

**CITY OF PORTERVILLE
CITIZENS' ADVISORY AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Citizen Participation Plan

Revised June 2020

Introduction

The City of Porterville (City) is a federal entitlement jurisdiction that receives federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The City receives federal entitlement grant funding for the following programs:

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME)

As an entitlement jurisdiction, the City is required to prepare:

- A Five Year Consolidated Plan (Consolidated Plan) that includes a Citizen Participation Plan (CPP)
- An annual Action Plan (Action Plan)
- An annual Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Under HUD's Code of Final Regulations for the Consolidated Plan (24 CFR Part 91 Sec. 91.105), the City must adopt a Citizen Participation Plan that sets forth the City's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the Consolidated Plan, Action Plans, and CAPER. This CPP provides guidelines for the City to provide and encourage public participation by residents, community stakeholders, and grant beneficiaries in the process of drafting, implementing, and evaluating the Consolidated Plan and related documents. The citizen participation process includes outreach, public hearings, community forums, and opportunities for comment.

Definitions

- **Action Plan (Action Plan):** The Action Plan summarizes the activities that will be undertaken in the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) to meet the goals outlined in the Consolidated Plan. The Action Plan also identifies the federal and non-federal resources that will be used to meet the goals of the approved Consolidated Plan.
- **Citizen Participation Plan (CPP):** The CPP provides guidelines by which the City will promote engagement in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the distribution of federal funds as outlined in the Consolidated Plan, Action Plan, and CAPERs.
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** HUD's CDBG program provides communities with resources to address a wide range of housing and community development needs that benefit very low and low income persons and areas.
- **Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER):** The CAPER assesses the City's annual achievements relative to the goals in the Consolidated Plan and proposed activities in the Action Plan. HUD requires the City to prepare a CAPER at the end of each fiscal year.

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- **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):** HUD is the federal government agency that creates and manages programs pertaining to federal home ownership, affordable housing, fair housing, homelessness, and community and housing development.
- **Displacement:** Displacement refers to the involuntary relocation of individuals from their residences due to housing development and rehabilitation activities paid for by federal funds.
- **Eligible Activity:** Activities that are allowable uses of the CDBG funds covered by the CPP as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 24 for HUD.
- **Entitlement Jurisdiction:** A city with a population of at least 50,000, a central city of a metropolitan area, or a qualified urban county with a population of at least 200,000 that receives grant funding from HUD.
- **Five Year Consolidated Plan (Consolidated Plan):** HUD requires entitlement jurisdictions to prepare a Consolidated Plan every five years. The Consolidated Plan is a strategic plan that identifies housing, economic, and community development needs and prioritizes funding to address those needs over a five-year period.
- **Low and Moderate Income (LMI):** As defined annually by HUD, Low and Moderate Income (LMI) is 0-80 percent of area median family income (AMI) for a jurisdiction, with adjustments for smaller or larger families. This includes those individuals presumed by HUD to be principally LMI (abused children, battered spouses, elderly persons, severely disabled adults, homeless persons, illiterate adults, persons living with AIDS and migrant farm workers). HUD utilizes three income levels to define LMI households:
 - Extremely low income: Households earning 30 percent or less than the AMI (subject to specified adjustments for areas with unusually high or low incomes)
 - Very low income: Households earning 50 percent or less than the AMI (subject to specified adjustments for areas with unusually high or low incomes)
 - Low and moderate income: Households earning 80 percent or less than the AMI (subject to adjustments for areas with unusually high or low incomes or housing costs)
- **Public Hearing:** Public hearings are designed to provide the public the opportunity to make public testimony and comment. Public hearings related to the Consolidated Plan are to be advertised in local newspapers and made accessible to non-English speakers and individuals with disabilities.
- **Substantial Amendments:** Amendments are considered “Substantial” whenever one of the following is proposed:
 - A change in the allocation priorities or a change in the method of fund distribution
 - A substantial change which increases or decreases the amount allocated to a category of funding within the City’s entitlement grant programs by 25 percent
 - To implement an activity using CDBG funds for new programs that were not described in the Consolidated Plan

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- To change the purpose or intended beneficiaries of an activity approved for CDBG funding, e.g., instead of primarily benefitting lower income households the activity instead proposes to benefit mostly moderate income households

Roles, Responsibilities, and Contact Information

The City is a federal entitlement jurisdiction and is a recipient of grant funding from the federal government.

The City's Charter established a council and manager form of government. Porterville's City Council is the elected legislative body of the City and is responsible for approving its Consolidated Plan, Action Plans, Substantial Amendments, and CAPERs prior to their submission to HUD.

It is the intent of the City to provide for and encourage citizen participation, with particular emphasis on participation by lower income persons who are beneficiaries of, or impacted by, entitlement-funded activities. The City encourages participation in all stages of the Consolidated Planning process by all residents, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with mobility, visual or hearing impairments, and residents of assisted housing developments and recipients of tenant-based assistance.

In general, hearings will be held at City Hall due to its central location, convenient access, and disability accessibility. Translation services will be provided when there is an indication that non-English speaking persons will be attending. Other reasonable accommodations will be provided on a case-by-case basis.

The General Contact Information for the City's HUD Entitlement Programs is:

Jenni Byers
Community Development Director jbyers@ci.porterville.ca.us
291 N. Main Street
Porterville, CA 93257

Citizen Participation Policies

Public Hearings

The City will hold public hearings for Consolidated Plans, Annual Action Plans, CAPERs, amendments made to the CPP, and Substantial Amendments.

The Consolidated Plans, Annual Action Plans, CPP amendments, and Substantial Amendments require two public hearings. One required hearing is a City-staffed community meeting and one required hearing is before City Council for document adoption. The CAPER requires one hearing before City Council for document adoption.

Community hearings will be held in a community space with consideration for the convenience to beneficiaries of the entitlement program resources.

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The City Council public hearings will be held at City Hall Council Chambers located at 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257. Listening devices, interpretation services, and other assistance to disabled persons or those with limited English proficiency will be provided upon request, ranging up to five business days prior notification to the City Clerk. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for auxiliary aids, services or interpreters, require different lead times, ranging up to five business days. For this reason, it is important to provide as much advance notice as possible to ensure availability. Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) are available upon request.

CARES Act Waivers and Flexibility

Effective March 27, 2020, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-136) provides CDBG Entitlement Jurisdictions with flexibilities that make it easier to use CDBG-CV grants and fiscal years 2019 and 2020 CDBG Grants for the Coronavirus response. The CARES Act authorizes HUD to grant waivers and alternative requirements; and in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond, to the Coronavirus using CDBG-CV grants, the City will have the option to meet public hearing requirements with virtual public hearings if: 1) national/local health authorities recommend social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons; and 2) virtual hearings provide reasonable notification and access for citizens in accordance with the City's certifications, timely responses from local officials to all citizen questions and issues, and public access to all questions and responses. For any CDBG-CV, 2019-20 CDBG and 2020-21 CDBG funds that are used in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus, expedited procedures will be implemented which include notice and reasonable opportunity to comment of no less than five (5) days. The five (5) day period can run concurrently for comments on the action plan amendment and, amended citizen participation plans.

For any CDBG-CV, 2019-20 CDBG and 2020-21 CDBG funds that are used in order to prevent, prepare for and respond to Coronavirus, the draft and final documents will only be available online at the City's website. At the discretion of the City Manager, City Staff will recommend program activities, funding and program modifications for submittal to the City Council without consultation of the Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee. In this case, the City Manager would have deemed the expeditious completion of these tasks as essential to public safety, health or economy, to prevent, prepare for or respond to the Coronavirus.

On April 1, 2020, HUD released the memorandum entitled "Availability of Waivers of Community Planning and Development (CPD) Grant Program and Consolidated Plan Requirements to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 and Mitigate Economic Impacts Caused by COVID-19." The memorandum grants certain waivers to CPD Grantees, such as the City of Visalia, with regards to its regulatory Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) requirements specifically required under Citation 24 CFR 91.105(c)(2) and (k). Those certain waivers are: 1) an immediate reduction in the required 30-day comment period to no less than five (5) days, with the requirement to provide reasonable notice and opportunity for citizens to comment on substantial amendments concerning the proposed uses of CDBG and HOME funds; and 2) a waiver regarding "reasonable notice and opportunity to comment" requirements of the CPP, to allow a grantee to determine what constitutes reasonable notice and opportunity to comment.

The City of Porterville intends to implement both waivers on May 25, 2020, and they will remain valid through the end of the 2020 Program Year (through June 30, 2021), per HUD, for any further COVID-19 related amendments.

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Accordingly, the City of Porterville plans to vary from its Adopted CPP and will instead follow the below reasonable notice and public comment procedures:

- Public notices will be published in the “Public Notices” sections of the *Porterville Recorder* and in Spanish in the *Noticiero Semanal* publications approximately 5 days before a scheduled meeting to decide on any required actions related to the City’s HUD Plans.
- The Public notices will note the specific comment period and the meeting date on which the item(s) will be reviewed and action taken.
- Proposed amendments to Plans will be made available for viewing from our website: <http://www.ci.porterville.ca.us/>
- Members of the public may submit comments during the five-day comment period specified in the section above via: 1) by email to housing@ci.porterville.ca.us, or, 2) by calling (559) 782-7460.
- Comments received may be read or received at the scheduled City Council meeting.
- The virtual meetings will be streamed via **the City’s YouTube channel** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5KuhSrNMNL9nwHJVtnJvvA>

Notice of Hearings and Review Periods

To allow the public time to provide comments prior to the submission of approved documents to HUD, the City will hold a minimum 30-day public review and comment period for the Consolidated Plan, Action Plan, and Substantial Amendment. The City will establish a public review period of at least 15 days for each CAPER and amendments to the CPP. Copies of the draft plans will be available to the public at the Community Development Department, 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257.

The City will place public notices at City Hall (291 N. Main Street) and online through the City’s website (www.ci.porterville.ca.us), and through advertisement in a local newspaper of general circulation in advance of a public review and comment period.

To ensure that the public, including minorities, persons with limited English proficiency, persons with disabilities, residents of public housing, and LMI residents are able to participate in the public review process, the City will provide residents, public agencies, and other stakeholders with notices on applicable public review periods and public hearings that adhere to the following:

- The notices will be published prior to the start of the public comment period and at least fifteen (15) days before the final public hearing and will include information regarding how to request accommodation and services available for persons with disabilities who wish to attend the public hearings.
- The notices will be distributed to persons and agencies on the contact list maintained by the City for those parties expressing interest in receiving information and updates related to the City’s Consolidated Plan, Action Plan, CAPER, Substantial Amendments and CPP. Interested parties may request to be added to this contact list by sending an email to housing@ci.porterville.ca.us, by calling (559) 782-7460 or by writing to the Community Development Department, 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257.
- The notices will be distributed through a variety of methods, including e-mail, newspaper publications and the City’s website at www.ci.porterville.ca.us. The notices will include

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information on how to obtain a copy of the draft documents and scheduled hearing dates, times, and locations.

- As directed by HUD through written guidelines, and deemed necessary due to the risk of the safety, health or economy of the city, expedited procedures will be implemented which include notice and reasonable opportunity to comment of no less than five (5) days. The five (5) day period can run concurrently for comments on the action plan amendment and, amended citizen participation plans.

The public may file comments on draft plans in writing to the Community Development Department, 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257; via email to Jenni Byers at jbyers@ci.porterville.ca.us or Jason Ridenour at jridenour@ci.porterville.ca.us; or by phone at (559) 782-7460. Comments may also be submitted in person at the Community Development Department, 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257, Monday through Friday during business hours, and during the Council adoption hearing.

When necessary or applicable, the City may combine notices complying with several individual requirements into one comprehensive notice for dissemination and publication.

Comments/Complaints on Adopted Plans

Comments or complaints from residents, public agencies, and other stakeholders regarding the adopted Consolidated Plan or related amendments and performance reports may be submitted in writing or verbally to the General Contact at the Community Development Department, 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257. Written comments or complaints will be referred to appropriate City staff for consideration and response. The City will attempt to respond to all comments or complaints within fifteen (15) business days and maintain a correspondence file for this purpose.

Availability of Draft and Approved Documents

The draft and final versions of the Consolidated Plan, Action Plan, CAPER, all related amendments, records, and regulations will be available online at the City's website: www.ci.porterville.ca.us. Hard copies of all documents will be available at the Community Development Department, 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257 and upon written request. If the City is unable to provide immediate access to the documents requested, it will make every effort to provide the documents and reports within 15 business days from the receipt of the request.

During the public review and comment period, copies of the document will be available to the public for review at City Hall (291 N. Main Street) and through the City's website at www.ci.porterville.ca.us.

In the event of a public health crisis, the aforementioned documents will only be available online at the City's website.

Displacement Policy

As part of the CPP, the City must maintain a displacement policy. Displacement refers to the involuntary relocation of individuals from their residence due to housing development and rehabilitation paid for with federal funds. The City will continue to use existing federal and state relocation guidelines, as applicable, to minimize displacement and to alleviate the problems caused by displacement. Both the federal government and the State of California have specific requirements

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dictating the amount of benefits and assistance that must be provided to lower income persons and households relocated from their homes as a result of displacement. Depending on the funding source, displaced persons may be offered one or more of the following:

- A rent subsidy for another unit
- A cash payment to be used for rent or a down payment on the purchase of a dwelling unit
- Moving and related expenses

The City's rehabilitation programs may also incur relocation issues when they provide minor additions to existing dwellings in order to address overcrowding. Any temporary relocation costs are included in the rehabilitation loan package offered to clients.

Technical Assistance

The City will, to the extent feasible, respond to requests for technical assistance from entities representing LMI groups who are seeking federal entitlement funding in accordance with grant procedures. This may include, but is not limited to, providing information regarding how to fill out applications, other potential funding sources, and referrals to appropriate agencies within and outside the City. "Technical assistance," as used here, does not include the provision of funds to the entities requesting such assistance. Assistance will also be provided by Community Development Department staff to interested individuals and resident groups who need further explanation on the background and intent of the Housing and Community Development Act, interpretation of specific HUD regulations, and project eligibility criteria for federal grants.

This plan describes how the City of Porterville will involve citizens in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) Programs. The funds must be used for projects which benefit low- and moderate-income persons and/or aid in the elimination or prevention of slum and blight. These programs are intended to assist cities in undertaking neighborhood improvement, economic development, and homeowner assistance programs. Program regulations give ultimate responsibility for the design and implementation of the program to local elected officials, and also require that citizens be given an opportunity to serve in a key advisory role to these elected officials.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To ensure that Porterville residents are given a full opportunity to participate in the Program, a Citizens' Advisory Committee was established in 1981 to function in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council regarding program design, implementation, and assessment. This Committee consists of seven (7) residents of the City, appointed annually by the Mayor and City Council. Citizens and civic organizations are urged to make recommendations on allocation of the City's multi-purpose Community Development Block Grant since 1981/82. The Committee has provided direction in establishing the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (HRLP), and other worthwhile projects under CDBG Entitlement Cities and Home Programs which have benefitted low- and moderate-income households within the city of Porterville. In addition to the HRLP, the Committee has recommended the establishment of several revolving loan funds since 1982, including the Sewer and Water Connection Fund, the Public Utilities Revolving Loan Fund (merged in 2012 with HRLP), the First Time Low-Income Homebuyer Program and the Business Assistance Program. The Committee has also recommended the allocation of funds toward remodeling the Santa Fe Plaza Senior Citizens Center,

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and inventory of Industrial Land Resources, the Low-Income Residential Smoke Detector Installation Program, and the Porterville Enterprise Zone Area Infrastructure Improvement Program, the rehabilitation of the Porterville and Glenwood Hotels, the opening of the Porterville Youth Center, and four targeted Curb, Gutter Sidewalk, and Street Light, Neighborhood Improvement Projects, Lime Street Park Improvement Project, and Santa Fe Facility Improvement Project. In addition, the Committee has supported the establishment of economic development programs and public improvement activities such as the completion of the Heritage Center with Section 108 Loan Guarantee funds. Several years ago, the Committee recommended the establishment of the Homebuyer Education Program and the Murry Park Improvement Project. An expansion to the Park Improvement Program was approved in 2010 to include the Lime Street Neighborhood Park and in 2013, the Extension of Murry Park was included and is currently underway.

The City has taken steps to secure the services of concerned individuals to form the Advisory Committee for the purposes of program model design, implementation, assessment, and development of the Community Development Block Grant Program under the Entitlement Cities criteria. The City places particular emphasis on obtaining representation of low- and moderate-income persons residing in slum and blight areas, members of minority groups, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and residents of areas where use of funds are proposed. In continuing its efforts to serve the needs of the public, the City Council has expanded the role of the Committee to incorporate efforts to expand housing opportunities, thereby changing the name to the Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee.

At the discretion of the City Manager, City Staff will recommend program activities, funding and program modifications for submittal to the council without consultation of the Advisory Committee. In this case, the City Manager would have deemed the expeditious completion of these tasks as essential to public safety, health or economy.

SCOPE OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Citizens will be involved in all stages of the Community Development Block Grant Program, including the development of the consolidated plan, inclusive of the annual action plan, substantial amendments to the plan, program implementation, assessment of performance, and design of the citizen participation plan. Mechanisms for the citizen involvement include: The Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee, public hearings and ad hoc community meetings, individual citizen efforts in the form of comments, complaints, or inquiries submitted directly to Martha A. Flores, Porterville Mayor and/or Community Development Department, located in City Hall, 291 N. Main Street, or by telephone, (559) 782-7460.

Public Hearings

At least two (2) public hearings, open to the entire community, will be held annually. The hearings will provide an opportunity for citizens to identify community development needs, proposed projects, and assist in the development of an overall strategy for Porterville. The hearings will also be used to solicit comments on the citizen participation plan more sensitive to local needs and realign the plan with changes in Federal regulations, and to review the HUD annual community assessment, if available. The hearings are typically held in February or March and April or May of each program year.

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Consolidated Plan

Participation in the development of the consolidated plan, inclusive of the annual action plan, will occur as follows: at least one (1) public hearing will be held before the proposed consolidated plan is published for comment. Before the City adopts a consolidated plan, the City will make available to citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties information that includes the amount of assistance the jurisdiction expects to receive and the range of activities that may be undertaken, including the amount that will benefit persons of very low and low income.

The City will ensure that plans will be available to minimize the displacement of persons and to assist any persons displaced according to Federal regulation standards.

A summary of the proposed use of CDBG funds and, when applicable, HOME funds, will be made available in Spanish, which is predominate non-English language spoken in Porterville, at all public hearings.

Advisory Committee proposals and comments, with regard to development of the consolidated plan, will be obtained at Committee meetings or hearings scheduled either at the request of Committee members or program officials. The public is invited to attend these meetings.

The public will be notified of the period, not less than thirty (30) days (or five (5) days as applicable), in which to receive comments from citizens on the consolidated plan. Any comments or views of citizens received in writing or orally at the public meetings will be considered. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons, therefore, will be attached to the final consolidated plan.

Amendments

In the case of proposed substantial amendments to the consolidated plan, the City shall provide reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on substantial amendments. The public will be notified of the period, not less than thirty (30) days (or five (5) days as applicable), in which to receive comments on the substantial amendments before the amendment is implemented. The meetings regarding the proposed amendments are not required to be public hearings, but will be open to the public to attend. The City will consider any comments or views of citizens received in writing, or orally, at public hearings, if any, in preparing the substantial amendment of the consolidated plan. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted, and the reasons therefore, will be attached to the substantial amendment of the consolidated plan.

Amendments to the plan will be necessary whenever one of the following decisions is made:

- 1) To make a substantial change in the allocation priorities or a substantial change in the method of distribution of funds;
- 2) To carry out an activity using funds from any program covered by the consolidated plan (including program income) not previously described in the consolidated plan; or
- 3) To substantially change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity.

Performance Report

Reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports will be given to the public. The public will be notified of the period, not less than fifteen (15) days, in which to receive comments from citizens on the performance report that is to be submitted to HUD before its submission. Any

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comments or views of citizens received in writing or orally at public meetings will be considered, and a summary of the comments and views will be attached to the performance report.

Citizen Participation Plan

The Annual Action Plan includes noticing and public hearings. All meetings and hearings are publicized in accordance with applicable HUD, state and local regulations. Specifically the Action Plan includes community meetings, public noticing for 30 days (or 5 days as applicable), and a public hearing. The City will provide citizens a reasonable opportunity to comment on amendments or revisions to the citizen participation plan and will make the plan public.

Other Method of Participation

Informal, individual contact with citizens, initiated either by citizens or program officials, will also provide input to the consolidated plan. For example, an individual may contact the Community Development Department at (559) 782-7460 to request consideration of a special project; or program officials may seek the opinion of local business persons as to the need for commercial revitalization.

Program officials will also be available to advise citizens of the procedures for filing objections to the consolidated plan with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Area Office. Citizen participation in program implementation will occur primarily through consultation with the Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee. Citizens will be asked to review and comment on specific strategies for approved projects. They will also meet to review any substantial program amendments. All such changes will be discussed with the committee and their comments considered prior to the City taking final action. These meetings will be held on an as-needed basis.

Program assessment activities by citizens will occur in a variety of ways. Citizens will have the opportunity to comment on the City's performance for the prior program year during the public hearings for the consolidated and action plan adoption. The public will also be notified of the public comment period for the annual performance report before its submission to HUD.

The Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee shall function as a forum for public participation in the City's efforts to affirmatively further fair housing. Prior to the submission of the consolidated plan, the Committee shall discuss and recommend for Council adoption suggested methods of furthering fair housing. As part of the orientation to the program offered at the public hearing, citizens will be invited to submit comments on all aspects of the program performance throughout the program year.

Public comments or complaints regarding the consolidated plan, substantial amendments to the Plan, the Performance Report, or the Citizen Participation Plan should be submitted in writing to the Community Development Director, City of Porterville, 291 N. Main Street, Porterville CA 93257. If a public hearing is held, comments should be submitted within fifteen (15) working days from the date of the public hearing. A timely, substantive written response will be provided by the City within fifteen (15) working days. If the response is unsatisfactory, correspondence may then be addressed directly to: Martha A. Flores, Mayor, City of Porterville, 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257. Ms. Flores shall respond within fifteen (15) working days. If the citizen is still dissatisfied, he/she should write to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Area Office, 1 Sansome Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94104, and requesting investigation of the issue. Program staff will also be available during normal business hours to respond to citizen inquires.

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Citizen organizations, non-profit organizations, and groups of low/moderate income persons or target area residents may propose their own specific program(s). The proposal for a specific program should include the program's design, its budget, and the scope of proposed activities. Also, the proposal should identify the specific individuals anticipated to carry out activities and provide a summary of their experience and training.

Technical assistance which may be provided by City staff is limited to proposals that are considered eligible uses of CDBG funds, and not intended to assist citizen organizations, non-profit organizations, and groups of low/moderate income persons or target area residents applying for funding from other grant sources. The Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee may direct staff to provide technical assistance that may consist of staff or local expert presentations, informational handouts, research of a specific issue, or other short-term efforts.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The City will also undertake the following public information efforts to promote citizen participation:

- The public noticing pertaining to the community meetings, Council work session and public hearing are published in both English and Spanish. Public notices of all public hearings will be published in the *Porterville Recorder* and *Noticiero Semanal* at least ten (10) days before the scheduled hearing and fifteen (15) days prior to the final public hearing. These notices will indicate the date, time, location, and topics to be considered. Upon notification, arrangements will be made by the City to accommodate persons with disabilities. The public notices also will be made available in the form of press releases and as a public service announcement to local radio stations. Public hearing notices will indicate that summary statements of projected use of CDBG and/or HOME funds will be available in Spanish, the predominant non-English language spoke within the city. Additionally efforts will be made by providing notices to our local non-profit partners to share and publish for public viewing, and publishing on the City website which includes the Agenda and meeting minutes.
- Notices will also be published in the *Porterville Recorder* to notify the public of the period, not less than thirty (30) days (or 5 days as applicable) for the consolidated plan or substantial amendments to the plan, or fifteen (15) days (or 5 days as applicable) for the performance report, in which to receive comments from citizens before submission of the plan or report to HUD. All notices will include information that complete copies of the proposed plan or report will be available for public review at City Hall (291 N. Main Street). A reasonable number of free copies of the plan or report will be provided to citizens and groups that request it.
- Orientation information will be provided at the first public hearing conducted by the Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee. City staff will make a presentation which covers: the total amount of funds available and the basis for award; the range of eligible activities and those previously funded in the community; the planning process and the schedule of meetings and hearings, the role of citizens in the program, a summary of other important program requirements, such as: environmental policies, fair housing provisions, and contracting procedures. Some of these topics will be covered in written materials.
- A public file containing program documentation for the preceding five (5) years will be available for review at City Hall during normal business hours. Included will be copies of the Consolidated Plan, Environmental Review Record, the Citizen Participation Plan, and the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report. Other program documents are also

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available for citizen review on request at City Hall, consistent with applicable State and local laws regarding personal privacy and obligations of confidentiality. Upon request, materials will be made available in a form accessible to persons with disabilities.