

# INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

FILED  
 AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P M  
 SEP 11 2020  
 ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR. COUNTY CLERK  
 HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS  
 BY [Signature] DEPUTY

STATE OF TEXAS           §  
                                       §  
 COUNTY OF HIDALGO   §

This Interlocal Agreement, made and entered into by and between the County of Hidalgo, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, hereafter referred to as the "County" and the City of Mercedes, a municipal corporation under the laws of the State of Texas, hereafter referred to as "City".

**WITNESSETH**

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development made a Determination of Essential Powers on November 16, 1987 which depicts Hidalgo County as having the "essential powers" to carry out community renewal and lower income housing assistance in the County, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development formally allocated \$7,750,673.00 of Fiscal Year 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Grant No. B-20-UC-48-0501 to County, and

WHEREAS, the City and County have entered into a Cooperation Agreement which allows the County to use the City's population as the basis for qualification as an Urban County, and

WHEREAS, both the County and the City need to set out basic administrative understandings for the proper expenditure of CDBG funds as set out in 24 CFR.570 and other related federal rules and regulations as they apply to Subrecipients.

NOW, THEREFORE, KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That the County and the City do mutually agree as follows:

**SECTION I  
 Rules and Regulations**

The City agrees to cooperate with the County in respect to the implementation of CDBG activities to be carried out in the City's jurisdiction as per 24 CFR 570 and other rules, regulations and decisions as may be made by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or any other federal or state agency that may legally exercise its jurisdiction over expenditures of CDBG funds. Both City and County agree and understand that the County is the grantee for the CDBG funds and the City is subject to all rules and regulations governing Subrecipients under 24 CFR 570.

**SECTION II**

## **Applicability of Uniform Administrative Requirements**

The County understands that it is responsible for the maintenance, retention, accessibility and public disclosure of all records, expenditures and files as may be promulgated for the administration of CDBG funds and as may be required by 24 CFR 570 and the "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State, Local, and Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments." (24 CFR Part 85) or any variation as may be approved by HUD. The City agrees to work with the County to make available all data, information and records as may be necessary for the proper accounting of all CDBG expenditures and activities. A description of City and County responsibilities can be found in Exhibit B Matrix. City agrees to make all records available to the County and shall not be the custodian of any official records or information.

City agrees to comply with 2 CFR Part 200 and with the following sections of 24 CFR Part 85 "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Government":

- (1) Section 85.3, "Definitions";
- (2) Section 85.6, "Exceptions";
- (3) Section 85.12, Special grant or subgrant conditions for "high-risk "grantees";
- (4) Section 85.20, "Standards for financial management systems," except paragraph (a);
- (5) Section 85.21, "Payment," except as modified by SS570.513;
- (6) Section 85.22, "Allowable costs";
- (7) Section 85.26, "Non-federal audits"
- (8) Section 85.32, "Equipment," except in all cases in which the equipment is sold, the proceeds shall be program income;
- (9) Section 85.33, "Supplies";
- (10) Section 85.34, "Copyrights";
- (11) Section 85.35, "Sub-awards to debarred and suspended parties";
- (12) Section 85.36, "Procurement," except paragraph (a);
- (13) Section 85.37, "Subgrants";
- (14) Section 85.40, "Monitoring and reporting program performance," except paragraphs (b)-(d) and (f);
- (15) Section 85.41, "Financial Reporting." except paragraphs (a), (b), and (e);
- (16) Section 85.42, "Retention and access requirements for records";
- (17) Section 85.43, "Enforcement";
- (18) Section 85.44, "Termination for convenience";
- (19) Section 85.51, "Later disallowances and adjustments"; and
- (20) Section 85.52, "Collection of amounts due."

the City agrees to submit a yearly Certified City Financial Audit regardless of the dollar amount expended in that fiscal year in the time and manner prescribed by the County.

## **SECTION III Other Program Requirements**

The City agrees to comply with “Other Program Requirements” as listed in Exhibit D (24 CFR 570.600-611) except for the environmental responsibilities outlined at 24 CFR 570.604 and the review process under Executive Order 12372.

#### **SECTION IV Allocation**

The City understands that the Urban County allocation has been set at \$7,750,673.00 for Fiscal Year 2020 and that City’s allotment has been set at \$270,886.00. The City agrees to cooperate with the county in the expenditure of these funds for the activities so described in Exhibit A of this Agreement and that Exhibit A is an integral part of this Agreement.

The City further agrees to inform the County on any changes in scope, funding or location of the activities listed on Exhibit A prior to executing any change. Any changes proposed by City must be approved by the County in reference to eligibility, program compliance and citizen participation requirements.

City and County mutually agree that the City shall have four (4) fiscal years to properly expend or cause to be expended, according to all applicable rules and regulations, all funds allocated to it in Fiscal Year 2020. In consideration for the same, the City agrees not to have more than 1.5 times its annual allocation in its line of credit by April 30, 2021. Funds in excess of the 1.5 standards shall be subject to the Recapture Policy of the Urban County Program. The County shall recapture any and all unobligated funds that a City fails to expend or obligate by June 30, 2021 and shall expend such unobligated funds as it may deem appropriate.

#### **SECTION V Access**

The City and County both agree to give the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Inspector General, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of its authorized representatives, access to and the right to examine, excerpt and transcribe all books, accounts, records, reports, files and other papers, things, or property belonging to or in use by the City or County for a period as such records are legally required to be maintained by the City or County.

#### **SECTION VI Monitoring**

The County reserves the right to carry out regular and periodic field inspections to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Agreement. City shall attend a compliance seminar after the award of funds and prior to the first draw. After each monitoring visit, County shall provide City with a written report of the monitor's inspection. If the monitoring report finds deficiencies in City's performance under the terms of this Agreement, the monitoring report shall include requirements for the timely correction of such deficiencies by City. Failure by City to take action as specified in the monitoring report may be cause for suspension or termination of this Agreement, as provided in Section XIV of this Agreement.

#### **SECTION VII Conflict of Interest**

In compliance with 24 CFR 611, the City and County both covenant that no member of their respective governing bodies nor any staff member who exercises influence on the decision making process, presently has or will have any interest, direct or indirect, with any person, corporation, company or association that is hired to carry out any of the activities so listed on Exhibit A or will receive federal assistance from any activity.

The City and County both agree that no person who is an elected official, employee, consultant, or agent of the City or County shall gain any interest in any corporation, company, or association that is hired to carry out any of the activities so listed in Exhibit A during their tenure or for a period of one year thereafter.

No City or County employee, elected official, consultant and/or agent shall solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from any person, corporation, company, or association that has been hired or expects to be hired to perform any of the activities so described on Exhibit A.

Code of Conduct Certification attached to this agreement must be signed by elected officials, employees, consultants, or agents to the City. (See attachment A-1)

#### **SECTION VIII Religious Activities**

The City and County both agree that none of the funds expended or activities undertaken shall be used in support of any sectarian or religious activity, nor shall any building or structure funded under this program be used for sectarian or religious activities.

#### **SECTION IX Real and Property Assets**

The City and County agree that any property, real or personal, duly acquired with CDBG funds allocated to City shall become property of the City and shall be afforded the same maintenance and protection as other City property. City and County further agree that any real or personal property acquired shall be done in accordance with 24 CFR 570.606, 24 CFR 85 and/or any other federal rules or regulations as may apply.

City agrees not to purchase any real or personal assets unless so permitted by the County and such procurement shall be done in accordance with 24 CFR 570.606, 24 CFR 85 and/or any other federal rules or regulations as may apply.

The City agrees to maintain any real or personal asset in a prudent manner so as to ensure its useful life and to protect the federal government's interest in such real or personal asset from the perils of fire, storm, flood or theft through insurance coverage in the amount as may be deemed prudent by County. Failure to secure such protection shall be cause for termination of this agreement.

Any asset acquired or improved in part or in whole with CDBG funds must be used in an activity that is eligible and meets one of the national objectives listed in 24 CFR 570.208. Any asset acquired or improved in part or in whole with CDBG funds in excess of \$ 25,000 must be used for the CDBG activity so planned including the beneficiaries of such use. Any change in use or beneficiaries must be subject to the citizen participation requirements and approved by the County.

Should any use of an asset not qualify as meeting one of the national objectives or is not an eligible use under 24 CFR 570.200, the City shall reimburse the County the amount of the current fair

market value of the asset less any portion thereof attributable to expenditures of non-CDBG funds in the acquisition or improvement of the asset.

The above requirements attributed to assets over \$25,000 shall remain in force for a period of five years after the final closeout of the County's participation in the Urban County Program. The disposition of any asset improved or acquired in part or in whole with CDBG funds by the City must be done with prior approval of the County and the County shall be reimbursed for the asset, if sold, in the full amount of the disposed value of the asset. The County may, at its option, request that such asset be transferred to the County if the asset is no longer being used to meet one of the national objectives or in any case where the City no longer uses the asset for its intended use.

**SECTION X**  
**Jurisdiction**

The City and County agree to accept the jurisdiction of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in matters relating to the proper administration of programs and the proper expenditure of CDBG funds.

The City and County agree that the County is responsible for the proper administration of programs and the proper expenditure of CDBG funds and recognize that the County will be responsible for audit or programmatic findings or exceptions made by the HUD or any other agency that may exercise jurisdiction over HUD or any other agency that may exercise jurisdiction over HUD funds or programs.

In cases of an audit finding or exception based on action or inaction, representation or misrepresentation of the City, the City agrees to resolve such audit finding or exception for and on behalf of the County. Remedial actions that may be taken for the resolution of an audit finding or exception are defined in 24 CFR 570.910 and include the withholding of funds to the City for any outstanding finding(s) or exception(s). (See Exhibit-E)

The City understands and agrees this Interlocal Agreement shall remain in full force and effect until the Department of Housing and Urban Development has closed this Program Year (B-20-UC-48-0501) and accepted any resolutions to any and all audit or programmatic finding(s) or concern(s).

**SECTION XI**  
**Payment Requests and Program Income**

The City agrees to follow administrative directions from the County in the areas of documenting and processing payment requests. The City further agrees to allow the County to make all payments and to account for all program income from any of its CDBG activities that may generate program income as outlined in this Section.

The City and County agree that program income generated from any approved CDBG project shall be retained by the City as long as such City provides the County by the 15th of each month, an accounting as may be required by the County of program income earned, retained, and expended by the City. The City shall be allowed to use the program income for the same or similar activities as generated the program income. Failure of the City to report program income as required shall cause the County to require all program income to be recovered by the County.

**SECTION XII**  
**Section 108 Loan Guarantee**

County and City both agree that they may implement certain eligible activities as outlined in 24 CFR 570.703 with loan funds from the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program as described in 24 CFR 570.700-709 approved and adopted November 6, 1991 (Vol. 56, No. 215 Federal Register).

The County and City will be allowed to submit an application for such funds per funding year in an amount less than three times its current allocation. Should the City or County submit more than one application during any combination of years, the cumulative amount of loan funds requested shall not exceed the total amount of five years of the current allocation. The City agrees that it will bear the full expense of obtaining Section 108 financing for the period of the repayment of Section 108 funds.

The County and City agree that they will maintain a legal binding relationship with each other under the terms of this Agreement and all previously signed Cooperation Agreement if the City wishes to participate in the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program for the full term of the Section 108 Loan Agreement. The City agrees to pledge its current and future CDBG allocation and other security consideration as may be required, depending on the project risk, as security for the Section 108 Loan and such security pledge shall not bind or affect other cities' allocation in the Urban County Program.

Such legal binding relationship and security pledge shall remain in full force and effect for the full term of the Section 108 Loan Guarantee agreement and this agreement shall survive for the term of the Section 108 Loan. Details of any current Section 108 loan are included herein as Exhibit C, if applicable.

### **SECTION XIII Legal Action**

The City agrees to notify the County when a problem arises that may lead to any legal action or claim against the City and/or County. The City agrees to furnish to the County any information with respect to such action or claim. The City agrees not to take any action with respect to any legal matter or claim sought against the City and/or County without advice and consent of the County.

### **SECTION XIV Suspension and Termination**

City understands that this agreement may be suspended or terminated in accordance with 24 CFR 85.43 if the City materially fails to comply with the provisions of this agreement or the provisions so listed on Exhibits A through E. Termination for convenience may be implemented in accordance to the provisions listed in 24 CFR 85.44.

### **SECTION XV Changes or Amendments**


The City agrees to notify the County on any changes or amendments that it may desire or need to carry out the CDBG program in its area. All changes or amendments must first obtain approval from the County prior to implementation. All changes or amendments must conform to all federal rules and regulations applicable to the CDBG program.

**SECTION XVI  
Essential Powers**


The City agrees that the County has the essential powers to implement any aspect of those activities identified in the 2018 – 2022 Five-Year Consolidated Plan & Strategy inclusive of specific projects identified in the annual One-Year Action Plan and subsequent amendments. The City further agrees to allow the County the authority to initiate, undertake and implement said projects within its jurisdictional boundaries without further notice to City by County for all projects identified in the 2018 – 2022 Five-Year Consolidated Plan & Strategy, Annual Action Plan and subsequent amendments to the Plans herein incorporated by reference.

Approved and signed this 4th Day of August, 2020.


ATTEST:

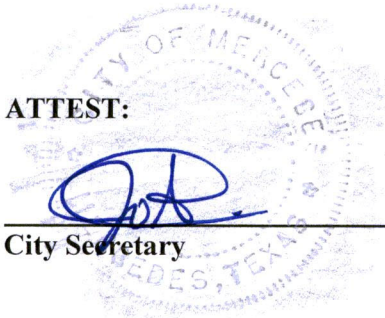
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Arturo Guajardo, Jr.  
County Clerk



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard F. Cortez,  
Hidalgo County Judge

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Secretary



APPROVED BY  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
ON: 9/8/20  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office  
Ricardo Rodriguez, Jr.

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor M. Garza, Asst. District Attorney

Date: 9.10.20

**The following Exhibits are incorporated into the  
2020 Interlocal Agreement:**