los residentes que no hablan inglés.

La Condado debe cumplir con los siguientes requisitos de participación Condadoana en el caso de que la Condado/Condado recibe fondos del programa TxCDBG:

1. La Condado celebrará una audiencia pública sobre cualquier cambio sustancial, según lo determinado por TxCDBG, se propuso que se hará con el uso de fondos TxCDBG de una actividad elegible a otro utilizando de nuevo los requisitos de notificación
2. Una vez finalizado el proyecto TxCDBG, la Condado celebrará una audiencia pública y revisara el desempeño del programa incluyendo el uso real de los fondos TxCDBG.

3. Cuando un número significativo de residentes que no hablan inglés se puede registra para participar en una audiencia pública, ya sea para una audiencia pública sobre el cambio sustancial del proyecto TxCDBG o para la liquidación del proyecto TxCDBG, publicará un aviso en Inglés y Español u otro idioma apropiado y se proporcionara un intérprete en la audiencia para dar cabida a las necesidades de los residentes.
4. La Condado conservará la documentación del proyecto TxCDBG, incluyendo aviso de audiencia(s), un listado de las personas que asistieron a la audiencia(s), acta de la vista(s), y cualquier otro registro concerniente al uso real de los fondos por un período de a tres (3) años a partir de la liquidación del proyecto al estado.

Dichos registros se pondrán a disposición del público, de conformidad con el Capítulo 552, Código de Gobierno de


Sydney Murphy, Jueza de Condado

28/03/2023

Fecha


A1003

Excessive Force Policy

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

1. It is the policy of County of Polk 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 County of Polk 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 County of Polk will introduce and pass a resolution adopting this policy.

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


Signature _____ Title _____
Polk County Judge

3/23/2023
Date

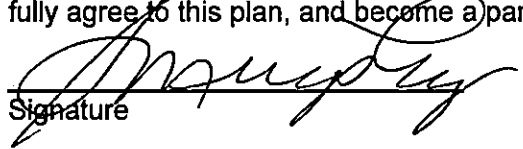
A1015

Fair Housing Policy

In accordance with Fair Housing Act, the County of Polk hereby adopts the following policy with respect to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:

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

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


Signature

Polk County Judge
Title

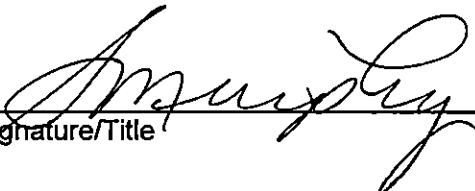
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Date

Section 504 Policy Against Discrimination based on Handicap and Grievance Procedures

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 8, Nondiscrimination based on Handicap in federally assisted programs and activities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), and Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5309), the County of Polk (*Grant Recipient that employs fifteen or more persons*) hereby adopts the following policy and grievance procedures:

1. Discrimination prohibited. No otherwise qualified individual with handicaps in the United States shall, solely by reason of his or her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
2. The County of Polk does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities.
3. The County of Polk's recruitment materials or publications shall include a statement of this policy in 1. above.
4. The County of Polk shall take continuing steps to notify participants, beneficiaries, applicants and employees, including those with impaired vision or hearing, and unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the recipients that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in violation of 24 CFR Part 8.
5. For hearing and visually impaired individuals eligible to be served or likely to be affected by the TxCDBG program, the County of Polk shall ensure that they are provided with the information necessary to understand and participate in the TxCDBG program.
6. Grievances and Complaints
 - a. Any person who believes she or he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability may file a grievance under this procedure. It is against the law for the County of Polk to retaliate against anyone who files a grievance or cooperates in the investigation of a grievance.
 - b. Complaints should be addressed to: County Judge, 101 West Church Street, Livingston, Texas 77351, 936-327-6813 who has been designated to coordinate Section 504 compliance efforts.

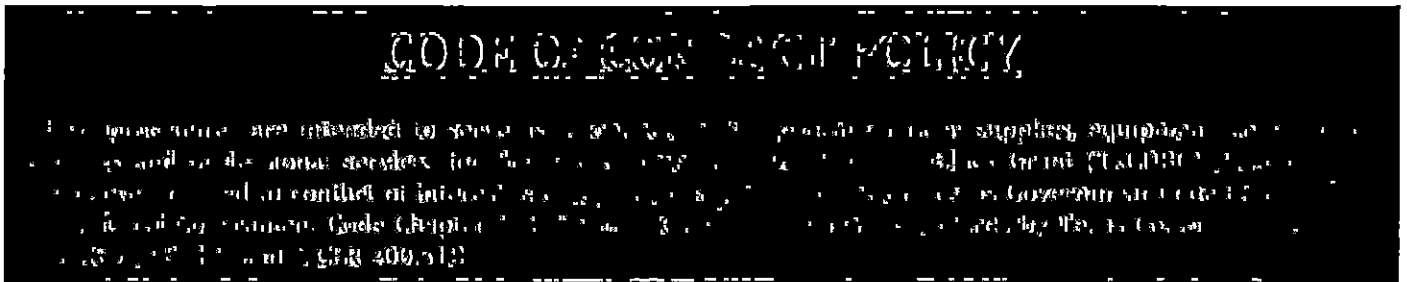
- c. A complaint should be filed in writing or verbally, contain the name and address of the person filing it, and briefly describe the alleged violation of the regulations.
- d. A complaint should be filed within thirty (30) working days after the complainant becomes aware of the alleged violation.
- e. An investigation, as may be appropriate, shall follow a filing of a complaint. The investigation will be conducted by the County Judge. Informal but thorough investigations will afford all interested persons and their representatives, if any, an opportunity to submit evidence relevant to a complaint.
- f. A written determination as to the validity of the complaint and description of resolution, if any, shall be issued by the County Judge and a copy forwarded to the complainant with fifteen (15) working days after the filing of the complaint where practicable.
- g. The Section 504 coordinator shall maintain the files and records of the County of Polk relating to the complaints files.
- h. The complainant can request a reconsideration of the case in instances where he or she is dissatisfied with the determination/resolution as described in f. above. The request for reconsideration should be made to the County of Polk within ten working days after the receipt of the written determination/resolution.
- i. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a Section 504 complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Utilization of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.
- j. These procedures shall be construed to protect the substantive rights of interested persons, to meet appropriate due process standards and assure that the County of Polk complies with Section 504 and HUD regulations.



Signature/Title

3/23/2023

Date



CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Grant Recipient of a TxCDBG contract, the County of Polk 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 County of Polk 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 County of Polk 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.

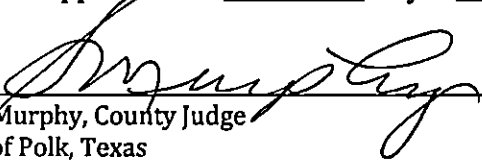
The conflict of interest restrictions and procurement requirements identified herein shall apply to a benefitting business, utility provider, or other third party entity that is receiving assistance, directly or indirectly, under a TxCDBG contract or award, or that is required to complete some or all 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.

A1002

Any alleged violations of these standards of conduct shall be referred to the County of Polk 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 28th day of March, 2023.



Sydney Murphy, County Judge
County of Polk, Texas

3/1/2022

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF POLK, TEXAS AUTHORIZING COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of the County of Polk desires to develop a viable community, including decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low-to-moderate income; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the best interests of the County of Polk to participate in the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program; and

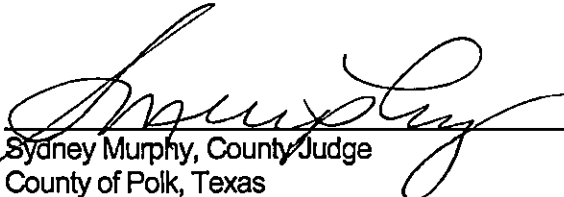
WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of the County of Polk is committed to compliance with federal, state, and program rules, including the current TxCDBG Project Implementation Manual; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF POLK, TEXAS:

That the County Commissioners directs and designates the following to act in all matters in connection with any grant application and the County's participation in the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program:


- The County Judge and County Auditor shall serve as the County's Chief Executive Officer and Authorized Representative to
 - execute a grant application and any subsequent contractual documents,
 - certify environmental review documents between the Texas Department of Agriculture and the County, and
 - certify the Payment Request form and/or other forms required for requesting funds to reimburse project costs, and
 - be assigned the role of Authorized Official in the TDA-GO grant management system.
- In addition to the above designated officials, should any grant be funded the County Judge, County Auditor and County Treasurer is authorized to
 - certify the Payment Request form and/or other forms required for requesting funds to reimburse project costs,
 - prepare and submit other financial documentation, and
 - be assigned the role of Payment Processor in the TDA-GO grant management system.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of March, 2023.



Sydney Murphy, County Judge
County of Polk, Texas

ATTEST:



Shelana Hock, County Clerk
County of Polk, Texas