



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN ROGERS, ARKANSAS

The legislation which created the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the regulation implementing it encourages citizen participation in planning, carrying out and evaluating local CDBG activities. It is a requirement that cities have a formal Citizen Participation Plan in order to receive funding. The Citizen Participation Plan for the City of Rogers is on file in the CDBG Office located at 301 West Chestnut.

The object of the Citizen Participation Plan is to encourage and ensure that the citizens of Rogers, to include the extremely-low, very-low, and low-to-moderate income individuals and families including minorities, non-English speaking persons, persons with disabilities, residents of public and assisted housing developments, have an opportunity to participate in the process of developing the Consolidated Plan, Action Plan, and the Citizen Participation Plan and any amendments that might need to be made to those plans. The City takes whatever actions are appropriate to encourage its citizens to participate in these processes.

The current Citizen Participation Plan will be adopted by the Rogers City Council on October 25, 2011. A copy of the resolution adopting this plan will be made a part of this plan when adopted.

The City will make available to citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties access to its five year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report and Citizen Participation Plan throughout the year during normal business days and hours. All of these plans will be available for public review at City Hall, 301 West Chestnut, and on the City's website, www.rogersarkansas.com. During certain times of the year, these documents will also be available at the Rogers Activity Center, 315 West Olive, Adult Wellness Center, 2001 West Persimmon, and the Rogers Public Library, 711 South Dixieland Road. Although a summary will be published in the local newspaper, the entire Plans are placed and made available in the areas listed above. In publishing summaries, a description of the contents and purpose of the plans as well as locations where the plans can be examined are listed. Copies of the plans are made available to any citizen or group upon request.

The City of Rogers encourages its citizens to comment during the development of all its plans. All written or oral comments and views received by the City will be made part of the plan.

The City of Rogers will hold all public hearings in buildings that have access for persons with disabilities. The hearings will be scheduled during the evening hours to provide working individuals and families with greater opportunity to attend. Because of the large Hispanic population in Rogers, a Spanish translator is available for all public hearings and visits to the CDBG Office at City Hall. The City is prepared to provide the Citizen Participation Plan in a format accessible, upon request, to any individual who might be visually impaired, unable to read, or homebound with no access to the online Plan. There will be a minimum of two public hearings during each Program Year--one Public Hearing prior to the start of the plan and another Public Hearing when the plan is completed and before forwarding the Con Plan or Action Plan to HUD. All Public Hearings will address housing and community needs, development of proposed activities, and a review of program performance. Public Hearings will be published in display ads in the local newspaper and will be published at least 7 to 14 days prior to the actual Hearing. Information concerning Public Hearings will also be posted on the City's website.

The City encourages the participation of local and regional institutions and other organizations (including businesses, developers, and community and faith-based organizations) in the process of developing and implementing the Consolidated Plan. At the beginning stages of developing this Plan, meetings are held to encourage citizen participation. A Public Hearing is held at the beginning stages of developing the Consolidated Plan to gather information from citizens. The hearing is adequately publicized and conveniently timed and located for people who might or will benefit from the CDBG Program funds such as residents of public and assisted housing, and low-income residents of targeted revitalization areas. The hearings will be held to respond to proposals, to answer questions, and to obtain views of citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties. The hearings are held in locations that can accommodate persons with disabilities and have easy access from parking to the building.

The City of Rogers encourages its citizens to comment during the development of the Consolidated Plan, Action Plan, Citizen Participation Plan and any amendments affecting these plans as well as the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. All written and oral comments and views received by the City will be made a part of the final Plan. The comment period from citizens and groups will be 30 days after the date a summary of the proposed Consolidated Plan is published in The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas. The City will consider any comments or views of citizens received in writing or orally at the public hearings in preparing the Consolidated Plan. A 30-day comment period is also available after the date a summary of the proposed Action Plan is published in The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas. There is also a 30-day citizen comment period between the proposal of amendment and implementation of the proposed amendment to any plan. The City will accept comments on the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for 15 days starting the day after the publication in

the newspaper. A summary of all comments and responses will be attached to the plans and any substantial amendment when it is submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The City will make available to citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties the amount of assistance the City expects to receive through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The City has no program income. How these funds will be used will also be provided by listing the activities and grant amounts for these activities. The City will provide an estimated amount that will benefit persons whose income levels range from extremely-low to low-moderate-income levels. The City of Rogers will minimize displacement of persons and will assist persons displaced within the jurisdiction of CDBG guidelines. Citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties, especially those most affected, will have the opportunity to receive information, review and submit comments on any proposed submission concerning the proposed activities. The City will provide reasonable and timely access to information and records relating to the preceding five years to its citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties. All information requested will be provided in a reasonable and timely manner.

The City encourages its citizens to comment on any amendment to the plan. The City will amend its approved plan whenever it makes one of the following decisions:

- a. A change in its allocation proprieties.
- b. A change in its method of distribution of funds.
- c. To carry out a new activity using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan not previously described in the Action Plan.
- d. To change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity.

The City encourages its citizens to comment on any substantial amendment to the plan. The City will amend its approved plan whenever it makes one of the following decisions:

- a. To make a change in the allocation of \$100,000 or greater.
- b. To carry out an activity not previously described in the Action Plan.
- c. To change the use of CDBG funds from one eligible activity to another.

Citizens will have a minimum of 30 days after the date the change(s) is (are) published in The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas to comment on the change. The City of Rogers will consider comments or views of citizens received in writing or orally in preparing the substantial amendments. The letter transmitting the copy of all amendments shall be signed by the Mayor.

The City of Rogers will provide assistance to low through extremely low income individuals and groups that request assistance in developing a proposal under the plan submission. The assistance shall be provided by the CDBG Office. A bilingual (English/Spanish) person will be made available to non-English speaking persons.

The City of Rogers will address all grievances and complaints within 15 working days.

The City of Rogers' CDBG Program Year runs from January 1 through December 31. The citizen participation planning process begins in June of the prior year, approximately six months before the start of the Program Year is planned.