

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the Housing and Community Development Plan regulations, the City of Jonesboro certifies that:

### **Affirmatively Further Fair Housing**

As a requirement to receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires participating jurisdictions, (in this case the City of Jonesboro) to develop a plan to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. The AFH is a certification that the City is affirmatively furthering fair housing choice. The City further maintains appropriate documentation and promotes adherence to fair housing policies and procedures. The AFH was conducted using a methodology consistent with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines and AFH assessment tool.

The certification specifically requires jurisdictions do the following:

- Complete an Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment within the **local jurisdiction**
- Outline appropriate actions to overcome the deficiencies identified in the analysis
- Maintain records reflecting the analysis and action in this regard.

Impediments to fair housing choice are defined as:

- Any action, omission, or decisions taken because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin that restrict housing choices or the availability of housing choice.
- Any action, omission, or decision that has the effect of restricting housing choices or the availability of housing choices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familiar status, or national origin.

The City of Jonesboro will continue to affirmatively further fair housing as set out under 24 CFR §91.220, and has prepared an analysis that identifies impediments to fair housing choice, and maintains records pertaining to carrying out this certification. CDBG funding allows low-income individuals and families to be assisted in homeownership through education and matching grants for down payment and closing costs. For those who cannot afford to maintain their homes, CDBG funds will be used to provide grants for rehabilitation. The city has undertaken activities to address emergency shelters and the transitional housing needs of our homeless individuals and families.

### **Anti-Discrimination**

Funds will be administered in compliance with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d), the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-3620), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Executive Orders 11063, 11625, 12138, 12432 and 12892, Section 504 of the (title II) and implementing regulations.

## **Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan**

The City of Jonesboro will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, as required under §91.10 and Federal implementing regulations. The Jurisdiction has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan required under section 104 (d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the relocation requirements of §91.10 governing optional relocation assistance under section 105 (a) (11) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended;

## **Drug-Free Workplace**

The city will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by enacting certain requirements:

1. Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
2. Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:
  - a. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
  - b. The City of Jonesboro's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
  - c. Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
  - d. The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;
3. Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph 1;
4. Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph 1 that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will:
  - a. Abide by the terms of the statement; and
  - b. Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug status occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;
5. Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph 4 (b) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant actively the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;

6. Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph 4(b), with respect to any employee who is so convicted
  - a. Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
  - b. Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such proposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
7. Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
8. The City of Jonesboro has provided the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with this specific grant:

Demolition of substandard housing units, various park improvements in the city and administrative responsibilities, all in the City of Jonesboro, will be carried out from 300 South Church Street, Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas 72401.

### **Anti-Lobbying**

To the best of the City of Jonesboro's knowledge and belief:

1. No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal Grant, the making of any Federal Loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement , and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the City of Jonesboro will complete and submit Standard Form- LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying, in accordance with its instructions; and
3. The city will require that the language of paragraph (n) of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly; The City of Jonesboro is in compliance with restrictions on lobbying required by 24 CFR part 87, together with disclosure forms, if required by that part.

## **Legal Authority**

The City of Jonesboro possesses legal authority under State and Local Law to make grant submissions and to execute Community Development and Housing programs and the City Council has duly adopted or passed as an official act a resolution, motion or similar action authorizing the person identified as the official representative of the grantee to submit the Housing and Community Development Plan and amendments thereto and all understandings and assurances contained therein, and directing and authorizing the person identified the official representative of the grantee to act in connection with the submission of Housing and Community Development Plan and to provide such additional information as may be required;

## **Applicable Laws**

The City of Jonesboro will comply with the other provisions of the Acts covering programs covered by the Housing and community Development Plan and with other applicable laws.

In accordance with the certifications as set out under 24 CFR §91.225 of the Federal Register dated January 5, 1995, the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas further certifies that:

## **Consistency with Plan**

The housing activities to be undertaken with CDBG funds are consistent with the Consolidated Plan.

## **Section 3 Compliance**

The City of Jonesboro, Arkansas in the administration of its Community Development Program will comply with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u), and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 135.

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Signature: Harold Perrin, Mayor

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Date

## SPECIFIC CDBG CERTIFICATIONS

The City of Jonesboro certifies that:

### **Citizen Participation**

The detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105 which:

**The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released a 5-Day Public Comment Period waiver for amendments and new plan submissions under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) on April 9, 2020.**

**The City of Jonesboro complied with the waiver by having a 5-Day public review and public comment period to inform, encourage citizen participation and enable citizens to submit comments on the changes made to the 2020 Action Plan and CDBG-CV activities and funding priorities; additionally, the jurisdiction held a public hearing outside the City Council Chambers adhering to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines pertaining social distancing and gatherings.**

1. Provides for and encourages citizen participation, with particular emphasis on participation by persons of low and moderate income who are residents of slum and blighted areas in which funds are proposed to be used, and provides for participation of residents in low and moderate income neighborhoods as defined by the local jurisdiction;
2. Provides citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records relating to the City of Jonesboro's proposed use of funds, as required by the regulations of the Secretary, and relating to the actual use of funds under the Act;
3. Provides for technical assistance to representatives of persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in developing proposals, with the level and type of assistance to be determined by the City of Jonesboro;
4. Provides for public hearings to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and questions at all stages of the community development program. These responses include at least the development of needs, the review of proposed activities, and review of program performance. Hearings shall be held after adequate notice and at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries, and with accommodation for the handicapped;
5. Provides for a timely written answer to written complaints and grievances, within 15 working days where practicable; and
6. Identifies how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the cause of public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate;

7. The City of Jonesboro stands ready to provide any and all necessary assistance to persons with visual or hearing impairments to assure that these individuals are fully informed and included in the Consolidated Plan process. The City shall provide assistance up to and including interpreters and persons that sign for the hearing impaired, as well as any appropriate listening devices. The City stands ready to utilize alternative media as requested.

Prior to submission of its Housing and Community Development Plan to HUD, the City of Jonesboro has:

1. Met the citizen participation requirements of §91.10; and
2. Prepared its housing and community development plan and annual use of funds in accordance with §91.1 and made its Housing and Community Development Plan submission available to the public.

### **Use of Funds**

The jurisdiction has developed the **2020 Consolidated Annual Action Plan to include additional CDBG-CV funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19**. The Action Plan has been developed to give maximum feasible priority to activities, which benefit low and moderate income families or aid in the prevention and/or elimination of slums and blight; (the projected use of funds may also include activities which the City of Jonesboro certifies are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available); except that the aggregate use of CDBG funds received under section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and if applicable, under section 108 of the same Act, shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that not less than 70 percent of such funds are used for activities that benefit such persons during such period;

### **Community Development Plan**

The City of Jonesboro has developed a Community Development Plan, for the period specified in the paragraph above, which identifies community development and housing needs and specifies both short and long-term community development objectives that have been developed in accordance with the primary objective and requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended;

### **Special Assessment**

The City of Jonesboro will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted in whole or in part with funds provided under section 106 of the Housing and

Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, or with amounts resulting from a guarantee under section 108 of the same Act by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements, unless:

1. Funds received under section 106 of the housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, are used to pay the proportion of such fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of such public improvements that are financed from revenue sources other than under Title I of that Act; or
2. For purposes of assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of moderate income, the City of Jonesboro certifies to the Secretary that it lacks sufficient funds received under section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (1) above;

### **Lead-Based Paint**

The City of Jonesboro's notification, inspection, testing and abatement procedures concerning lead-based paint will comply with 24 CFR §570.608;

### **Excessive Force**

The City of Jonesboro has adopted and is enforcing:

1. A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and
2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction;

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Signature: Harold Perrin, Mayor

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Date