

RESIDENTIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN

This Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan is prepared by **Gaston County** in accordance with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and HUD regulations at 24 CFR 42.325 and is applicable to our CDBG¹ projects.

MINIMIZE DISPLACEMENT

Consistent with the goals and objectives of activities assisted under the Act, the **County** will take the following steps to minimize the direct and indirect displacement of persons from their homes:

(The steps provided below are examples only, each jurisdiction must determine the actions it will take based on local needs and priorities, select one or multiple steps or describe others steps below)

- Coordinate code enforcement with rehabilitation and housing assistance programs.
- Evaluate housing codes and rehabilitation standards in reinvestment areas to prevent undue financial burden on established owners and tenants.
- Stage rehabilitation of apartment units to allow tenants to remain in the building/complex during and after the rehabilitation, working with empty units first.
- Arrange for facilities to house persons who must be relocated temporarily during rehabilitation.
- Adopt policies to identify and mitigate displacement resulting from intensive public investment in neighborhoods.
- Adopt policies which provide reasonable protections for tenants faced with conversion to a condominium or cooperative.
- Adopt tax assessment policies, such as deferred tax payment plans, to reduce impact of increasing property tax assessments on lower income owner-occupants or tenants in revitalizing areas.
- Establish counseling centers to provide homeowners and tenants with information on assistance available to help them remain in their neighborhood in the face of revitalization pressures.
- Where feasible, give priority to rehabilitation of housing, as opposed to demolition, to avoid displacement.

CDBG programs include: Entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, State CDBG Program, CDBG Small Cities Program, Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, CDBG Special Purpose Grants Program, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

- If feasible, demolish or convert only dwelling units that are not occupied or vacant occupiable dwelling units (especially those units which are “lower-income dwelling units” (as defined in 24 CFR 42.305)).
- Target only those properties deemed essential to the need or success of the project.
- Other: (*Describe*) Click or tap here to enter text.

A. Relocation Assistance to Displaced Persons

The **County** will provide relocation assistance for lower-income tenants who, in connection with an activity assisted under the CDBG Program[s], move permanently or move personal property from real property as a direct result of the demolition of any dwelling unit or the conversion of a lower-income dwelling unit in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR 42.350. A displaced person who is not a lower-income tenant, will be provided relocation assistance in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24.

B. One-for-One Replacement of Lower-Income Dwelling Units

The **County** will replace all occupied and vacant occupiable lower-income dwelling units demolished or converted to a use other than lower-income housing in connection with a project assisted with funds provided under the CDBG Program[s] in accordance with 24 CFR 42.375.

Before entering into a contract committing **County** to provide funds for a project that will directly result in demolition or conversion of lower-income dwelling units, the **County** will make public and submit to State CDBG Program(s) North Carolina Department of Commerce the following information in writing:

1. A description of the proposed assisted project;
2. The address, number of bedrooms, and location on a map of lower-income dwelling units that will be demolished or converted to a use other than as lower- income dwelling units as a result of an assisted project;
3. A time schedule for the commencement and completion of the demolition or conversion;
4. To the extent known, the address, number of lower-income dwelling units by size (number of bedrooms) and location on a map of the replacement lower-income housing that has been or will be provided. [*See also 24 CFR 42.375(d)*].
5. The source of funding and a time schedule for the provision of the replacement dwelling units;

6. The basis for concluding that each replacement dwelling unit will remain a lower-income dwelling unit for at least 10 years from the date of initial occupancy; and
7. Information demonstrating that any proposed replacement of lower-income dwelling units with smaller dwelling units (e.g., a 2-bedroom unit with two 1-bedroom units), or any proposed replacement of efficiency or single-room occupancy (SRO) units with units of a different size, is appropriate and consistent with the housing needs and priorities identified in the HUD-approved Consolidated Plan and 24 CFR 42.375(b).

To the extent that the specific location of the replacement dwelling units and other data in items 4 through 7 are not available at the time of the general submission, the **County** will identify the general location of such dwelling units on a map and complete the disclosure and submission requirements as soon as the specific data is available.

C. Replacement not Required Based on Unit Availability

Under 24 CFR 42.375(d), the **County** may submit a request to the State (NC Commerce) for a determination that the one-for-one replacement requirement does not apply based on objective data that there is an adequate supply of vacant lower-income dwelling units in standard condition available on a non-discriminatory basis within the area.

D. Contacts

The **Grant Administration Office (704-866-3771)** is responsible for tracking the replacement of lower income dwelling units and ensuring that they are provided within the required period.

The **Grant Administration Office (704-866-3771)** is responsible for providing relocation payments and other relocation assistance to any lower-income person displaced by the demolition of any dwelling unit or the conversion of lower-income dwelling units to another use.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20__.

(Chief Elected Official)

ATTEST:

(Clerk)

Providing Meaningful Communication with Persons with Limited English Proficiency

*Gaston County
June 2020-June 2023*

The purpose of this Policy and Plan is to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable federal and state laws and their implementing regulations with respect to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on the ground of race, color or national origin by any entity receiving federal financial assistance. Administrative methods or procedures, which have the effect of subjecting individuals to discrimination or defeating the objectives of these regulations, are prohibited.

POLICY:

In order to avoid discrimination on the grounds of national origin, all programs or activities administered by Gaston County will take reasonable steps to ensure that persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access and an equal opportunity to participate in benefits and services for which such persons qualify. This Policy defines the responsibilities the agency has to ensure LEP individuals can communicate effectively.

DEFINITIONS:

Limited English Proficient (LEP) individual – Any prospective, potential, or actual recipient of benefits or services from the agency who cannot speak, read, write or understand the English language at a level that permits them to interact effectively with health care providers and social service agencies.

Vital Documents – These forms include, but are not limited to, applications, consent forms, all compliance plans, bid documents, fair housing information, citizen participation plans, letters containing important information regarding participation in a program; notices pertaining to the reduction, denial, or termination of services or benefits, the right to appeal such actions, or that require a response from beneficiary notices advising LEP persons of the availability of free language assistance, and other outreach materials.

Title VI Compliance Officer: The person or persons responsible for administering compliance with the Title VI LEP policies.

Substantial number of LEP: 5% or 1,000 people, whichever is smaller, are potential applicants or recipients of the agency and speak a primary language other than English and have limited English proficiency.

PROCEDURES:

1. IDENTIFYING LEP PERSONS AND THEIR LANGUAGE

Gaston County will promptly identify the language and communication needs of the LEP person. Staff will use a language identification card (or “I speak cards,” provided by the Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) and LEP posters to determine the language. In addition, when records are kept of past

interactions with individuals or family members, the language used to communicate with the LEP person will be included as part of the record.

2. OBTAINING A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER

List the current name, office telephone number, office address and email address of the Title VI compliance officers:

Pat Laws, Grants Administrator
Gaston County Administrative Building
128 W. Main Avenue
PO Box 1578
Gastonia NC 28053
Phone: 704-866-3771
Email: pat.laws@gastongov.com

(Note: The agency must notify the REDD Compliance Office immediately of changes in name or contact information for the Title VI compliance officer.)

Check all methods that will be used:

- Maintaining an accurate and current list showing the language, phone number and hours of availability of bilingual staff (**provide the list**):
- Contacting the appropriate bilingual staff member to interpret, in the event that an interpreter is needed, if an employee who speaks the needed language is available and is qualified to interpret;
- Obtaining an outside interpreter if a bilingual staff or staff interpreter is not available or does not speak the needed language.

(Identify the agency(s) name(s) with whom you have contracted or made arrangements)

Have/has agreed to provide qualified interpreter services. The agency's (or agencies') telephone number(s) is/are (**insert number (s)**), and the hours of availability are (**insert hours**).

- Other (**describe**):

All staff will be provided notice of this policy and procedure, and staff that may have direct contact with LEP individuals will be trained in effective communication techniques, including the effective use of an interpreter.

Some LEP persons may prefer or request to use a family member or friend as an interpreter. However, family members or friends of the LEP person will not be used as interpreters unless specifically requested

by that individual and after the LEP person has understood that an offer of an interpreter at no charge to the person has been made by the facility. Such an offer and the response will be documented in the person's file. If the LEP person chooses to use a family member or friend as an interpreter, issues of competency of interpretation, confidentiality, privacy, and conflict of interest should be considered. If the family member or friend is not competent or appropriate for any of these reasons, competent interpreter services will be provided to the LEP person.

Children and other residents will not be used to interpret, in order to ensure confidentiality of information and accurate communication.

3. PROVIDING WRITTEN TRANSLATIONS

- i. Gaston County will set benchmarks for translation of vital documents into additional languages.
- ii. When translation of vital documents is needed, Gaston County will submit documents for translation into frequently-encountered languages.
- iii. Facilities will provide translation of other written materials, if needed, as well as written notice of the availability of translation, free of charge, for LEP individuals.

4. PROVIDING NOTICE TO LEP PERSONS

The County will inform LEP persons of the availability of language assistance, free of charge, by providing written notice in languages LEP persons will understand. Example: The notification will include, in the primary language of the applicant/recipient, the following language: **IMPORTANT: IF YOU NEED HELP IN READING THIS, ASK THE AGENCY FOR AN INTERPRETER TO HELP. AN INTERPRETER IS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE.**

All interpreters, translators and other aids needed to comply with this policy shall be provided without cost to the person being served, and individuals and their families will be informed of the availability of such assistance free of charge.

At a minimum, notices and signs will be posted and provided in intake areas and other points of entry, including but not limited to the main lobbies, waiting rooms, etc.

Gaston County Administrative Building

Notification will also be provided through one or more of the following: outreach documents, telephone voice mail menus, local newspapers, radio and television stations, and/or community-based organizations.

Outreach Documents

5. MONITORING LANGUAGE NEEDS AND IMPLEMENTATION

On an ongoing basis, Gaston County will assess changes in demographics, types of services or other needs that may require reevaluation of this policy and its procedures. In addition, Gaston County will regularly assess the efficacy of these procedures, including but not limited to mechanisms for securing interpreter services, complaints filed by LEP persons, feedback from residents and community organizations, etc.

I. Compliance Procedures, Reporting and Monitoring

A. Reporting

The agency will complete an annual compliance report and send this report to REDD. (Format will be supplied by REDD)

B. Monitoring

The agency will complete a self-monitoring report on a quarterly basis, using a standardized reporting system proposed by the local government. These reports will be maintained and stored by the Title VI Compliance Officer and will be provided to the REDD upon request.

The agency will cooperate, when requested, with special review by the REDD.

II. Applicant/Recipient Complaints of Discriminatory Treatment

A. Complaints

The agency will provide assistance to LEP individuals who do not speak or write in English if they indicate that they would like to file a complaint. A complaint will be filed in writing, contain the name and address of the person filing it or his/her designee and briefly describe the alleged violation of this policy. The form can be found at <https://www.ncommerce.com/documents/cdbg-compliance-plans>.

The agency will maintain records of any complaints filed, the date of filing, actions taken and resolution.

The agency will notify the appropriate section within REDD of complaints filed, the date of filing, actions taken and resolution. This information will be provided within 30 days of resolution.

B. Resolution of Matter

If the matter cannot be resolved by informal means, the individual will be informed of his or her right to appeal further to REDD. This notice will be provided in the primary language of the individual with Limited English Proficiency.

The REDD Compliance Office will conduct an investigation of the allegations of the complaint. The investigation will afford all interested persons and their representatives, if any, an opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.

The investigation will not exceed 30 days, absent a 15-day extension for extenuating circumstances.

If the investigation indicates a failure to comply with the Act, the local unit of government, agency Director or his/her designee will so inform the recipient and the matter will be resolved by informal means whenever possible within 60 days.

If the matter cannot be resolved by informal means, then the individual will be informed of his or her right to appeal further to the Department of Justice. This notice will be provided in the primary language of the individual with Limited English Proficiency.

If not resolved by REDD, then complaint will be forwarded to Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Field Office.

SUBMITTED AND ADOPTED BY:

Name of Chairman of Board

Signature of Chairman of Board

Date

Local Jobs Initiative

Section 3 Plan

Local Economic Benefit for Low- and Very Low-Income Persons

Gaston County
June 2020-June 2023

I. APPLICATION AND COVERAGE OF POLICY

Gaston County is committed to the policy that, to the greatest extent possible, opportunities for training and employment be given to lower income residents of the community development project area and contracts for work in connection with federally assisted community development project be awarded to business concerns located or owned in substantial part by persons residing in the Section 3 covered area, as required by Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, **Gaston County** has developed and hereby adopts the following Plan:

Gaston County will comply with all applicable provisions of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended (24 CFR Part 135), all regulations issued pursuant thereto by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and all applicable rules and orders of the Department issued thereunder

This Section 3 covered project area for the purposes of this grant program shall include **Gaston County**.

Gaston County will be responsible for implementation and administration of the Section 3 plan. In order to implement the policy of encouraging local residents and businesses participation in undertaking community development activities, the **County** will follow this Section 3 plan which describes the steps to be taken to provide increased opportunities for local residents and businesses

This Section 3 Plan shall apply to services needed in connection with the grant including, but not limited to, businesses in the fields of planning, consulting, design, building construction/renovation, maintenance and repair, etc.

When in need of a service, **Gaston County** will identify suppliers, contractors or subcontractors located in the Section 3 area. Resources for this identification shall include the Minority Business Directory published through the State Department of Commerce, local directories and Small Business Administration local offices. Word of mouth recommendation shall also be used as a source.

Gaston County will include the Section 3 clause and this plan in all contracts executed under this Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Where necessary, listings from any agency noted above deemed shall be included as well as sources of subcontractors and suppliers. The Section 3 Plan shall be mentioned in the pre- bid meetings and preconstruction meetings.

The prime contractor selected for major public works facility or public construction work will be required to submit a Section 3 Plan which will outline his/her work needs in connection with the project. Should a need exist to hire any additional personnel, the Gaston County Employment Security Commission shall be notified and referred to the contractor.

Each contract for housing rehabilitation under the program, as applicable, for jobs having contracts in excess of \$100,000 shall be required to submit a Section 3 Plan. This Plan will be maintained on file in the grant office and shall be updated from time to time or as the grant staff may deem necessary.

Early in our project, prior to any contracting, major purchases or hiring, we will develop a listing of jobs, supplies and contracts likely to be utilized during the project. We will then advertise the pertinent information regarding the project including all Section 3 required information. Community Investment and Assistance (CI) should be contacted with the Bid Materials to distribute the information throughout their list serve to reach out the communities.

II. AFFIRMATIVE ACTIONS FOR RESIDENT AND BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

Gaston County will take the following steps to assure that low income residents and businesses within the community development project area and within the **County** are used whenever possible: (Describe below)

1. Place qualified residents and businesses on solicitation lists.
2. Assure that residents and businesses are solicited whenever they are potential sources of contracts, services or supplies.

Please check the methods to be used for the Section 3 program in your community:

County will place a display advertisement in the local newspaper containing the following information:

- i. A brief description of the project
- ii. A listing of jobs, contracts and supplies likely to be utilized in carrying out the project.
- iii. An acknowledgement that under Section 3 of Housing and Community Development Act, local residents and businesses will be utilized for jobs, contract and supplies in carrying out the project to the greatest extent feasible.
- iv. A location where individuals interested in jobs or contracts can register for consideration
- v. A statement that all jobs will be listed through and hiring will be done through the local office of the North Carolina Employment Security Commission; a statement that all contracts will be listed with the North Carolina Division of Purchase and Contracts; and a statement that potential employees and businesses may seek development and training assistance through various state and local agencies, or which the **County** will maintain a list for individuals and business concerns inquiring information

Training and technical assistance will be provided by the local community college for low income residents requiring skills to participate in community development project activities. Referrals will be made to the community college, local Private Industry Councils, Job Training Partnership Act (29 U.S.C. 1579 (a)) (JTPA) Programs, and job training programs provided by local community action agencies as appropriate. Residents and businesses will be encouraged to participate in state and/or federal job training programs that may be offered in the area.

Low income residents and businesses will be informed and educated regarding employment and procurement opportunities in the following ways:

- i. Advertisement in the local newspaper
- ii. Posting of Section 3 Plan at the County Courthouse
- iii. County Board meeting when project activities and schedules are discussed
- iv. Open meetings of Project Advisory Committee when everyone in neighborhood is invited
- v. Notification to other agencies that provide services to low-income people.

Other (describe):

Gaston County will, to the greatest extent feasible, utilize lower income area residents as trainees and employees:

1. Encourage rehabilitation contractors to hire local area residents
2. Encourage public works contractors to hire local area residents

Gaston County will, to the greatest extent feasible, utilize businesses located in or owned in substantial part by persons residing in the area

1. Contract with local contractors to perform demolition activities, and housing rehabilitation activities.
2. Encourage public improvement contractors to hire local residents for site clearance work, hauling materials, and performing other site improvements.
3. Encourage all contractors to purchase supplies and materials from the local hardware and supply stores

III. RECORDS AND REPORTS

Gaston County will maintain such records and accounts and furnish such information and reports as are required under the Section 3 regulations, and permit authorized representatives of State CDBG, and federal agencies access to books, records, and premises for purposes of investigation in connection with a grievance or to ascertain compliance with this Section 3 Plan.

Gaston County shall report annually the Section 3 numbers using the form HUD 60002 to State CDBG at the end of the calendar year as part of the Annual Performance Report (APR).

IV. MONITORING COMPLIANCE

Gaston County may require each applicable contractor to provide a copy of the Section 3 Plan and will monitor compliance during the performance of the contract. Copies of all advertisements, notice, and published information will be kept to document the implementation of the plan.

V. COMPLAINTS CONTACT

Pat Laws
Grants Administrator
Gaston County
704-866-3771
pat.laws@gastongov.com

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20____.

_____ (*Chief Elected Official*)

ATTEST: _____ (*Clerk*)

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY FOR CDBG GRANTEES

WHEREAS, **Gaston County**, as the recipient of federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grant program;

WHEREAS, the conflict of interest provisions, including but not limited to those found at N.C. General Statutes § 14-234, 2 C.F.R. § 200.317-318, 320-321, 323-326, 24 C.F.R. § 570.489 (g) and (h), and 24 C.F.R. § 570.611 must be carried out;

WHEREAS, certain limited exceptions to the conflict of interest rules listed in 24 C.F.R. § 570.489 may be granted in writing by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and/or NC Commerce upon written request and the provision of information specified in 24 C.F.R. § 570.489(h)(ii)(4);

WHEREAS, no persons described in this policy who exercise or have exercised any functions or responsibilities with respect to CDBG activities assisted under this part, or who are in a position to participate in a decision-making process or gain inside information with regard to such activities, may obtain a financial interest or benefit from a CDBG-assisted activity, or have a financial interest in any contract, subcontract, or agreement with respect to a CDBG-assisted activity, or with respect to the proceeds of the CDBG-assisted activity, either for themselves or those with whom they have business or immediate family ties, during their tenure or for one year thereafter;

WHEREAS, the conflict of interest provisions of this policy apply to any person who is an employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected official or appointed official of the recipient, or of any designated public agencies, or of subrecipients that are receiving funds; and

WHEREAS, the failure to adhere and enforce this policy may cause the **County** to lose its grant or eligibility for future federal grants;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by **Gaston County's** Board of **County Commissioners** that the **County** will pass and adhere to this policy.

Adopted this the ____ day of _____, 20____ in Gaston County, North Carolina.

ATTEST:

Chief Elected Official

Clerk

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR CDBG GRANTEES

CDBG Recipient/Grantee Name:	GASTON COUNTY
CDBG Recipient/Grantee Mailing Address:	128 WEST MAIN AVENUE, PO BOX 1578, GASTONIA NC 28053
CDBG Recipient/Grantee Physical Address (if different from mailing):	128 WEST MAIN AVENUE, PO BOX 1578, GASTONIA NC 28053
Contact Person & Title:	PAT LAWS, GRANT ADMINISTRATOR
Contact Email:	PAT.LAWS@GASTONGOV.COM
Contact Phone Number:	704-866-3771
TDD#:	711

I. PURPOSE AND INTRODUCTION

The **County** has designed this community-wide Citizen Participation Plan to provide for and encourage citizen participation in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

This Plan is an essential element of the **County's** present and future community development process and has been developed to comply with the regulations and requirements of the CDBG program as administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Citizen Participation Plan is required by Section 104(a)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Act and by regulations at 24 CFR 570.486(a)(6).

The primary goal of this Citizen Participation Plan is to provide all citizens of the community with adequate opportunity to participate in an advisory role in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the **County's** CDBG program(s) and project(s).

The Plan sets forth policies and procedures for citizen participation, which are designed to maximize the opportunity for citizen participation in the community development process. Special emphasis has been placed on encouraging participation by persons of low and moderate incomes, residents of blighted neighborhoods, and residents of areas where community development funds are utilized.

The plan is vitally important to the success of CDBG-funded activities undertaken by local units of general government. Compliance with the plan reduces the number of legal challenges and citizen complaints against the local government recipient.

Local units of general government must provide citizens with reasonable advance notice of and opportunity to comment on proposed activities in an application to the state; and for grants already made, the same opportunities must be provided for activities proposed to be added, deleted, or substantially changed from the original application to the state. Substantially changes include, but not limited to, purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in all phases of the CDBG program(s) and will be provided full access to program information. However, final responsibility and authority for the development and implementation of CDBG program(s) will lie with the **County**.

2. SCOPE OF PARTICIPATION

The **County** will make reasonable efforts to provide for citizen participation during the community development process and throughout the planning, implementation and assessment of all CDBG program(s) undertaken by the **County**. Local officials will make every effort to involve citizens in all phases of the development, implementation and assessment of community development programs including, but not limited to, the following phases:

- a. Identification and assessment of housing and community development needs; determination of CDBG project(s) and documentation; and the development of CDBG application(s);
- b. Changes and/or amendments to approved CDBG projects; and,
- c. Assessment of CDBG program performance.

All phases of the community development process will be conducted by local officials in an open manner. Citizens of the **County** are encouraged to participate at all levels and will be given access to program information during each phase of any CDBG program as outlined herein.

3. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION CONTACT PERSON

Pat Laws has been designated Citizen Participation Coordinator by the **Chief Elected Official** and will serve as the contact person for all matters concerning citizen participation activities. This person shall be responsible for overseeing citizen participation throughout the community development process and the implementation of all citizen participation activities and functions, except those which may be specifically delegated to other parties by this Plan.

The specific duties and responsibilities of the Citizen Participation Coordinator shall include, but not necessarily be limited to: disseminating information concerning proposed projects and the status of current project activities; coordinating various groups which may be participating in the community development process; receiving written comments; serving as a vehicle by which ideas, comments, and proposals from local residents may be transmitted to local officials and/or program staff; and, monitoring the citizen participation process and proposing such amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan as may be necessary.

The Citizen Participation Coordinator may be contacted at **Gaston County, 128 W. Main Avenue, Gastonia NC 28053 or 704-866-3771** during regular business hours. All questions concerning citizen participation in the community development process should be addressed to the Citizen Participation Coordinator.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The staff of the **County** shall provide technical assistance to individual citizens and citizen groups, especially those groups representative of persons of low or moderate income, as may be required to adequately provide for citizen participation in the planning, implementation and assessment of CDBG program(s).

Such technical assistance is intended to increase citizen participation in the community development decision making process and to ensure that such participation is meaningful. Technical assistance shall also be utilized to foster public understanding of CDBG program requirements.

Technical assistance shall be provided on request and may include, but not necessarily be limited to: interpreting the CDBG program and its rules, regulations, procedures and/or requirements; providing information and/or materials concerning the CDBG program; and, assisting low and moderate income citizens, and residents of blighted neighborhoods to develop statements of views, identify their needs, and to develop activities and proposals for projects which, when implemented, will resolve those needs.

Technical assistance may be obtained by contacting the **Chief Elected Official** of the **County** or the Citizen Participation Coordinator.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Citizen participation in the community development process will be conducted on a community-wide basis and will actively involve the views and proposals of all citizens, especially low and moderate income persons and residents of areas where CDBG activities are proposed or on-going.

Public hearings will be held during all phases of the community development process, as outlined herein, to allow citizens to voice opinions and offer proposals concerning the development and performance of CDBG programs. Local officials will respond to questions and proposals from citizens at each public hearing. Any questions that citizens may have concerning a program will be answered and their comments, suggestions, and/or proposals will be received. Citizens may also express comments and views concerning the community development process or any specific CDBG project to the governing body at any regularly scheduled meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

All public hearings will be held at times and locations which will be accessible to all citizens, especially persons of low and moderate incomes, and residents of blighted neighborhoods and CDBG project areas.

Public hearings will be scheduled for convenient times as determined by the **County**. Public hearings may be held at any site which, in the opinion of the **County** provides adequate access for citizen participation.

Hearings will normally be held at the **Gaston County, 128 W. Main Avenue, Gastonia NC 28053**. This site is centrally located and generally accessible to all citizens. This building is also accessible to persons with disabilities. Hearings may, however, at the option of the **County**, be held at an alternate location to be specified in the public hearing notice(s).

APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARING

One public hearing shall be held during any CDBG program fiscal year prior to the submission of an application to the Nc Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division for CDBG assistance. The primary purposes of the public hearing shall be to assess community needs and problems in an effort to determine the most critical needs to be addressed by the CDBG program; and also to present for public comment and review the program activities which have been selected by the **County** to resolve the identified needs.

An application public hearing will be held during the initial stage of program development to discuss items regarding community development and housing needs, the CDBG program, and the application process. The objective of citizen participation at this stage is to provide meaningful, community-wide citizen input into the decision-making process during the assessment of community needs and the consideration of priorities and options associated with the development and submission of a CDBG application. Local officials will also entertain proposals and comments from citizens concerning community development activities at this hearing.

This hearing will normally serve to discuss and review the information appropriate for all applications submitted by the **County** during any fiscal year. Additional changes in community development or housing needs in the community as determined by local officials can be addressed by a community meeting where citizens can share their comments prior to the submission of other CDBG applications late in the fiscal year.

Citizens will be provided with information concerning the CDBG program at this public hearing. Such information shall include, but not necessarily be limited to: the goals and objectives of the CDBG program; the total amount of CDBG funds available for the fiscal year and for the funding round; the role of citizens in program planning, implementation, and assessment; the range of activities which may be undertaken; the process to be followed in developing a CDBG application; a statement that 100 percent of the CDBG funds will be used to benefit low-to-moderate income people; the schedule of meetings and hearings; location where the application can be reviewed; activities previously funded in the **County** through the CDBG program; and, an identification of projects which could result in the relocation of area residences or businesses; and the actions that would be undertaken if such relocation were necessary; provide citizens with contact information such as address, telephone number, and dates for submitting complaints or grievances. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the Citizen Participation Plan in allowing citizen participation in the community development process and potential changes and/or amendments to the Plan shall also be discussed at this meeting.

The **County** may, at the option of local officials, review multiple CDBG project applications at one hearing when more than one application is to be submitted during the same fiscal year. Each such hearing shall be held prior to, and in preparation for, the application's approval by the **County**.

A second objective of citizen participation during this stage is to inform citizens of the proposed project activities to be included in a CDBG application(s) and to solicit comments from citizens concerning these activities.

Citizens attending this hearing will be provided with information concerning the CDBG project(s) proposed including, but not necessarily limited to: the project application(s) to be submitted and the applicable CDBG fund; specific project activities to be included; the location of the project activities; the

approximate cost estimate for the proposed activities; the estimate of local match required; the impact of the project on low and moderate income persons; and, the approximate application submittal date.

PROJECT AMENDMENT PUBLIC HEARINGS

The **County** will assure the opportunity for citizen participation during the implementation of any CDBG program(s) when changes to the project are under consideration by the **County**. Citizen participation shall be obtained and considered in any amendments to a CDBG program which involves changes in dollar amount spent on any activity, changes in program beneficiaries, changes in the location of approved activities, addition to or deletion of project activities, and major budget shifts between approved activities.

To ensure adequate opportunity for citizen participation during CDBG programs, the **County** shall hold a public hearing on all formal amendments which require the NC Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division approval. For “local” amendments and changes for which the NC Commerce approval is not required, input from citizens concerning changes or amendments will be received at regularly scheduled **County** meetings where such changes or amendments are considered.

ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE (CLOSE-OUT) PUBLIC HEARINGS

This public hearing must be held after all third-party contracts’ payments have been submitted.

Citizens of the **County** will be provided with the opportunity to comment on the performance of local officials, the **County** staff, consultants, engineers, and contractors, and the actual use of CDBG funds during the implementation of a CDBG program. Citizens will also be requested to assess the performance of the **County** in resolving identified community development and housing needs, and in achieving its community development goals and objectives. On-going community assessment of the effectiveness of the community development process is considered essential to the success of the CDBG program.

At the conclusion of each CDBG project, a public hearing will be held to review program activities and to assess program performance. This hearing shall be held prior to the submission of the Performance Assessment Report and any other required closeout documents to the NC Commerce for a CDBG project. This hearing will be used to ensure community-wide participation in the evaluation of the CDBG program.

ADDITIONAL HEARINGS

Other public hearings may be held as deemed necessary by the **County** in order to inform citizens of community development project(s) and activities, and to solicit citizen opinions and comments. All additional hearings shall comply with the requirements set forth in this Plan.

6. PUBLIC HEARING ACCOMMODATIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY

VIRTUAL HEARINGS

During a declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor or General Assembly, and if a local unit of general government is concerned about significant public health risks that may result from holding an in-person public hearings, the local unit of general government may undertake a virtual public hearing (alone, or in concert with an in-person hearing) if:

- It allows questions in real time, with answers coming directly from the elected representatives to all “attendees.” Therefore, members of the public must be entitled to participate and address the governing body during any telephonic or video-conference meeting.
- The governing body must post a written notice that gives the public a way to participate remotely, such as a toll-free dial-in number, and that includes an electronic copy of any agenda packet that officials will consider at the meeting.
- As with an in-person hearing, the grantee must select a virtual hearing method or platform that provides accessibility for persons with disabilities and limited English proficiency (LEP) to the greatest extent possible. These accommodations must be free to these populations.
- A governing body must provide the public with access to a recording of any telephonic or videoconference meeting.
- The local unit of government must document its efforts and the reason for them.
- Additional specific communication requirements and requirements for conducting remote meetings can be found in Article 1A of Chapter 166A and Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY RESIDENTS

The **County** has followed the guidance provided in the Language Access Plan (LAP) to determine the need to undertake reasonable actions to facilitate the participation of persons with Limited English Proficiency. Local officials will undertake all reasonable actions necessary to allow such persons to participate in the community development process. Such actions may include the provision of an interpreter and/or the provision of materials in the appropriate language or format for persons with Limited English Proficiency.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice of public hearings must be published in a local newspaper of general circulation, in a non-legal section of the paper at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing date, but no more than 25 days prior to the meeting date. Each notice of a hearing shall include the time, date, place, and topics and procedures to be discussed.

ACCESSIBILITY TO LOW AND MODERATE INCOME PERSONS

The public hearing procedures outlined herein are designed to promote participation by low and moderate income citizens, as well as residents of blighted neighborhoods and CDBG project areas in any public hearing(s).

Local officials may take additional steps to further promote participation by such groups, or to target program information to these persons should officials feel that such persons may otherwise be excluded or should additional action be deemed necessary.

Activities to promote additional participation may include: posting of notices in blighted neighborhoods and in places frequented by low and moderate income persons, and holding public hearings in low and moderate income neighborhoods or areas of existing or proposed CDBG project activities.

ACCESSIBILITY TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The locations of all public hearings as described herein shall be made accessible to persons with disabilities. The **County** shall provide a sign language interpreter whenever the Citizen Participation Coordinator is notified in advance that one or more deaf persons will be in attendance.

The **County** shall provide a qualified reader whenever the Citizen Participation Coordinator is notified in advance that one or more visually impaired persons will be in attendance.

Additionally, the **County** shall provide reasonable accommodations whenever the Citizen Participation Coordinator is notified in advance that one or more persons with mobility or developmental disabilities will be in attendance.

7. PROGRAM INFORMATION

Citizens will be provided full access to CDBG program information during all phases of a CDBG project. Local officials of the **County** shall make reasonable effort to assure that CDBG program information is available to all citizens, especially those of low and moderate incomes and those residing in blighted or Limited English Proficiency neighborhoods and/or CDBG project areas.

To facilitate citizen access to CDBG program information, the Citizen Participation Coordinator will keep all documents related to a CDBG program on file in the City Hall. Information from the project files shall be made available for examination and duplication, on request, during regular business hours. CDBG program information and materials, concerning specific CDBG projects will be available and distributed to the public at the regularly scheduled public hearings as outlined in this Plan. Furthermore, information concerning any CDBG project will be available at regularly scheduled council meetings where the program is discussed.

Materials to be made available shall include, but are not necessarily limited to: the Citizen Participation Plan; records of public hearing; mailings and promotional materials; prior CDBG program applications; letters of approval; grant agreements; the environmental review record; financial and procurement records; project design and construction specifications; labor standards materials; performance and evaluation reports; other reports required by the NC Commerce and/or HUD; proposed and approved CDBG program application(s) for the current year or project; written comments or complaints received

concerning the community development program, and written responses from the **County**; and, copies of the applicable Federal and State rules, regulations, policies, requirements and procedures governing the CDBG program.

In no case shall the **County** disclose any information concerning the financial status of any program participant(s) which may be required to document program eligibility or benefit. Furthermore, the **County** shall not disclose any information which may, in the opinion of the **Chief Elected Official**, be deemed of a confidential nature.

8. PROCEDURES FOR COMMENTS, OBJECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

The public hearings scheduled, as described in this Citizen Participation Plan, are designed to facilitate public participation in all phases of the community development process. Citizens are encouraged to submit their views and proposals on all aspects of a community development program at the public hearings. However, to ensure that citizens are given the opportunity to assess and comment on all aspects of the community development program on a continuous basis, citizens may, at any time, submit written comments or complaints to the **County**.

Any citizen or citizen's group desiring to comment or object to any phase of the planning, development or approval of the application for CDBG funds, or to the implementation of any CDBG program, should submit such comments or objections in writing to the **Chief Elected Official**. Should, after a reasonable period, a party believe that his/her comment or complaint has not been properly addressed or considered by the **Chief Elected Official**, then the aggrieved may appeal his/her case to the **County**.

Local officials shall make every effort to provide written responses to citizen proposals or complaints within fifteen (15) working days of the receipt of such comments or complaints where practicable. Should the **County** be unable to sufficiently resolve an objection or complaint, it may be forwarded by the aggrieved party to the NC Commerce.

Citizens may, at any time, contact the NC Commerce, REDD and/or HUD directly to register comments, objections or complaints concerning the **County** CDBG application(s) and/or program(s). Citizens are encouraged, however, to attempt to resolve any complaints at the local level as outlined above prior to contacting the NC Commerce, REDD or HUD.

All comments or complaints submitted to the NC Commerce, REDD or the HUD shall be addressed in writing to:

NC Department of Commerce
Rural Economic Development Division
4346 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4346

Or:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Community Planning and Development Division
Greensboro Field Office
1500 Pinecroft Road
Greensboro, North Carolina 27407

Records of all comments, objections and/or complaints by citizens concerning the **County** CDBG program and subsequent action taken in response to those comments shall be maintained on file at **County** and shall be made available for public inspection upon request.

9. AMENDMENTS

The **County** may, from time to time, modify the provisions outlined herein through amendment to this Citizen Participation Plan. It shall be the policy of the **County** to periodically review and discuss the effectiveness of this Citizen Participation Plan in allowing citizen participation in the community development process and in helping to meet the community development needs and goals identified by the citizens of the **County**. To this end, the effectiveness of the Plan will be discussed at public hearings held in conjunction with the community development program as discussed herein, and potential amendments to the Plan will be reviewed at this time.

Amendments to the Plan will be made as necessary. All amendments shall be approved by resolution of the **County** and shall be incorporated into this Plan.

10. AUTHORITY

No portion of this Citizen Participation Plan shall be construed to restrict the responsibility and authority of the elected officials of the **County** in the development, implementation and execution of any Community Development Block Grant program.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

(Chief Elected Official)

ATTEST:

(Clerk)

Gaston County

Equal Employment and Procurement Plan

The *Gaston County* maintains the policy of providing equal employment opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, age, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor, except where religion, sex, national origin, or age are bona fide occupation qualifications for employment.

In furtherance of this policy, the *Gaston County* prohibits any retaliatory action of any kind taken by any employee of the locality against any other employee or applicant for employment because that person made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in a hearing, proceeding or investigation of employment discrimination.

The *Gaston County* shall strive for greater utilization of all persons by identifying previously underutilized groups in the workforce, such as minorities, women, and the handicapped, and making special efforts toward their recruitment, selection, development and upward mobility and any other term, condition, or privilege of employment.

Responsibility for implementing equal opportunities and affirmative action measures is hereby assigned to the *Gaston County Staff Grant Administrator* to assist in the implementation of this policy statement.

Gaston County shall development a self-evaluation mechanism to provide for periodic examination and evaluation. Periodic reports as requested on the progress of Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action will be presented to the *Chief Elected Official*.

The *County* is committed to this policy and is aware that with its implementation, the *County* will receive positive benefits through the greater utilization and development of all its human resources.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20__.

(*Chief Elected Official*)

ATTEST:

(Clerk)

THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE FOR CDBG GRANTEES

WHEREAS, **Gaston County**, as the recipient of federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grant program;

WHEREAS, Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act (HCDA) of 1974, Section 519 of Public Law 101-144, and 1990 HUD Appropriations Act requires that all CDBG recipients adopt and enforce a policy to prohibit the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within the recipient's jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations;

WHEREAS, all recipients of CDBG funds are further required to follow a policy enforcing applicable federal, state and local laws against physically barring entrances or exists to a facility that is the subject of a non-violent demonstration;

WHEREAS, **Gaston County** endorses a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force and will inform all law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction of this policy; and

WHEREAS, the failure to enforce such policy may cause the **County** to lose its grant or eligibility for future federal grants;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1: It is the Policy of the **County** that excessive force by local law enforcement agencies shall not be used against individuals engaged in lawful and non-violent civil rights demonstrations within the its boundaries.

SECTION 2 It is the Policy of the **County** to enforce applicable federal, state and local laws against the physical barring of an entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of nonviolent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

SECTION 3: The **County** will coordinate with the local law enforcement agency(ies) to implement this Resolution.

PASSED BY THE **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.**

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20____.

ATTEST:

Chief Elected Official

Clerk

Fair Housing Complaint Procedure

Gaston County

Housing discrimination is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act) and the North Carolina Fair Housing Act. In an effort to promote fair housing and that the rights of housing discrimination victims are protected, **Gaston County** has adopted the following procedures for receiving housing discrimination complaints:

1. Any person or persons wishing to file a complaint of housing discrimination in the **Gaston County** may do so by informing the **Grant Administrator, administrator** of the facts and circumstance of the alleged discriminatory acts or practice.
2. Upon receiving a housing discrimination complaint, the **Grant Administrator, administrator**, shall acknowledge the complaint within 10 days in writing and inform the Rural Economic Development Division and the North Carolina Human Relations Commission about the complaint.
3. The **Grant Administrator, administrator**, shall offer assistance to the Commission in the investigation and reconciliation of all housing discrimination complaints which are based on events occurring in the **County**.
4. The **County Grant Administrator, administrator**, shall **publicize** in the local newspaper, with the TDD#, who is the local agency to contact with housing discrimination complaints.

It is the policy of the **County** to implement the CDBG program to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, familial status, or marital status.

If you have any questions about the complaint procedure or would like to register a compliant of fair housing discrimination please contact the **Gaston County, Grant Administrator Office, 128 W. Main Avenue, Gastonia NC 28053, 704-866-3771, pat.laws@gastongov.com** or, for the hearing impaired, TDD assistance is available at (TDD #711) and providing the facts and circumstances of alleged discriminatory act or practice.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Pat Laws at 704-866-3771 or at 128 W. Main Avenue, Gastonia NC 28053 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Pat Laws al 704-866-3771 o en 128 W. Main Avenue, Gastonia NC 28053 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.



Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20__.

_____ (*Chief Elected Official*)

ATTEST: _____ (*Clerk*)

First page must be published on the Newspaper after the Complaint Procedure is adopted. Please keep the Adopted document in the files including signatures and the Newspaper Publication for documentation

Discrimination Complaints

- Visit the **NC Human Relations Commission** to file a discrimination complaint
- Visit **HUD's website** to file a discrimination complaint
- Visit the **US Department of Justice** Civil Rights Division to file a discrimination complaint
- The **NC Fair Housing Project of Legal Aid of North Carolina** is funded by a HUD **Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP)** grant. The **Fair Housing Project of NC** is available to provide information concerning a person's rights under the Federal Fair Housing Act. When necessary, staff can also assist victims of housing discrimination in filing a complaint with HUD or other appropriate administrative or judicial bodies. For more information, or if you believe you have been a victim of housing discrimination, call the FHP's toll-free number: **1-855-797-FAIR (1-855-797-3247)**.



Requirements for Completing the Fair Housing Plan

- I. Indicate whether this is the first Fair Housing Plan submitted by the recipient or if one has been previously submitted.
- II. List the **major** obstacles and impediments to affirmatively furthering fair housing in the recipient's community, e.g. lack of knowledge among citizens of fair housing laws, lack of affordable housing stock, etc. These will be specific to the recipient community.
- III. Indicate whether the activities apply to part or all of the recipient's community. If some of the activities apply to only part, include an explanation.
- IV. List the activities the recipient will undertake to affirmatively further fair housing in the recipient's community. *The activities should address the obstacles identified in Section II.* Activities should be planned for the life of the grant beginning with the quarter in which the grant agreement was signed and should be listed by quarter with at least one activity per quarter. (For example, Quarter 1, Jan –Mar 2009: Distribute fair housing brochures to public library and local banks). The first activity **must** be establishing and/or publishing the grantee's fair housing complaint procedure and TDD number in the local newspaper. In addition, the grantee **must** have at least one activity for community outreach for fair housing in the form of a workshop or designated fair housing fair within an identified quarter. Many recipients have chosen to do this particular activity in the quarter containing April to celebrate National Fair Housing Month.
- V. Describe recipient's method of receiving and resolving housing discrimination complaints. The *four key elements* to include in complaint procedures are given in the example below. The recipient may add additional information as appropriate.

Note: Municipalities may elect to adopt the fair housing plan and activities in the county Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, of the county in which they are located, but CI needs this in writing, signed and dated by the local chief elected officer *with the local complaint procedure*. The local activities *must also* adopt the county's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and the local activities *must coincide* with the county activities.

Fair Housing Links

For more information on promoting fair housing, please visit:

- <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/promotingfh.cfm>
- <http://www.hud.gov/local/index.cfm?state=nc>
- <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/FHLaws/index.cfm>
- <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/hrc/fairhousing.aspx>
- <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/images/fhpg.pdf>

VI. To have the plan approved, please do the following:

1. It is recommended to submit an electronic copy in Word format to the Compliance Office at compliance@ncommerce.com. After review, a Compliance staff person will notify the contact person of any required changes.
2. For approval, please submit an original hardcopy with signature of the local Certifying Officer to the Compliance Office.
3. Upon receipt of the plan, the Compliance Office will issue an official letter notifying the grantee that the Fair Housing Plan is approved.

VII. Compliance Reviews

Please note that the Compliance Office will conduct random desktop and on-site reviews of fair housing plans in conjunction with Grant Representatives to ensure that applicants are conducting fair housing activities as certified in the approved Fair Housing Plan. Please ensure to maintain comprehensive documentation of fair housing activities for reporting and monitoring.

Recipient's Plan to Further Fair Housing

Grantee: Gaston County

**Recipient's Address: 128 W. Main Avenue
PO Box 1578**

Gastonia, NC 28053

Contact Person: Pat Laws

Contact Phone #:704-866-3771

Contact Email: pat.laws@gastongov.com

TDD #:711

I. Indicate if the Recipient will be affirmatively furthering fair housing for the first time or has implemented specific activities in the past.

First Time X _____

Past Activities _____

II. Identify and analyze obstacles to affirmatively furthering fair housing in recipient's community. (Use additional pages as necessary)

1. Gaston County prepared an Analysis of Impediments and Assessment of Fair Housing for the entire County. (Attachment 1) This document found that the obstacles to affirmatively furthering fair housing in the area are: 1) Lack of knowledge of fair housing laws and regulations among the general population; 2) Lack of affordable housing options and quality affordable housing stock; and 3) Disparities in access to opportunities for certain neighborhoods, in particular with exposure to poverty, and employment.

III. Will the above activities apply to the total municipality or county?

Yes X _____ No _____

If no, provide an explanation.

(Use additional pages as necessary)

IV. Briefly describe the quarterly activities that the recipient will undertake over the active period of the grant to affirmatively further fair housing in their community. A time schedule and estimated cost for implementation of these activities must be included. *Activities must be scheduled for implementation at least on a quarterly basis.* (Use attached table)

Grantee Name: Gaston County

Quarterly Fair Housing Activity	Months	Year	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost
<i>Example: Establish FH policy, Complaint Procedure</i>	Jan-Mar.	20xx	\$xxxx	\$xxxx
County to hire consultant and work with consultant to develop fair housing plan.	Jan-Mar	2020	\$200	
Adopt Fair Housing Plan and Complaint Procedure, create and post fair housing survey online.	April-June	2020	\$0	
Place fair housing compliant procedure in the local newspaper.	July-Sept	2020	\$200	
Mail fair housing information to local lenders.	Oct-Dec	2020	\$25	
Hold virtual training on fair housing lending.	Jan-Mar	2021	\$0	
Mail fair housing information to local realtors.	April-June	2021	\$25	
Post fair housing information in town hall, public library, and online.	July-Sept	2021	\$0	
Hold housing selection committee meeting to discuss fair housing obstacles and opportunities.	Oct-Dec	2021	\$0	
Place the fair housing complaint procedure on County website.	Jan-Mar	2022	\$0	
Update fair housing brochures and posters in County Administration Building and library branches.	April-June	2022	\$0	
Mail fair housing information to local lenders.	July-Sept	2022	\$25	

Place link on County website to HUD fair housing information page. Report to County Commissioners fair housing activities for the year.	Oct-Dec	2022	\$0	
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V. Describe recipient's method of receiving and resolving housing discrimination complaints. This may be either a procedure currently being implemented or one to be implemented under this CDBG grant. Include a description of how the recipient informs the public about the complaint procedures. (Use additional pages as necessary)

- 1) Any person or persons wishing to file a complaint of housing discrimination in the *County* may do so by informing the *County Grant Administrator* of the facts and circumstance of the alleged discriminatory acts or practice in writing.
- 2) Upon receiving a housing discrimination complaint, the *County Grant Administrator* shall acknowledge the complaint within **10 days in writing** and inform the Division of Community Assistance and the North Carolina Human Relations Commission about the complaint.
- 3) The *County* shall **offer assistance** to the Commission in the investigation and reconciliation of all housing discrimination complaints which are based on events occurring in the *County*.
- 4) The *County* shall **publicize** in the local newspaper, with the TDD#, who is the local agency to contact with housing discrimination complaints.

Approved By:

Name and Title of Chief Elected or Executive Officer	Signature	Date
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GASTON COUNTY

POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION

ON THE BASIS OF

HANDICAPPED STATUS

The Gaston County does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities.

Pat Laws
Gaston County
128 W. Main Avenue
PO Box 1578
Gastonia, NC 28053
Phone: 704-866-3771
TDD: #711

Pat Laws, Grant Administrator
has been designated to coordinate compliance with the
nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of
Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) regulations implementing
Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8. dated June 2, 1988).

Gaston County

**SECTION 504 COMPLIANCE OFFICER/GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

The Governing Body of Gaston County hereby designates Pat Laws, County Grants Administrator, to serve as Section 504 Compliance Officer throughout the implementation of the County of Gaston's Community Development Block Grant Program.

Citizens with Section 504 grievance may do so at any point in the program. The Locality will respond in writing to written citizen grievances. Citizen grievances should be mailed to: Gaston County Administration Building, Office of Grants Administrator, 128 West Main Avenue, PO Box 1578, Gastonia NC 28053, Phone Number: 704-866-3771. Gaston County will respond to all written citizen grievances within ten (15) days of receipt of the comments.

Should any individual, family, or entity have a grievance concerning any actions prohibited under Section 504, a meeting with the Compliance Officer to discuss the grievance will be scheduled. The meeting date and time will be established within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the request. Upon meeting and discussing the grievance, a reply will be made, in writing, within five (5) calendar days.

If citizen is dissatisfied with the local response, they may write to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division, CDBG-NR Program:

Mailing Address - 4346 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-4346

NC Commerce will respond only to written comment within ten (10) calendar days of the receipt of the comment.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Pat Laws at 704-866-3771 or at 128 West Main Avenue, PO Box 1578, Gastonia NC 28053 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Pat Laws al 704-866-3771 o en 128 West Main Avenue, PO Box 1578, Gastonia NC 28053 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.



Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20__.

_____ (*Chief Elected Official*)

ATTEST: _____ (*Clerk*)