

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL

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Supersedes: 01/29/2019

TITLE VI PLAN ADMINISTRATION

The Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator shall have lead responsibilities for coordinating the administration of the Title VI and related statutes program, plan and assurances for the sub-recipient.

Dissemination of the County's Title VI Policy:

The County of Hidalgo disseminates its Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy Statement, Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan, and complaint procedures internally and externally, to the general public, by including the policy statement on the County's website. The website also provides access to forms to file external discrimination complaints under Title VI.

Title VI information posters shall be sent to all County Department Heads and Elected Officials to post in a conspicuous location in their department or building.

Title VI Nondiscrimination information disseminated to County employees via the County website, www.co.hidalgo.tx.us, and through an annual notice. New County employees hired on or after September 1, 2016, are informed of the provisions of Title VI, provided a copy of the Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy Statement, and are required to sign an Acknowledgement of Receipt during New Employee Orientation. (Attachment 04)

All subcontractors and vendors who receive payments from the County of Hidalgo, where funding originates from any federal assistance are subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 49 CFR Part 21. Written contracts shall include nondiscrimination language, either directly or through the bid specification package which becomes an associated component of the contract.

The name of and contract for the Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator is available on the County website, at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us. Additional information relating to nondiscrimination obligations and information on filing complaints can be obtained from the County's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator located in the County Executive Office.

Complaints:

If any individual believes that he/she or any other program beneficiaries have been the object of unequal treatment or discrimination as to the receipt of benefits and/or service, or on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including Limited English

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Proficiency), sex, age or disability, he/she may exercise his/her right to file a complaint with the County's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator. Every effort will be made to resolve complaints informally and at the lowest level first.

Data Collection & Analysis:

Statistical data on race, color, national origin, English language proficiency and sex of participants in and beneficiaries of federally funded programs, e.g. impacted citizens and affected communities, will be gathered and maintained by the County on a project-by-project basis.

Hidalgo County department heads/elected officials, including Head Start Program and Community Service Agency, will use surveys, questionnaires, and/or Census data and maps to perform the following:

1. Analyze the population benefitting from a project, including analyzing the benefits to traditionally underserved populations, if any;
2. Identify the population burdened by the projects, including traditionally underserved populations;
3. Perform a language needs assessment;
4. Determine how best to disseminate information to the affected populations;
5. Determine how best to prioritize investments; and
6. Analyze the impact of the investment.

The gathering procedures will be reviewed annually to ensure sufficiency of the data in meeting the requirements of the Title VI program.

Program Reviews:

Special emphasis program reviews will be conducted based on the annual summary of Title VI activities, accomplishments and issues. The reviews will be conducted by the Coordinator to assure effectiveness in their compliance with Title VI provisions. The Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator will coordinate efforts to ensure equal participation in all programs and activities at all levels. The County will conduct reviews annually by the end of the calendar year.

TXDOT Annual Reporting Form:

The Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator will be responsible for coordination, compilation, and submission of the Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments Report to the Texas Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights via TXDOT's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Annual Work Plan & Accomplishments Report Development Guide,

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as presented in TXDOT's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Technical Assistance Guide for Sub-Recipients.

TXDOT Title VI Plan Updates:

If this plan is updated, a copy of the Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan will be submitted to the Texas Department of Transportation within 90 days from date of approved update. The County will automatically update and renew its Title VI Assurances every three years or as necessary on the occasion of a change of Commissioners' Court members.

Remedial Action:

The County, through the Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator, will actively pursue the prevention of Title VI deficiencies and violations and will take the necessary steps to ensure compliance with all program administrative requirements.

When deficiencies are identified, procedures will be promptly implemented to correct the deficiencies and establish written corrective action(s). The period to determine corrective action(s) and respond in writing to ensure compliance may not exceed 90 days from the date the deficiencies are identified.

Record Keeping:

Any records related to the Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan shall be maintained for a period of ten (10) years or pursuant to the requirements of the Texas Library Archives Records Retention Schedules, whichever is longer; however, should records be the subject of a grievance, administrative action, litigation or other formal complaint, said records must be maintained for the minimum retention period and thereafter until the final disposition or resolution of the complaint.