

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Houston Field Office, Region VI Office of Community Planning & Development 1301 Fannin, Suite 2200 Houston, Texas 77002 (713) 718-3199 - FAX (713) 718-3256 www.hud.gov

February 10, 2020

Alsie Bond, Manager Community Development Services Department City of Bryan P.O. Box 1000 Bryan, TX 77805

Dear Ms. Bond:

Subject: End of Year Assessment Letter for Program Year (PY) 2018 October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, require that grant recipients submit annual performance reports for the programs covered under these Acts. The Acts require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to determine annually that the grant recipient follows these statutes and has the continuing capacity to carry out the programs for which it receives funds. One of the documents used to conduct the assessment is the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). Bryan's CAPER was officially received electronically through the Integrated Disbursement and Information Systems (IDIS) eCon Planning Suite on December 20, 2019. The report was timely and received within 90 days of the end of the City's program year in accordance with 24 CFR 91.520(a).

The end of year assessment provides the basis for working together collaboratively to achieve the community's goals as well as meeting the mandates of the statutes. It includes a review of the City's planning process, its management of funds and its progress in carrying out the strategies and goals identified in the Consolidated Plan. Compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, accuracy of required performance reports and evaluation of accomplishments in meeting key departmental objectives are also evaluated. In addition, the CAPER is reviewed in conjunction with the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) to confirm there are no issues of noncompliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, Executive Order 11063, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and all regulations promulgated under such statutes and authorities. A copy of the FHEO comments is provided with this letter.

In concert with the CAPER, IDIS based reports are reviewed to validate the information. The reports include but are not limited to the CDBG Activity Summary Report (GPR) for the Program Year 2018 (PR03), the CDBG Financial Summary Report (PR26), the 60-day Ratio Report (PR56) and the HOME Deadline Compliance Status Report. These documents reflect whether a grantee is spending timely and meeting regulatory and statutory requirements and are excellent tools for a grantee to conduct self assessments. Program Year 2018 was the fourth year of the City's five year, October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2020, Consolidated Plan.

For Program Year 2018, the City received \$823,293 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$343,707 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds.

The PR03 report reflects CDBG activities undertaken by the City during the program year. The information includes details of projects/activities, the amount of funding allocated per project/activity and how much has been spent and how many persons have benefitted from the activity. A review of the 55-page PR03 as of January 10, 2020 reflected that of the 25 activities in progress during the year, 23 were in a completed status and two were underway. The two activities underway are IDIS Activity 1020 and IDIS Activity 1025. The City is commended on another successful performance during this most recent program year.

The PR26 report reflects CDBG spending during the program year including the percentage of funds benefitting low to moderate income residents and obligated for public services and administration and planning activities. The statutory requirement for overall benefit to low- and moderate-income persons is 70 percent. Bryan's PR26 for PY 18 reflected a 100.00% benefit to low- and moderate-income persons. The percentage of funds obligated for public service activities was 14.20% of the grant amount, and the percentage of funds obligated for planning and administration were 18.84% of the grant amount. By regulation, the standard allowable limits are 15% and 20% respectively.

The PR56 report, also known as the Current 60 Day Ratio Report in IDIS documents timeliness of a CDBG grantee. HUD regulation at 24 CFR 570.902 requires CDBG grantees to spend their funds in a timely manner. A grantee is considered timely if 60 days prior to the end of their program year the balance of grant funds in its line of credit does not exceed 1.5 times the annual grant. A review of the PR56 reflected that Bryan met its timeliness ratio for Program Year 2018 with a .67 ratio on August 2, 2019. The City's next timeliness test is August 2, 2020. As of January 30, 2020, the City had a current ratio of 1.34.

The HOME Cumulative Deadline Compliance Status report documents compliance with the fiveyear expenditure requirements of the HOME program. The HOME Cumulative Deadline Compliance Report for 2014 disbursements, as of December 31, 2019, available on HUD's website was reviewed and confirmed that the City of Bryan met its September 20, 2019 disbursement deadline, as required.

The City of Bryan is congratulated on another successful program year. As a result of this office's assessment and the information provided in the PY 2018 CAPER, the following was determined:

- The City carried out its programs as described in its Consolidated and Annual Action Plan submissions,
- The Consolidated Plan submission as implemented, complied with requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act, as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations.

This letter is to be shared with the public. You may provide copies to interested persons such as news media, members of local advisory committees, and citizens attending public hearings.

We request that you also provide a copy of this letter to the Independent Public Accountant who performs the single audit of the City of Bryan. Please recognize that the comments and conclusions made in this letter are subject to a 30-day review and comment period by the City. We may revise this letter after consideration of the City of Bryan's views, and will make the letter, the City's comments, and any revisions available to the public within 30 days after receipt of the comments. Absent any comments by the City, this will be considered the final letter on this subject. Upon final approval, the CAPER will be available to the public on the HUD Exchange at: https://www.hudexchange.info/consolidated-plan/con-plans-aaps-capers/.

If you have any questions please contact me at (713) 718-3279 or via email at <u>Stacia.L.Johnson@hud.gov</u> or the Community Planning and Development Representative for the City of Bryan, Christine Cuddeback, at (713) 718-3117 or via email at christine.l.cuddeback@hud.gov.

Sincerely,

Stacia L. Johnson, Director Community Planning and Development

Attachment