

URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM
Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court

Agenda Request Form

No. 80135

Steve de la Garza

Date: March 23, 2021

Meeting Date Request: March 30, 2021

Deadline for Action: March 30, 2021

Contact Person: Patricio R. Avila, Director

Department: Urban County Program

Phone: (956) 787-8127 Fax: (956) 318-2988

Patricio R. Avila, Urban County Director *PAE*

Caption:

Requesting approval of Resolution authorizing the Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) to submit a Texas Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (TEMAP) application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA).

Background:

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) is making available approximately \$70 million in emergency mortgage assistance to entitlement communities in the state of Texas. The program will assist low income eligible households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

TEMAP will provide up to six (6) months of emergency mortgage assistance which can include a combination of arrears, current and future mortgage payments so long as at least one month is for current or future payment.



Assistant Director: _____
Housing Division Manager: _____
Finance Division Manager: _____ *FMVA*

Please Initial for Approval:

Legal Council _____ Budget _____ Human Resources _____
Dept. / Fund No: _____ Amt. Expended: \$ _____ Funds /Staffing Budgeted: Yes ___ No
Amount Code: _____ Impact on Future Budget: Yes ___ No

Comments:

Action Taken by Commissioners' Court:

Approved _____ Tabled _____ Denied _____ Motion Made by _____ Seconded _____ Vote _____

FILED
AT 2:10 O'CLOCK P. M.
APR 01 2021
ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR. COUNTY CLERK
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
DEPUTY

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO, ~~AUTHORIZING THE~~ SUBMISSION OF A TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (TDHCA) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CARE ACT (CDBG-CV) APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY JUDGE TO ACT AS THE COUNTY'S AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE TEXAS EMERGENCY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEMAP).

WHEREAS, the Commissioners' Court of the County of Hidalgo is desirous to continue providing mortgage assistance to low-income families impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the TDHCA, CDBG-CV has made funding available for the implementation of The Texas Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program and related activities

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS:

1. That the Hidalgo County Urban County Program be and hereby is authorized to submit and implement an application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs – Texas Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program.
2. That the Commissioners' Court directs and designates the County Judge as the County's Authorized Signatory to act in all matters in connection with this application and the County's participation in the Texas Community Development Block Grant CARE Act – Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hidalgo County Judge, Richard F. Cortez, be and is hereby authorized to sign any and all documents and do all other acts necessary to carry this Resolution into effect.

PASSED AND APPROVED at a meeting of the County Commissioners' Court of the County of Hidalgo, on the 30th day of March, 2021.

Richard F. Cortez

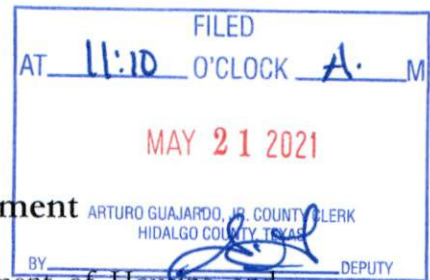
Richard F. Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge

ATTESTED BY:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr.
Arturo Guajardo, Jr.
Hidalgo County Clerk



APPROVED BY
COMMISSIONERS COURT
ON: 3/30/21 BRS



TDHCA Information Security and Privacy Agreement

This agreement (“ISP Agreement”) is entered into by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, an official agency of the State of Texas (“Department”), and Hidalgo County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas (“Contractor”). The purpose of the agreement is to ensure the security and privacy of Protected Information belonging to persons who do business with the Department. Department Contractors are required to comply with all security and privacy measures herein. The scope and complexity of each Contractor’s specific security and privacy measures will vary depending on the size of the organization and risks presented by Contractor’s operations. This agreement is effective on the date it is fully executed by the parties.

A. Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this Agreement, have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Computing Device” means any personal computer, laptop, server, smart phone, or any other data processing device that is used to connect to the Department’s network.

“Contractor” means a person who contracts with the Department, including a Vendor or a Subrecipient, and all of its Representatives.

“Criminal History Records Information” – means, for the purposes of TEX. GOV’T. CODE §411, information collected about a person by a Criminal Justice Agency that consists of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, informations, and other formal criminal charges and their dispositions. The term doesn’t include (i) identification information, including fingerprint records, to the extent that the identification information does not indicate involvement of the person in the criminal justice system; or (ii) driving record information under Subchapter C, Chapter 521 Transportation Code.

“Department” means the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

“Financial Statements of a Tax Credit Applicant” means, for purposes of TEX. GOV’T. CODE §2306.6717(d)(Public Information and Hearings), a formal statement of the financial activities of a Low Income Housing Tax Credit Applicant, submitted to the Department as part of a Low Income Housing Tax Credit Application, including but not limited to, the balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement or changes in equity.

“Information Resources” means the procedures, equipment, and software that are employed, designed, built, operated, and maintained to collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display, and transmit information, and associated personnel including consultants and contractors.

“ISP Agreement” means this agreement.

“Non-Public Personal Information” means, for purposes of the Graham-Leach-Bliley Act (15 USC §§6801-6809 and 6821-6827), and implementing regulations, personally identifiable

financial information provided by an individual in connection with applying for or receiving a financial product or service, unless the information is otherwise publically available.

“Personal Identifying Information” means, for purposes of TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE Chapter 521 (Unauthorized Use of Identifying Information), and any implementing regulations, information that alone or in conjunction with other information identifies an individual, including an individual’s name, Social Security number, date of birth, or government-issued identification number, mother’s maiden name, unique biometric data including fingerprint, voice print, retina or iris image, unique electronic identification number, address, or routing code, and telecommunication access devices as defined by TEX. PENAL CODE §32.51.

“Personal or Business Financial Information” means, for purposes of TEX. GOV’T. CODE §2306.039 (Open Meetings and Open Records), any personal or business financial information including, but not limited to, Social Security numbers, tax payer identification numbers, or bank account numbers submitted to the Department to receive a loan, grant, or other housing assistance by a housing sponsor, individual or family.

“Protected Information” means Criminal History Records Information, Financial Statements of a Tax Credit Applicant, Non-Public Personal Information, Personal Identifying Information, Personal or Business Financial Information, Protected Health Information, Sensitive Personal Information, or Victims of Violence Information, and WAP Applications and Participation Information.

“Protected Health Information” has the meaning ascribed to it in 45 CFR §160.103. Generally, it includes any information that relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care to an individual; or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual.

“Representative” means any officer, employee, contractor, subcontractor, member, director, advisor, partner, or agent of Vendor/Subrecipient, or any person serving in such a role, however titled or designated.

“Sensitive Personal Information” means, for purposes of TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE Chapter 521 (Unauthorized Use of Identifying Information), an individual’s first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more of the following items if the name and items are not encrypted: (1) social Security number, (2) driver’s license or government-issued identification number, (3) account or credit/debit card number in combination with any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access, or (4) information that identifies or reveals an individual and the physical or mental health or condition of the individual, the provision of health care to the individual, or payment for the provision of health care to the individual. The term does not include publicly available information that is lawfully made publicly available.

“Subrecipient” An organization with whom the Department contracts, and entrusts to administer federal or state program funds, including but not limited to, units of local government, non-profit and for-profit corporations, administrators, community action agencies, collaborative applications, sub-grantees, NSP developers, land banks, participating mortgage lenders and non-profit owner-builder housing providers.

“Vendor” means a person or organization that supplies goods or services, properly procured under relevant laws, to the Department.

“Victims of Violence Information” means any information submitted to a covered housing provider, including the Department and its Contractors pursuant to 24 CFR §5.2007, including the fact that an individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Also included pursuant to Tex. Gov’t Code §552.138 is information regarding the location or physical layout, an employee, volunteer, former or current client, or the provision of services to a former or current client, a private donor, or a member of a board of directors or board of trustees of a family violence shelter center, victims of trafficking shelter center, or sexual assault program.

“WAP Applications and Participation Information” means, for purposes of Weatherization Program Notice 10-08, U.S. Department of Energy, issued February 1, 2010, regarding the Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (“WAP”), any specifically identifying information related to an individual’s eligibility application for WAP or the individual’s participation in WAP, such as name, address, or income information.

B. Security Measures for Devices that Connect to Department Network

Any third-party Computing Device that is used to connect to the Department’s internal network either physically or through a Virtual Private Network (“VPN”) must meet the following requirements:

1. Contractor shall not access Department’s networks with its own equipment unless (a) the equipment meets Department’s security standards described herein, and (b) the Department has approved the access in writing.
2. Department-licensed software shall not be installed on a non-Department Computing Device unless explicitly permitted by the licensor, and authorized in writing by the Information Systems Director for the Department.
3. Contractor shall not access any area of Department premises except those specific areas for which Contractor has been given written permission by the Department.
4. Contractor shall ensure that any Computing Device that is connected to the Department network is compliant with all Department hardware, software, and security standards. This includes anti-virus software running the latest virus definition patterns and any critical security patches required to protect the device from outside vulnerabilities.
5. Contractor shall ensure that any of its Computing Devices remotely connected to the Department’s network through VPN are not connected to any other external networks through VPN at the same time. Reconfiguration of any Contractor Computing Device that connects to the Department network for the purpose of split-tunneling or dual homing (multiple network cards) is not permitted.
6. Access to the Department’s network shall only be granted for a period of time agreed upon in writing by both parties, however the period may be terminated earlier at the sole discretion of

the Department, which discretion shall not be unreasonably exercised, upon not less than twenty-four (24) hours notice.

7. The Department shall not be responsible or liable for non-Department assets.

C. Security Measures for Maintenance of Department Protected Information External to the Department Network

Contractor and any Representative who maintains Department Protected Information in systems external to the Department network shall comply with the information technology (IT) security requirements defined below:

1. Contractor shall maintain an inventory of all IT assets, including all IT hardware, software, and data. The IT asset inventory shall be used in risk assessment activities and IT security policy development.
2. Contractor shall implement and maintain an IT risk management program in which risks are identified, documented, assessed, prioritized, controlled, and monitored.
3. Contractor shall ensure Protected Information is recoverable in accordance with its IT security policy.
4. Contractor shall adhere to monitoring techniques and procedures for detecting, reporting, and investigating security incidents.
5. Contractor shall provide IT security training to its employees upon hire and at a Contractor-defined frequency, thereafter. The training shall include appropriate elements from the IT security policy, shall stress the importance of protecting Protected Information, shall include notice of consequences for noncompliance with policy, accidental loss of Protected Information, or misuse of Protected Information, shall cover procedures for the proper disposal of Protected Information, and shall cover responding to security incidents and breaches. Contractor shall document all training and make the records available to the Department upon request.
6. Contractor shall conduct criminal background checks on its employees with access to Department Protected Information. Contractor shall make this information available to the Department upon request.
7. If Contractor performs software development on systems in which Department Protected Information is maintained, Contractor shall separate development and production environments and ensure that only staff with a need to update production data have this type of access. People who perform software development duties shall not have access to modify production data.
8. If Contractor performs software development on systems in which Department Protected Information is maintained, Contractor shall follow a software change control process, through which appropriate management approval shall be documented prior to the migration of software changes from development to production environments.

9. Contractor shall maintain and follow an IT security policy that shall be provided to the Department for approval before work begins. The IT security policy shall address the following topics and subtopics, where applicable, based on the size and complexity of the organization:
 - a. Account Management and Systems Access
 - b. Application Security
 - i. Configuration management for PCs, laptops, and servers
 - ii. Network Security and intrusion prevention
 - iii. Patch management for PCs, laptops, and servers
 - iv. Protection of routers, switches, and other network devices
 - v. Security of wireless networks and devices
 - vi. Virus and malware protection
 - c. Authorized equipment and software
 - d. Backup, recovery, testing, and continuity of operations
 - e. Data classification
 - f. Development or acquisition of Information Resources
 - g. Encryption
 - h. Handling and responding to security incidents
 - i. Physical security
 - j. Portable Computing Devices and Media
 - i. Portable Computing Devices, including laptops, handheld computers, personal digital assistants, and cell phones
 - ii. Portable media, including any removable discs, USB flash storage devices, hard drives, CDs, and DVDs
 - k. Release and disposal of Information Resources
 - l. Secure disposal of Protected Information
 - m. Secure physical file transfer
 - n. Secure electronic file transfer
 - o. Security awareness and training for employees
 - p. Testing and monitoring of the controls defined in the IT Security Policy
10. The following are specific requirements that shall be included in Contractor's IT security policy and shall be in effect for as long as Contractor retains any Department Protected Information.
 - a. Contractor facilities shall be restricted to appropriate personnel using access restraints such as access cards or keys. Servers, network equipment, and backup media shall be maintained in locked, unlabelled facilities with access restricted to designated employees.
 - b. For file security or file transfer requiring encryption, Contractor shall use 256-bit FIPS 140-2 approved security functions. For guidance, refer to Annex A: Approved Security Functions for FIPS PUB 140-2, *Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules*, at <https://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips>.
 - c. Portable Computing Devices or media containing Protected Information of individuals participating in Department programs or Department employees shall comply with the following requirements:
 - i. Portable computing devices shall be password protected.
 - ii. Contractor shall not physically transport portable computing devices or media containing Protected Information of individuals participating in Department programs

or Department employees outside of its facilities or from one facility to another without encrypting all Protected Information following the encryption requirement defined above. For definitions and guidance, refer to NIST Special Publication 800-111, *Guide to Storage Encryption Technologies for End User Devices*, at <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/index.html>.

- d. Contractor shall not email Protected Information unless the information is encrypted following the encryption requirement defined above.
 - e. Contractor shall not use unencrypted Internet protocols, such as Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (“HTTP”) or File Transfer Protocol (“FTP”), to transfer Protected Information over the Internet. Contractor shall use Secure File Transfer Protocol (“SFTP”) with 256-bit encryption or better or HTTPS with Transport Layer Security (“TLS”) [version 1.2 or later] with 256-bit encryption or better.
 - f. Contractor’s password policy shall require the following elements: minimum length, combination of alpha and numeric or special characters, and password duration and rotation.
 - g. Contractor shall ensure that only software that has been evaluated and pre-approved by Contractor is installed on any of its Computing Devices or network devices.
 - h. If Contractor maintains servers that host applications or services accessible over the Internet, Contractor shall logically segment network resources and services, so that those intended for internal use only are separated into private IP networks and those intended to be accessible from the Internet are separated into public IP networks. Contractor shall at a minimum use firewall and access control list technologies so that only necessary Internet ports and services are open to appropriate network resources.
 - i. Contractor shall consult the Department regarding the transfer, sale, or disposal of all Computing Devices, network devices, and electronic media containing Department Protected Information and provide for sanitization of said information using industry best practices like those defined in NIST Special Publication 800-88, *Guidelines for Media Sanitization*, at <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/index.html>. This paragraph 11(i), shall survive the expiration or termination of any or all agreements that Contractor has with the Department, including this Agreement, as long as Contractor has possession or control of any Protected Information.
11. The Department may provide assistance to Contractor upon request by sending an email request to tsupport@tdhca.state.tx.us .

D. General Requirements

1. In the event of an actual or suspected breach involving Department Protected Information stored by the Contractor, Contractor shall promptly notify the Department no later than twenty-four hours after discovery of the incident. The Contractor will coordinate and cooperate fully with the Department in making all breach notifications and taking all actions required by law to effect the required notifications.
2. If Contractor receives a request pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act for Protected Information maintained by Contractor, Contractor shall notify the Department within three (3) days of the receipt of the request by forwarding the request to open.records@tdhca.state.tx.us

3. The Department does not share Non-Public Personal Information for any purposes except for the purposes described in 25 CFR §1016.14 (processing and servicing transactions) and §1016.15 (other exceptions). All other uses of Non-Public Personal Information by Contractor are prohibited, including, but not limited to, using Non-Public Personal Information for marketing purposes.
4. Upon reasonable notice, and during regular business hours, Contractor shall make available for copying or inspection by the Department, the Office of the Attorney General, or the State Auditor's Office (and the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services if Protected Health Information is involved), records kept by Contractor related to the execution of its obligations under this ISP Agreement.
4. This ISP Agreement is the parties' entire agreement on this subject and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements. Any modifications to this ISP Agreement shall not be effective unless in writing and signed by both parties; provided, Department may amend this ISP Agreement, in its sole discretion in order to conform it to federal or state law.
5. Contractor shall ensure that only Representatives with a need to know will have access to any Protected Information and ensure that those Representatives read this ISP Agreement and comply with the requirements listed herein.
6. This ISP Agreement is not assignable or transferable by either party without prior written consent. Failure to enforce any provisions of this agreement will not constitute a waiver.
7. This ISP Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Texas.
8. This ISP Agreement is effective on the date both parties have signed below, and shall remain in effect so long as Contractor has access to Protected Information.

TO SHOW THEIR AGREEMENT, the parties have caused this ISP Agreement to be executed by their undersigned, duly authorized representatives on the dates below.

Contractor

Texas Department of Housing and
Community Affairs

By: Richard F. Cortez

By: _____

Printed Name: Richard F. Cortez

Printed Name: _____

Title: Hidalgo County Judge

Title: _____

Date: 05 / 18 / 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

APPROVED BY
COMMISSIONER'S COURT
ON: 3/30/21 



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

www.tdhca.state.tx.us

Greg Abbott
GOVERNOR

BOARD MEMBERS
Leo Vasquez, *Chair*
Leslie Bingham, *Vice Chair*
Brandon Batch, *Member*
Paul A. Braden, *Member*
Ajay Thomas, *Member*
Sharon Thomason, *Member*

May 17, 2021

Richard F. Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge
Hidalgo County
1916 Tesoro St.
Pharr, TX 78577

RE: TEMAP AWARD LETTER

Dear Judge Cortez:

I am pleased to inform you that the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has approved a Texas Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (TEMAP) award to Hidalgo County in the amount of \$500,000 to provide mortgage assistance in the service area consisting of the following: Hidalgo County's jurisdiction, except for residents who reside in the city limits of Edinburg, Mission, McAllen, Alamo, and La Villa. This award will be funded through the Community Development Block Grant - CARES Act (CDBG-CV) Program. The CDBG-CV Program is designed to help Texans respond to and recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

The contract is being drafted and should be emailed to you in approximately three weeks via DocuSign. The contract must be signed and returned within 30 days of receipt.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of the South Texas Border region. Please feel free to contact CDBG CARES Program Coordinator, Lauren Rabe at (361) 724-8155 and/or lauren.rabe@tdhca.state.tx.us should you have any questions about this award.

Sincerely,

Rudy Bentancourt, MPA CMP
CDBG CARES Director

cc: Steven de la Garza, Division Manager

