



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State puts 2008 housing, community affairs rules out for public comment

(AUSTIN) — All Texans interested in affordable housing and community service programs will have an opportunity beginning September 24 to provide comment on a wide ranging set of program rules, planning guidelines, and policy documents at a series of six public hearings scheduled by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). Input provided by the public will assist TDHCA in finalizing many program rules and guidelines for 2008.

Agenda items for which TDHCA will accept public comment include (but is not limited to) rules and guidelines for the Housing Tax Credit, Multifamily Bond, HOME, First Time Homebuyer and Housing Trust Fund programs. Comment will also be accepted on the Department's Compliance Monitoring, Underwriting, Market Analysis, Appraisal, Environmental Site Assessment, Property Condition Assessment, Accessibility Requirement, and Reserve for Replacement rules.

In addition, TDHCA will accept comment on planning and policy documents including the Affordable Housing Needs Score, Regional Allocation Formula, and Consolidated Plan-One Year Action Plan. A complete list of agenda topics and information on hearing times and locations is available on the Department's website at www.tdhca.state.tx.us/hearings.htm.

TDHCA will hold these hearings in conjunction with the Office of Rural Community Affairs and the Texas Department of State Health Services, as public comment will also be accepted on agenda items from these two state agencies. The six public hearings are scheduled for the following locations:

El Paso

Monday, September 24 at 6 pm
City Council Chambers
2 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor
El Paso, TX 79901

Lubbock

Friday, September 28 at 11 am
South Plains Association of
Governments
1323 58th Street
Lubbock, TX 79412

Brownsville

Wednesday, October 3 at 11 am
City Council Chambers
1001 E. Elizabeth St., 2nd Floor
Brownsville, TX 78521

Houston

Wednesday, September 26 at 6 pm
City Hall Annex
901 Bagby Street
Houston, TX 77002

Dallas

Monday, October 1 at 11:30 am
Dallas Public Library
West Room
1515 Young Street
Dallas, TX 75201

Austin

Thursday, October 4 at 6 pm
Joe C. Thompson Conf. Center
2nd Floor, Room 2.110
2405 Dedman Drive
Austin, TX 78713

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The comment period for all rules and policy documents runs September 10 through October 10, 2007, with the exception of HOME Program and accessibility requirement rules. The comment period for these two rules runs September 24 through October 29, 2007.

Public comment on TDHCA activities may also be provided in writing via mail to: 2008 Rule Comments, TDHCA, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711-3941; by fax at: (512) 475-3978; or via e-mail at: 2008rulecomments@tdhca.state.tx.us.

Written comments specifically regarding the Consolidated Plan-One Year Action Plan and Affordable Housing Needs Score should be provided to: Brenda Hull, TDHCA, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711-3941; by fax at: (512) 469-9606; or via e-mail at: brenda.hull@tdhca.state.tx.us.

Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for these meetings should contact Gina Esteves, ADA Responsible Employee, at (512) 475-3943, or call Relay Texas at 1-800-735-2989 at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Non-English speaking individuals who require interpreters for the hearing should contact Jodi Contreras at (512) 475-4595 at least three days before the hearing so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Personas que hablan español y requieren un intérprete, favor de llamar a Jodi Contreras al siguiente número (512) 475-4595 por lo menos tres días antes de la junta para hacer los preparativos apropiados.

About the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is Texas' lead agency responsible for affordable housing, community services, energy assistance, and colonia housing programs. The Department annually administers more than \$400 million through for-profit, non-profit, and local government partnerships to deliver local housing and community-based opportunities and assistance to Texans in need.