

DRAFT - TRI-CITIES HOME CONSORTIUM CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

AMENDED

Tri-Cities HOME Consortium Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Programs

Introduction

The purpose of this Citizen Participation Plan is to provide a framework to guide the Tri-Cities HOME Consortium (Consortium) and its members (the Cities of Kennewick, Pasco and Richland, as Lead) in their efforts to encourage citizen participation in the planning, implementation and assessment in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs. Specifically, in the Assessment of Fair Housing, Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

This Citizen Participation Plan is prepared and implemented in accordance with the guidance provided in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Regulations 24 CFR Part 91.105.

Prior to implementation, the Citizen Participation Plan will be available for a period of 30 days for public comment. Any amendment to the Plan will be made available for a period of 30 days advising citizens of an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment. A summary of the comments or views and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why it was not accepted will be attached to the plan submitted to HUD for final approval.

Citizen Advisory Committee

Each city has established individual citizen advisory committees to serve as a link between the public, city staff and City Council, and to aid in the development of the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, CAPER review, and assist in the administration and utilization of HUD grants. Each advisory position is selected based upon providing a balance of specific community interests or expertise to the committee. Low and moderate-income persons are encouraged to participate when a position becomes vacant. This is accomplished through public solicitations as well as direct communication with residents and participants in various social service organizations.

Each advisory committee will meet as necessary to review and make decisions regarding CDBG and HOME. These meetings are open to the general public. The advisory committees review written funding requests, attend oral presentations by applicants, and make funding recommendations to the respective City Council to aid in the development of the Annual Action Plan.

Encouraging Public Participation

It is the intent of Tri-Cities HOME Consortium to encourage and facilitate the participation of all citizens in the development of the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, any substantial amendments to the plans and the performance report through public hearings and meetings. Additionally, the Consortium encourages involvement of protected classes, low- and moderate-income persons, particularly neighborhoods where 51 percent, or an amount determined by HUD as an exception criteria service area, where federal funding is proposed to be used. The Consortium also welcomes the participation of minority populations, non-English speaking persons and persons with disabilities.

Consultations, with direct mailings/emails and other contact will be made with local and regional organizations and through other publications that serve those in protected classes, or that provide assisted housing, health services, and social services, including those focusing on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities and their families, and homeless persons.

The Consolidated Plan (CPS)

The development of the CPS is a cooperative effort between the cities of Kennewick, Pasco and Richland as members of a Consortium, businesses, developers, nonprofit organization, philanthropic organizations, and community-based and faith-based organizations that serve low and moderate-income persons. This document provides the planning framework, strategies, goals and performance benchmarks to be achieved over a five-year period by the CDBG and HOME Programs. HUD will evaluate the performance of each City and the Tri-Cities HOME Consortium through the accomplishments of community development and housing program goals established in the CPS.

At least two public hearing will be held by the Consortium throughout the development of the CPS to allow participation from the public on this planning document. At least one of the public hearings will be held before the Consolidated Plan is published for comment. The draft CPS Plan will be made available for public review and comment for a minimum of 30 days to allow for interested persons and organizations to comment prior to completion and submission of the final plan to HUD. A summary of the comments or views and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why it was not accepted will be included in the final plan submitted to HUD for final approval.

Assessment of Fair Housing Plan

The Tri Cities HOME Consortium and the two local housing authorities, Kennewick Public Housing Authority (KHA) and City of Pasco & Franklin Consortium Housing Authority (HACPFC) operating within Consortium jurisdiction have entered into a Joint Agreement to align their consolidated planning cycle(s) in accordance with the regulations at 24 CFR Part 91 for consolidated plan program participants, and 24 CFR part 903, for Public Housing Authorities. PHAs agree to collaborate with the Tri Cities HOME Consortium to prepare the Assessment of Fair Housing.

Furthermore, the Tri-Cities HOME Consortium and the Kennewick and Pasco Housing Authorities will work together by establishing comprehensive community development goals and ensure strategies and actions are taken to affirmatively further fair housing. Moreover, local and regional fair housing organizations and enforcement agencies will be consulted with. The Consortium members will report progress on those goals to HUD through the consolidated annual performance reports (CAPER) that are posted on each Cities website and in a HUD database.

HUD set out the following four clear fair housing goals for all communities to ensure greater opportunities for all Americans:

1. *Reduce segregation, and build on the nation's increasing racial, geographic and economic diversity.*
2. *Eliminate racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty*
3. *Reduce disparities in access to important community assets such as quality schools, job centers, and transit*
4. *Narrow the gaps that leave families with children, people with disabilities, and people of different races, colors and national origins with more severe housing problems (disproportionate housing needs)*

The Public, residents, public agencies and other interested parties will have access to any HUD provided data and other supplemental information the HOME Consortium plans to incorporate into its Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) at the start of the public participation process or as soon as feasible after. The HOME Consortium may make HUD provided data available to the public by cross referencing to the data on the HUD website.

Consortium staff will hold at least one public hearing and meet with community groups, reviews HUD data tables and HUD maps to develop the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) Plan goals. Through collaboration with the Housing Authorities of Kennewick and Pasco, staff will consult with HA Resident

Boards in accordance with procedures described in 24 CFR 903.13, 903.15, 903.17 and 903.19 in the process of conducting the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), obtaining Resident Advisory Board and community feedback, and addressing complaints.

The draft AFH Plan will be made available for public review and comment for a minimum of 45 days to allow for interested persons and organizations to comment. A summary of the comments or views and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why it was not accepted will be included in the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) Plan, submitted to HUD for final approval.

Annual Action Plan (AAP)

The AAP is a document that serves as the application for funding to HUD under the CDBG and HOME Programs and identifies federal and other funding resources that are expected to be used to address the needs identified in the CPS. This plan represents programs and activities that will be undertaken from January 1 through December 31 of each program year. It identifies the amount of grant funds and program income each city anticipates receiving each year, gives a specific description of the programs and activities that will be used to address the priority needs established in the Consolidated Plan, and provides benchmarks and goals to benefit low and moderate-income persons in which to measure program performance.

At least two public hearings will be held by each individual City each year at separate stages of development of the plan. The draft AAP Plan will be made available public review and comment for a minimum of 30 days to allow for interested persons and organizations to comment prior to completion and submission of the final plan to HUD. A summary of the comments or views and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why it was not accepted will be included in the final plan. The Annual Action Plan is submitted to HUD once grant formula allocations have been announced each program year.

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

This report describes the accomplishments of each activity undertaken during the previous year, identifies how funds were actually used versus how the funds were proposed to be used, what impacts the activity realized, and to what extent the funds benefited low and moderate-income persons.

The draft CAPER will be made available public review and comment for a minimum of 15 days to allow for interested persons and organizations to comment prior to completion. A summary of the comments or views and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why it was not accepted will be included in the final plan submitted to HUD for final approval. The CAPER is due no later than 90 days following the end of the program year, or by March 31st of each year.

Public Hearing Notice

Public hearings, meetings will be published as a display ad in the non-legal section of the newspaper of record, the Tri-City Herald at least 14 days prior to the hearing. The notice will include some or all of the following information as appropriate to the particular event:

- The date, time and place.
- Estimated amount of funds that will be available for distribution, and the amount that will benefit low and moderate-income persons.
- Topic(s) to be discussed including, but not limited to, housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, and review of program performance.
- Proposed strategies and actions for AFFH.
- The date, time and place.
- Basic information about the program(s).

- Timing and procedures followed in the development and approval of the CPS, Annual Action Plan, Substantial Amendments, or CAPER.
- Contact name and phone number for requesting additional information or special accommodations.

Public hearings and meetings will be held at times and in locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries, and that are easily accessible to disabled persons. All comments and views of residents of the community in writing or orally during a public hearing or meeting will be considered and attached to the plan.

Public Comment Period

The draft or substantial amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan, Assessment of Fair Housing, Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan or CAPER will be made available for public comment for the minimum 15, 30 or 45 days, as required. A notice of the public comment period, the locations where the plan is available for review, and a summary of the plan will be published in the Tri-City Herald and in other places frequented by the public, especially low- and moderate-income persons and persons benefiting from or affected by proposed CDBG/HOME activities. The notice of the public comment period, as well as the draft, will be posted on the respective City's website. Additionally, direct outreach to local and regional organizations that serve those in protected classes, assisted housing providers, public housing agencies, social service agencies, and advocacy groups, as well as their beneficiaries, will be utilized to broaden the efforts to notify all. All comments and views of residents of the community in writing during a public comment period will be considered and attached to the plan.

A reasonable number of free copies of the draft plan will be available upon request by calling or visiting the respective City's Office during regular business hours. The draft plan may be made available in an alternative format with a three-day notice for a request to the respective city member.

Non-English Speakers

The Consortium has elected to address the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) need as a reasonable accommodation. Language assistance will be given to ensure meaningful access to participation by non-English speaking residents of the community. Given reasonable notice, during regular business hours, the following accommodation may be requested:

- 1. Interpretation services for clients, at no cost to the clients,**
2. Documents may be translated for clients who do not communicate in English,
- 3. A TTY telephone shall be provided for clients,**
4. Consortium members shall provide printed materials in alternate formats for clients, or
- 5. Consortium members shall make whatever reasonable accommodations are needed to improve accessibility to programs, activities and services.**

Request assistance by contacting the respective member City:

- City of Richland, Community and Development Services Office, (509)942-7580
- City of Kennewick, Community Development Office, (509)585-4432
- City of Pasco, Community and Economic Development Office, (509)545-3441

Reasonable Accommodation

Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, within reason, any individual with an impairment or disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in a meeting or public hearing may request assistance, given reasonable notice, during regular business hours.

Request assistance by contacting the respective member City:

- City of Richland, Community and Development Services Office, (509)942-7580
- City of Kennewick, Community Development Office, (509)585-4432
- City of Pasco, Community and Economic Development Office, (509)545-3441

Plan Approval

The Citizen Participation Plan recognizes Kennewick, Pasco and Richland City Councils, as the elected governing body for each City. The draft Assessment of Fair Housing, Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Action Plan as well as Substantial Amendments to the Plans will be presented to the respective member City Council for approval before submitting to HUD. These are regularly scheduled Council meetings which are open public meetings and broadcast live.

Amendments or Substantial Amendments to the Plan

An “amendment” to the approved plan will occur when a revision is made to the priority needs, a change is made in the method of distribution of funds, when an activity not previously identified in the plan is added, or when the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity are changed.

A “substantial amendment” to the AFH Plan will occur when fair housing contributing factors, priorities and or goals in the Assessment of Fair Housing Plan no longer reflect actual circumstances. A “substantial amendment” to the Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan will occur when original purpose of the project is changed to a new eligible category, or when a change in the allocation exceeds 25 percent of the individual City’s current year’s CDBG or HOME allocation, including program income.

A substantial amendment to a plan will be forwarded to the respective City’s advisory committee, a display ad will be placed in the Tri-City Herald, and will be available for a period stated below for public review and comments. Upon expiration of the review and comment period, and approval by the individual City’s Council, the proposed change will be signed by the authorized official of the jurisdiction and submitted to HUD for final approval.

Plan	Comment Period
5-year AFH Plan	45-Day
5 year Consolidated Plan	30-Day
Annual Action Plan	30-Day

Responding to Complaints

Each City will consider written complaints from the public regarding the citizen participation process, the Consolidated Plan, the Assessment of Fair Housing Plan, the Annual Action Plan, any amendments and the CAPER. Where practicable. A written response will be made within 15 working days. Where not practicable, written responses will be made as quickly as possible. If the complainant is unable to file a complaint due to disability, alternative filing methods will be allowed by contacting the respective City.

Access to Records

Each city will be responsible for providing citizens, public agencies and other interested parties within five days of request, access to information and records relating to the City’s Consolidated Plan and the use of assistance under the CDBG and HOME programs covered during the preceding five-year period. Such access shall be consistent with applicable State and local laws, subject to privacy and obligations of confidentiality.

Staff Support and Technical Assistance

Staff from each city will be responsible and will make every reasonable effort to provide access and technical assistance to citizens, and agencies representing low and moderate-income persons, in order that they may participate in planning and assessing projects. Staff from each city will also respond to those who request assistance in developing proposals for CDBG or HOME funding, and will provide technical assistance to assist in the implementation of the project.

Relocation and Displacement Policy

The Cities of Kennewick, Pasco and Richland intend to minimize to the greatest extent possible, the permanent displacement of any low and moderate-income persons that might result from the use of CDBG or HOME funds. This will be achieved through the design and evaluation of each project for potential displacement, by measuring and comparing such potential among alternative proposals and designs, and by considering alternatives when selecting projects for funding, prior to a final commitment of funds.

While there is no intent to directly displace individuals, families, businesses, or nonprofit organizations because of projects, the respective City will assist any individual, family, business, or nonprofit organization displaced by projects funded with CDBG or HOME funds as authorized under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, or under Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Cities reserve the right to reject a project, or require that any sub-recipient provide non-federal financial relocation assistance to persons or organizations affected by the project, if the project causes permanent displacement.

Availability of Documents

Citizens are encouraged to review draft plans on the respective City's website and at the following locations:

In Richland, WA

- City of Richland Housing and Redevelopment Office, 840 Northgate Dr.
- Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr.

In Kennewick, WA

- City of Kennewick Community Development Office, 210 W. 6th Ave.
- Mid-Columbia Library, 1620 S. Union
- Kennewick Housing Authority, 1915 W. 4th Pl.

In Pasco, WA

- City of Pasco Community and Economic Development Office, 525 N. 3rd Ave.
- Pasco Public Library, 1320 W. Hopkins St.
- Pasco and Franklin County Housing Authority, 2505 W. Lewis St.

Approved plans will be available on respective City's website and at member City offices.

Given reasonable advanced notice, individual, electronic or copies in a format accessible to non-English speaking persons and persons with disabilities will be made available by calling or visiting the respective member City's Office during regular business hours.

City of Richland, Housing and Redevelopment Office, 840 Northgate Dr., Richland WA, (509)942-7580

City of Kennewick, Community Development Office, 210 W. 6th Ave., (509)585-4432

City of Pasco Community and Economic Development Office, 525 N. Third Ave., (509)545-3441