



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: December 3, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number: Christy Moffett / 854-3460

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:

Sherri E. Fleming, County Executive of Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Receive public comments regarding the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for Travis County.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Under the provisions of Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 USC 5301), the federal government through the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development sponsors the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a program that provides annual grants to cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities for low and moderate income persons.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a commitment to eliminate racial and ethnic segregation, physical and other barriers to persons with disabilities, and other discriminatory practices in the provision of housing. HUD extends the responsibility of affirmatively furthering fair housing to local jurisdictions through a variety of regulations and program requirements.

As an entitlement county receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from HUD, Travis County must fulfill its fair housing responsibilities by developing an Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice and by taking actions to overcome the effects identified in the AI through implementation of a Fair Housing Plan ("FHP") and maintain records reflecting the analysis and actions taken.

An AI is a review of impediments or barriers that affect the rights of fair housing choice, and when completed, will serve as the basis for fair housing planning, provide essential information to housing stakeholders and assists in building public support for fair housing efforts. A FHP identifies the actions needed to eliminate fair housing barriers which have been identified. HUD defines impediments to fair housing choice as:

- any actions, omissions or decisions taken because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin which restrict housing choices or the availability for housing choices; and
- any actions, omissions or decisions which have the effect of restricting housing choices or the availability of housing choices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin.

Since the inception of the County's CDBG Program, the County has been operating under the City of Austin's AI published in 2005. In 2012, the County contracted with the consulting firm Mullins & Lonergan to conduct an AI. The preliminary results were presented to the Commissioners Court on November 5, 2013.

On November 12, 2013 the Travis County Commissioners Court approved a 30-day public comment period spanning from November 13, 2013 to December 12, 2013 as well as a public hearing on December 3, 2013. Notice of the comment period and public hearing was provided through postal and electronic mailings, on the County's website, and the seven Travis County Community Centers. After receipt of comments, the final draft of the AI and fair housing plan will be presented at Commissioners Court for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends scheduling the hearing to give the public the opportunity to comment on the AI.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Comments may be received in writing beginning November 13, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. through December 12, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. The public can access the draft document by visiting www.co.travis.tx.us/CDBG, by visiting any of the seven Travis County Community Centers or by calling 512-854-3460 to request a copy. The public can submit written comments by mailing them

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to agenda@co.travis.tx.us by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.

to CDBG Program, Travis County HHSVS, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767 or emailing them to cdbg@co.travis.tx.us.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

No budget impacts are anticipated by this item.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

None.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to agenda@co.travis.tx.us **by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.