



City of Wauchula
Policy Manual for Federal Awards
(CDBG, CDBG-DR, CDBG-MIT)

Adopted July 13, 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish uniform guidelines for the administration and implementation of projects funded through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR), and/or Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) requirements. These programs are collectively referenced in this document as CDBG. This manual is intended to help the departments understand the cross-cutting and policy requirements of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and State of Florida.

This manual is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of all rules, regulations, or laws relating to grant administration, which may change from time to time, but provides a guide of standardized procedures to direct city personnel in the application and administration of grant proposals and awards. It shall be the individual responsibility of each city employee involved in the implementation and administration of a federally funded project to understand and adhere to the adopted policies, procedures and regulations of the City of Wauchula and the State of Florida.

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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Purpose

The purpose of these administrative policies and procedures in this manual is to establish a comprehensive framework to ensure that the City of Wauchula administers federal awards, including CDBG, CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funds, in full compliance with 2 CFR Part 200 and all applicable federal, state, and local requirements. These policies and procedures are designed to promote accountability, transparency, and effective stewardship of public funds. However, this manual does not contain an exhaustive listing of every applicable rule, regulation, or law relating to grant application and administration. Each city employee involved in the implementation and administration of a federally funded project is required to understand and adhere to all applicable city, state, and federal policies, procedures, and regulations.

Scope

These policies apply to all departments, employees, contractors, consultants, and agents of the City of Wauchula involved in the administration, management, oversight, and expenditure of federal funds.

Regulatory Authority

These policies are established in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, applicable HUD Federal Register Notices, Florida Statutes, and all relevant grant agreement requirements.

Roles and Responsibilities

City of Wauchula staff involved in federal award administration have clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The Project Manager is responsible for overall program compliance, reporting, oversight, internal reviews, and adherence to applicable regulations. The Finance Director is responsible for financial management, accounting, and reporting. All staff are responsible for complying with these policies and reporting any instances of noncompliance.

Internal Controls (2 CFR 200.303)

The City of Wauchula's internal controls consist of policies and procedures, job responsibilities, qualified personnel, and records management that are designed to safeguard assets such as cash, property and other assets, to provide reasonable assurance that the City or a subrecipient is managing grant awards in compliance with federal laws, rules, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the award. The City has outlined internal controls in this manual that are consistent with the following minimum requirements:

- A single individual must not be allowed to exercise complete control over all phases of any significant transaction. This means, for example, that the same person cannot purchase materials, receive materials, authorize payment and write the check to pay for materials.
- Record keeping must be separate from operations and handling and custody of assets.
- Monthly reconciliation and verification of cash balances with bank statements must be made by employees who do not handle or record cash or sign checks.

- Actual lines of responsibility must be clearly established, and a single person must be identified to assume responsibility for management oversight of the entire financial management system.
- The person who prepares payrolls should not handle related paychecks. If signature stamps are used, they should not be under the control of the same individual who retains blank checks.

An adequate system of internal controls, with specific program and financial management responsibilities, enables the City of Wauchula to maintain the books and records necessary to comply with Florida law and federal requirements. Where possible, accounting policies and procedures of the City of Wauchula mirror the requirements of the Office of the Auditor General.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (2 CFR 200.302)

The City of Wauchula has adopted and maintains a financial management system and procedures that provide accurate, current, and complete disclosure of financial transactions. The system allows for the identification, tracking, and reporting of all federal awards and expenditures, and ensures proper documentation of all financial transactions. The City of Wauchula's financial system adheres to 2 C.F.R 200.302 and provides:

- Identification of all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received, including the title and number, federal award identification number, year the award was issued, and name of the federal agency or pass-through entity.
- Effective control over and accountability for all funds, property, and other assets to ensure the safeguarding of all assets and to ensure they are used solely for authorized purposes, and a comparison of expenditures with budget amounts for each federal award.
- An accurate, complete, and timely disclosure of the status and financial results in accordance with specified requirements.
- Records that adequately identify (by activity) the amount, source, and use of funds for each federal award supported project, including the information necessary to identify the award, authorization, financial obligation, unobligated balances, as well as assets, expenditures, income, and interest, and the "reasonableness, allowability, and allocability" of costs.
- Procedures to comply with the timely distribution of funds under 2 CFR 200.305, and procedures for determining the allowability of costs in accordance with federal regulations and the terms and conditions of the federal grant award.
- A separate non-interest-bearing bank account must be used for CDBG-DR funds.

The City of Wauchula divides financial management responsibility between the Administration Office that has the primary responsibility for CDBG grant management and the City of Wauchula's Finance Director. The City of Wauchula's Administration Office is responsible for reviewing and approving all transactions involving CDBG funds before the financial transactions are processed by the City of Wauchula's Finance Director. The City of Wauchula's Administrative Office's responsibilities include:

- Approval of purchase orders and contracts to be paid with CDBG funds.
- Receipt, review, and approval of invoices and support documentation.
- Review and approval of requisitions for payments involving CDBG funds.
- Preparation of Requests for Funds (subject to review by the Finance Office).

The Finance Director is responsible for maintaining the official CDBG financial records and for posting account transactions. Official records may be maintained in either an automated or a manual format. The Finance Director's responsibilities may also include such things as:

- Control of accounting documents once they are approved for processing by the Administration Office.
- Preparation of financial reports (based on accounting records).
- Assurance that transactions involving CDBG funds are properly coded.
- Entry of transactions into the accounting system.
- Assisting the local government's auditor in preparing an annual financial audit.

Financial Records

Every CDBG financial transaction is recorded in the accounting records of the City of Wauchula. To do this, there are appropriate source documents, files and accounting records for each transaction. Finance and accounting for the CDBG Subrecipient Grant Agreement is governed by the State of Florida Finance and Accounting operating procedures and is managed by the City of Wauchula's Finance Office.

Source Documents

Source documents provide all details of a transaction. The information contained in source documents is necessary for accounting purposes and is recorded in one of the books of original entry before being filed. A variety of source documents and records are needed to properly account for CDBG transactions. Supporting documentation is necessary to show that the costs charged against CDBG funds were incurred during the effective period of the City of Wauchula's Grant Agreement with the FloridaCommerce, were paid out (or properly accrued), were expended on allowable items, and had been approved by the responsible official(s) in the City of Wauchula's organization.

These documents include:

- **Purchase Orders** may be prepared in the same format as other purchase orders, except that appropriate CDBG program classification data is coded on the document. Purchase orders are approved by the City of Wauchula's Purchasing Department. After approval, one copy is retained by the Purchasing Office to verify receipt of goods/services, and the remaining copies are forwarded to the Finance Office for processing and filing.
- **Contracts** are filed in the City Clerk's Office. Each contract must identify the activity, program, or project to be charged. If multiple contracts are issued for each project, or if non-contractual charges

are recorded against a project, a separate record must be maintained for each contract to provide readily available information on contract balances. There should be a separate obligation for each contract relating to the same activity to prevent overpayment of any contract. In addition, a Cash Control Register should be maintained to provide summary information for all CDBG contracts.

- **Contractor/Consultant invoices** to be paid with CDBG funds are referred to the purchasing office, compared to the purchase order, checked for appropriateness and accuracy, approved, and coded as necessary. Approved contract/consultant invoices and appropriate supporting documents (request for payment package) are then forwarded finance and accounts payable for review, approval, and payment.
- **Time Distribution Sheets** are to be completed by all employees paid from CDBG funds. Employees must complete time sheets that indicate the number of hours worked on CDBG projects, other grant projects, local government activities, and job duties. Time sheets are then submitted with the invoice so that charges to the correct programs and projects can be verified. Payroll expenses can only be paid from CDBG-DR funds based on time and attendance records.
- **CDBG-DR Financial Files** which demonstrate the program's financial soundness and regulatory compliance must be included. In order to maintain an orderly record of CDBG transactions that will withstand the scrutiny of an audit, the City of Wauchula's System of Record is a logical system for maintaining financial files. Two broad categories of files are recommended: *process files* and *permanent files*.
- **Space and Utilities:** Space costs must be supported by documentation such as rental or lease agreements. Utility costs will be supported by bills from the utility companies. For the City of Wauchula, both types of expenses will be supported by canceled checks. If the cost of space or utilities is split between the CDBG program and other sources, there must be a reasonable method in place to allocate the charges fairly among the sources.
- **Supplies** documentation include purchase orders or requisition forms initiated by an authorized representative of the City of Wauchula, an invoice from the vendor (which has been signed-off by the City of Wauchula to indicate the goods were received), the canceled check from the vendor demonstrating payment was made, and information regarding where the supplies are being stored and the cost objective(s) for which they are being used.

Process Files

Process files are working files that are used until source documents are processed and posted. They include the following:

- **Open Purchase Order File.** All purchase orders, which have been issued but not yet filled by vendors, should be filed sequentially by purchase order number. When the goods are delivered, the invoice received, and all the appropriate approvals obtained, the purchase order file is removed and filed with related invoices and the receiving report in the pending payments file. This file contains encumbrances against the project budget.

- **Pending Payments File.** All source documents that will generate a cash disbursement are stored in the pending payments file and are organized by due date. If a discount is offered for early payment, early payment should be made. A schedule of bills payable from approved invoices, and the account to be charged, is also kept in this file.
- **Pending Receipt File.** This file contains copies of outstanding bills and requests for payments submitted to the CDBG program that have not yet been recorded in the Cash Receipts Journal or posted to the CDBG Cash Control Register.
- **Personnel Payroll File.** This file contains a record for each employee who works on CDBG activities and includes the rate at which the employee's salary can be charged to the CDBG program. Time sheets showing the amount of time each employee spends on CDBG activities must be kept on file. This file is maintained in addition to HR's official personnel records.

Permanent Files

These files must be maintained for all source documents and other records once they have been processed or posted to books of original entry. Documents removed from process files are placed in the permanent files after all processing is complete (i.e., placing bank verifications or CDBG contract payment transactions in a CDBG Receipt File).

Purchase requisitions, purchase orders, and related invoices are filed together; contracts, related invoices, payment vouchers, and check copies are filed together; grant fund receipt documentation is filed together. The permanent files contain the documents necessary for undertaking an audit of the program. A single individual should be assigned responsibility for file maintenance.

CDBG Accounting Records

CDBG records are used to accumulate CDBG accounting information for financial reporting. The required CDBG accounting records are listed and discussed below.

Cash Receipts Journal. All receipts of cash that are deposited into the CDBG account(s) are recorded in the cash receipts journal. Receipts may include contract payments to the subrecipient from the CDBG programs, receipts from the disposition of land, program income, and any other cash received. The general procedure for using this journal is to record every CDBG receipt by date in the order that it was received, indicate the source of the funds received, an account or activity line item to be credited, a receipt number, and date. A notation regarding final disposition of all funds received must also be included in the journal.

Cash Disbursements Journal. All encumbrances and expenditures for program costs are entered into the cash disbursements journal. Encumbrance is a term used in government accounting that defines a reservation of funds against an appropriation for a future expenditure. An encumbrance is not necessarily an obligation; it is a commitment of funds. While encumbrances are not normally recorded in a disbursements journal, the practice is recommended for the CDBG program to conform to the accrual basis required for reporting information to the CDBG programs. When goods or services are received by the local government, an obligation has been incurred. If the local government uses a warrant or other schedule for bills payable, it need not maintain a separate cash disbursements journal, but must maintain copies of individual warrants.

Property Register. This is a listing of all property acquired in part or whole using CDBG funds. It must be maintained to comply with state and federal standards relating to the acquisition, control, and disposition of real and personal property. Examples of property which would be recorded include both real property and office equipment.

Detailed Activity Ledger. A subrecipient may have several ongoing projects (e.g., Smith Street sewer line installation and Jones Street repaving). To maintain accounting control, a detailed project ledger must be established for each project. All financial transactions relating to a particular project should be recorded in this ledger.

Cash Control Register

In addition to the above control procedures, CDBG financial reporting and control is enhanced by the use of the CDBG Cash Control Register. This register is used to document and control the following:

- State of Florida funds received
- Requests for payment (drawdowns on grant reservation)
- Balance of CDBG cash on hand
- Balance of CDBG grant funds available by line item
- Collections, refunds, and miscellaneous receipts
- Disbursements

The CDBG Cash Control registers summarize the status of CDBG cash on hand. It should be reviewed daily to determine compliance with CDBG rules and regulations relating to cash on hand. The register also serves as a cross-reference to the journal accounts such as cash receipts, disbursements, and the detailed project ledger.

Accounting for Cash Receipts

Cash receipts for the CDBG program come primarily from the state as contract payments based on Requests for Funds. Local sources of cash receipts may include loan repayments, payment for services provided, rent from CDBG property, and other miscellaneous receipts. Other sources may include federal or state agencies participating in project funding such as Rural Development. All cash receipts must be logged in the Cash Receipts Journal, CDBG Cash Control Register, and detailed Project Ledger.

Accounting for Cash Disbursements

To allow time for orderly processing and requisitioning of CDBG contract funds, cut-off dates for receipt of invoices to be paid the next pay date should be established. All cash disbursements must be supported by source documentation, such as invoices, time sheets, and payroll vouchers, which fully explain the reason for the disbursement.

Contractor payments should be made only after determining that the contractor is performing in accordance with contract provisions and time schedules and that any problems identified by the subrecipient during compliance monitoring or inspections have been corrected. To facilitate adequate

contract management, a CDBG contract management control card should be maintained. All cash disbursements must be entered in the CDBG Cash Disbursements Journal, the CDBG Cash Control Register, and Detailed Activity Ledger.

Allowable Costs

The standards for determining the reasonableness, allowability, and allocability of costs incurred as part of CDBG grant-financed activities are found in 2 CFR 200.403. According to general guidelines contained in 2 CFR 200.403, a cost is allowable if:

1. The expenditure is necessary, and reasonable for the performance of the grant award and is allocable thereto under the principles in 200.403.
2. The cost conforms with any limitations or exclusions established in 24 CFR 200 Subpart E (Cost Principles) or the CDBG award as to the types or amount of cost items.
3. The expenditure is consistent with policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both federally funded and other activities of the state, the recipient, or subrecipient.
4. The cost is accorded equal treatment. For example, a direct cost cannot be assigned if in other similar circumstances the cost was allocated as an indirect cost.
5. It is determined the cost is in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), except, for states and local governments and Indian tribes only, as otherwise provided for in this part [2 CFR 200.416 and 2 CFR 200.417, cost allocation plans and indirect cost proposals; 2 CFR 200.417, Interagency service].
6. The cost is not used to meet cost sharing or matching requirements of any other federally-funded program either in the current or prior period. See also 2 CFR 200.306(b) regarding cost sharing and matching.
7. The costs must be adequately documented. See 2 CFR 200.300 through 2 CFR 200.309 for more information.
8. Administrative closeout costs may be incurred until the due date of the final report(s). If incurred, these costs must be liquidated prior to the due date of the final report(s) and charged to the final budget period of the award unless otherwise specified by the federal agency. All other costs must be incurred during the approved budget period.

Reasonable Costs

Reasonable costs are described in 2 CFR 200.404: “A cost is reasonable if it does not exceed an amount that a prudent person would incur under the circumstances prevailing when the decision was made to incur the cost.” In determining reasonableness of a given cost, consideration must be given to:

1. Whether the cost is of a type generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the operation of the non-federal entity or the proper and efficient performance of the federal award.

2. The restraints or requirements imposed by such factors as: sound business practices; arm's-length bargaining; federal, state, local, tribal, and other laws and regulations; and terms and conditions of the federal award.
3. Market prices for comparable goods or services for the geographic area.
4. Whether the individuals concerned acted with prudence in the circumstances considering their responsibilities to the non-federal entity its employees, where applicable its students or membership, the public at large, and the federal government.
5. Whether the cost represents deviation from the non-federal entity's established practices and policies regarding the incurrence of costs, which may unjustifiably increase the federal award's cost.

Allocable Costs

Allocable costs are described in 2 CFR 200.405: "A cost is allocable to a Federal award or other cost objective if the cost is assignable to that Federal award or other cost objective in accordance with relative benefits received. This standard is met if the cost satisfies any of the following criteria:

- (1) Is incurred specifically for the Federal award;
- (2) Benefits both the Federal award and other work of the recipient or subrecipient and can be distributed in proportions that may be approximated using reasonable methods; or
- (3) Is necessary to the overall operation of the recipient or subrecipient and is assignable in part to the Federal award in accordance with these cost principles [2 CFR 200, Subpart E, Cost Principles]."

Payment Management (2 CFR 200.305)

CDBG funding is utilized to pay City of Wauchula contractors and consultants upon completion of agreed upon tasks and deliverables. The City of Wauchula's purchasing office verifies all documentation and costs before submission to the Finance Office for payment. Contractors and Consultants must provide required invoice information and supporting documentation to receive payment.

Request for Payment Process

The purpose of the payment request process is to ensure accuracy, compliance, and accountability.

1. Each contractor/consultant must complete and submit, to the Project Manager, the City of Wauchula's invoice template and complete supporting documentation in order to receive payment for goods/services.
2. The Project Manager reviews the request for payment package for all required supporting documentation and ensures all information is accurate and complete and costs are eligible under the contractor/consultant CDBG contract.
3. Once approved, the package is sent to the Grant Administrator and/or Finance Director for review to ensure compliance with CDBG requirements and that all information is complete, accurate, and eligible under the contractor/consultant CDBG contract.

4. Once the Grant Administrator and/or Finance Director approves the request for payment package, it is then submitted to the Accounting Specialist for processing.
5. The Accounting Specialist reviews to ensure the expenditures are charged to the correct funding source. (If not, the packet is returned to the program area).
6. The Accounting Specialist processes the payment packet(s) for payment.
7. The contractor/consultant will receive their payment once the payment has been processed in the System of Record by the Accounting Specialist and any check(s) are signed by two independent signors who also cross-reference the payment package amount(s) against the check.
8. Once expenditures have been identified in the System of Record report, the contract manager enters the expenditure data from the request for payment package into the Tracking System and saves the request for payment package documentation in the grant file.

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PROCUREMENT/PURCHASING Policies and Procedures

Overview of Procurement Policy

The City of Wauchula shall maintain and use this procurement policy for procurement transactions under the CDBG Infrastructure Repair Program provided by Florida Department of Commerce, including for acquisition of property or services. These documented procedures must be consistent with State and local laws and regulations and the standards identified in §§ 200.317 through 200.327. It is the overall responsibility of the City of Wauchula, and its authorized purchasing official(s) to ensure transparency, fair and open competition, equal treatment, and non-discrimination per all applicable federal, state, and local laws. The City of Wauchula and its authorized purchasing official(s) shall make every effort to operate in an economical and efficient manner consistent with existing laws and sound business practices for the expenditure of Federal funds.

The City of Wauchula shall be responsible for upholding the necessary principles of procurement to ensure that procurement activities are compliant with this policy which reflects applicable State and local laws, provided that procurements conform to applicable Federal regulations, including the procurement standards at 2 CFR §§ 200.318 – 200.327 and the standards identified in this policy.

The City of Wauchula shall not make any award (subgrant or contract) to any organization which is debarred or suspended or is otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension. This applies to any CDBG-assisted contract at any tier in the process.

Federal Regulations

The applicable Federal regulations which shall be followed under this policy include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Uniform Administrative Requirements at 2 CFR Part 200
 - General procurement standards (2 CFR § 200.318)
 - Competition (2 CFR § 200.319)
 - Methods of procurement (2 CFR § 200.320)
 - Contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises and labor surplus area firms (2 CFR §200.321)
 - Domestic preference (2 CFR § 200.322)
 - Procurement of recovered materials (2 CFR § 200.323)
 - Contract cost and price (2 CFR § 200.324)
 - Awarding agency/pass-through entity review (2 CFR § 200.325)
 - Bonding requirements (2 CFR § 200.326)
 - Contract provisions (2 CFR § 200.327)
- 2 CFR Appendix II to Part 200 – Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under

Federal Awards

The City of Wauchula may, in its discretion, amend this policy to conform with applicable federal, state, or local governmental regulations, guidelines, policies, Executive Orders, Federal Register Notices, or for other reasons, so long as the amendment(s) does not conflict with HUD's CDBG Program requirements and 2 CFR §§ 200.318 - 200.327. In instances where federal, state, or local standards have differing regulations, then the subrecipient shall follow the most restrictive applicable requirements.

Code of Conduct & Conflict of Interest

The City of Wauchula and its authorized purchasing official(s) shall abide by a code of ethics and in accordance with Section 112.313, F.S. and 2 CFR § 200.318 and may not:

- Accept employment from a vendor or potential vendor while working for the City of Wauchula.
- Solicit or accept money, credit, gifts, excessive entertainment, or other special considerations from an individual or organization doing business with the City of Wauchula.
- Knowingly disclose confidential information for personal gain; or
- Participate in work on a contract by taking action as an employee through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, advice giving, investigation, or similar action knowing that the employee, or member of their immediate family, as defined by state and federal law, has an actual or potential financial interest in the contract, including prospective employment.

No City of Wauchula employee, officer, official, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when:

- The employee, officer, official, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, as defined under state and federal law, or partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.
- The officers, employees, officials, and agents of the City of Wauchula may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, the City of Wauchula may set standards for situations in which financial interest is not substantial, or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value.
- The employees, officers, officials, or agents of the City of Wauchula shall not act as surety for a business entity that has work, business, or a contract with the governmental entity or act as surety on any official bond required of an officer of the governmental entity; and
- The City of Wauchula may impose penalties, sanctions or other disciplinary actions to any employees, officers, officials, or agents of the City of Wauchula for violations of these standards.

Any employee, contract employee or appointed member who participates in the recommendation, requisitioning, bid solicitation, evaluation, or otherwise takes part in the purchasing decision-making process and who has a whole or partial ownership in, or derives some income or personal benefit from the

recommended or selected vendor should disclose the relationship as a potential conflict of interest. Acts of reciprocity or exchange of favors from which an employee derives some income or personal benefit shall be considered conflicts of interest.

In the event an outside consultant or contractor submits a bid or proposal on a project, of which the consultant or contractor was a previous contributor, other than an open forum, then the bids or proposals from that consultant or contractor shall be disqualified on the basis of conflict of interest.

City of Wauchula employees must avoid any appearance of unethical or compromising practices in all relationships, actions, and communications.

Procurement Standards

- 1) The City of Wauchula will maintain oversight to ensure that its contractors and subcontractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders.
- 2) The City of Wauchula will maintain a written code of standards of conduct governing the performance of their employees engaged in the award and administration of contracts. No employee, officer or agent of the City of Wauchula or its contractors/subcontractors shall participate in selection, or in the award or administration of a contract supported by Federal funds if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when:
 - a. The employee, officer or agent,
 - b. Any member of his immediate family, as defined by state and federal law,
 - c. His or her partner, or
 - d. An organization which employs, or is about to employ, any of the above, has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for award. The City of Wauchula and its officers, employees, or agents will neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to contracts. The City of Wauchula may set minimum rules where the financial interest is not substantial, or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal intrinsic value. To the extent permitted by State or local law or regulations, such standards or conduct will provide for penalties, sanctions, or other disciplinary actions for violations of such standards by the City of Wauchula and its officers, employees, or agents, or by contractors or their agents. The State may in regulation provide additional prohibitions related to real, apparent, or potential conflicts of interest.
- 3) The City of Wauchula shall provide for a review of proposed procurements to avoid purchase of unnecessary or duplicative items. Consideration should be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. Where appropriate, an analysis will be made of lease versus purchase alternatives, and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economic approach.
- 4) To foster greater economy and efficiency, the City of Wauchula and its contractors and subcontractors are encouraged to enter into State and local intergovernmental agreements for

procurement or use of common goods and services.

- 5) The City of Wauchula and its contractors and subcontractors are encouraged to use Federal excess and surplus in lieu of purchasing new equipment and property whenever such use is feasible and reduces project costs.
- 6) The City of Wauchula encourages the use of value engineering clauses in contracts for construction projects of sufficient size to offer reasonable opportunities for cost reductions. Value engineering is a systematic and creative analysis of each contract item or task to ensure that its essential function is provided at the overall lower cost.
- 7) The City of Wauchula will make awards only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.
- 8) The City of Wauchula and its contractors and subcontractors will maintain sufficient records to detail the history of a procurement. These records will include but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price.
- 9) The City of Wauchula and its contractors will use time and material type contracts only –
 - a. After a determination that no other contract is suitable, and
 - b. If the contract includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk.
- 10) The City of Wauchula and its contractors alone will be responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the City of Wauchula and its contractors of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, State, or Federal authority having proper jurisdiction.
- 11) The City of Wauchula and its contractors will have protest procedures to handle and resolve disputes relating to their procurements and shall in all instances disclose information regarding the protest to FloridaCommerce. A protestor must exhaust all administrative remedies with the City of Wauchula and its contractor before pursuing a protest with the Federal agency. Reviews of protests by the Federal agency will be limited to:
 - a. Violations of Federal law or regulations and the standards of this section (violations of State or local law will be under the jurisdiction of State or local authorities); and
 - b. Violations of the City of Wauchula's or contractor's protest procedures for failure to review a complaint or protest. Protests received by the Federal agency other than those specified above will be referred to the City of Wauchula or its contractor.

Right to Protest

Any actual prospective bidder, offeror, or contractor who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of contract may protest to the City Commission. Protestors shall seek resolution of their complaints initially with the Director of Procurement and Project Management and secondly with the City Manager (or designee) prior to protesting to the City Commission.

Filing a Protest

Any person(s) who is affected adversely by the decision or intended decision of the City shall file with the Director of Procurement and Project Management a notice of protest in writing within 72 hours after the posting of bid tabulation or after receipt of the notice of intended decision; and file a formal written protest within 10 calendar days after he/she filed the notice of protest. Failure to file a notice of protest or failure to file a formal written protest shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under this Section. A written protest is filed with the city when it is delivered to and received in the office of the Director of Procurement and Project Management.

- 1) The notice of protest shall contain at a minimum: the name of the bidder; the bidder's address and phone number; the name of the bidder's representative to whom notices may be sent; the name and bid number of the solicitation; and a brief factual summary of the basis of the protest.
- 2) The formal written protest shall; identify the protestant and the solicitation involved; include a plain, clear, statement of the grounds on which the protest is based; refer to the statutes, laws, ordinances, or other legal authorities which the protestant deems applicable to such grounds; and specifically request the relief to which the protestant deems himself entitled by application of such authorities to such grounds.
- 3) The protestant shall mail a copy of the notice of protest and the formal written protest to any person with whom he/she is in dispute.

Settlement and Resolution

The Director of Procurement and Project Management shall, within 14 days of the formal written protest, attempt to resolve the protest prior to any proceedings arising from the position. Provided, however, if such settlement will have the effect of determining a substantial interest of another party or business, such settlement must be reached in the course of the proceedings provided herein.

Protest Proceedings

If the protest cannot be resolved by mutual agreement, the Director of Procurement and Project Management shall conduct or designate another to conduct a protest proceeding pursuant to the following procedures:

A. Protest Proceeding Procedures

- 1) The presiding officer over the protest proceeding shall give reasonable notice to all substantially affected person(s) or businesses. Otherwise petitions to intervene will be considered on their merits as received.

- 2) At or prior to the protest proceeding, the protestant may submit any written or physical materials, objects, statements, or affidavits, and arguments which he/she deems relevant to the issues raised.
 - 3) In the proceeding, the protestant, or his/her representative or counsel, may also make an oral presentation of his evidence and arguments. However, neither direct nor cross examination of witnesses shall be permitted, although the presiding officer may make whatever inquiries he/she deems pertinent to a determination of the protest.
 - 4) The judicial rules of evidence shall not apply, and the presiding officer shall base his/her decision on such information given in the course of the proceeding upon which reasonable prudent persons rely in the conduct of their affairs.
 - 5) Within seven (7) working days of the conclusion of the proceedings, the presiding officer shall render a decision which sets forth the terms and conditions of any settlement reached. Such decision of the presiding officer shall be conclusive as to the recommendation of the City Commission.
 - 6) Any party may arrange for the proceedings to be steno-graphically recorded and shall bear the expense of such recording.
- B. Intervenor. The participation of intervenors shall be governed by the terms of the order issued in response to a petition to intervene.
- C. Time Limits. The time limits on which protests must be filed as provided herein may be altered by specific provisions in invitation for bids or request for proposals.
- D. Entitlement to Costs. In no case will the protesting bidder or offeror be entitled to any costs incurred with the solicitation, including bid preparation costs and attorney's fees.

Stay of Procurement During Protests

In the event of a timely protest, the Director of Procurement and Project Management shall not proceed further with the solicitation or award of the contract until all administrative remedies have been exhausted or unless the City Commission makes a determination that the award of a contract without delay is necessary to protect the substantial interest of the City.

Competition

All procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the standards of 2 CFR § 200.319. To ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids must be excluded from competing on those procurements

Examples of situations that may restrict competition include, but are not limited to:

1. Placing unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business,
2. Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding,

3. Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies,
4. Noncompetitive awards to consultants that are on retainer contracts,
5. Organizational conflicts of interest,
6. Specifying only a brand name product instead of allowing an equal product to be offered and describing the performance of other relevant requirements of the procurement, and
7. Any arbitrary action in the procurement process.

The City of Wauchula and its contractor(s) will conduct procurements in a manner that prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed in-State or local geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals, except in those cases where applicable Federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference. Nothing in this section preempts State licensing laws. When contracting for architectural and engineering (A/E) services, geographic location may be a selection criterion provided its application leaves an appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project, to compete for the contract.

The City of Wauchula's and its contractor's written selection procedures for procurement transactions will ensure that all solicitations:

- a. Incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Such description shall not, in competitive procurements, contain features which unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product or service to be procured, and when necessary, shall set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it must conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible. When it is impractical or uneconomical to make a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements, a brand name or equal description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of a procurement. The specific features of the named brand which must be met by offerors shall be clearly stated; and
- b. Identify all requirements which the offerors must fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

The City of Wauchula and its contractor(s) will ensure that all pre-qualified lists of persons, firms, or products which are used in acquiring goods and services are current and include enough qualified sources to ensure maximum open and free competition. Also, the City of Wauchula and its contractor(s) will not preclude potential bidders from qualifying during the solicitation period.

Methods of Procurement

Procurement Thresholds

The thresholds that limit the method of procurement that may be used described herein may not exceed the threshold allowances at 2 CFR 200.320. Said thresholds, however, may be lower (more restrictive) to comply with state or local laws, ordinances, policies, and requirements.

Further, the City of Wauchula may use more restrictive methods of procurement, even if the anticipated cost of the resulting contract is expected to be below the threshold for a less restrictive method of procurement. For example, if the City of Wauchula decides to procure a consultant through the RFP/Q process to take advantage of awarding a contract that is most advantageous to the City of Wauchula, with price and other factors considered, the City of Wauchula may elect to do so, even if the anticipated cost of the resulting contract falls under the threshold of a small purchase.

Finally, when determining the appropriate method of procurement, the City of Wauchula shall consider whether the anticipated cost of the resulting contract is close to or may exceed the threshold for the method of procurement selected. For example, if a resulting contract is expected to be just under the threshold for small purchases, the City of Wauchula may instead use the formal sealed bid process since the resulting contract and change orders may result in the final contract cost exceeding the threshold for small purchases, thereby rendering the original procurement action using the small purchase method non-compliant.

Informal Procurement Methods

Micro-Purchases

Informal procurement methods expedite the completion of transactions, minimize administrative burdens, and reduce costs. Informal procurement methods for micro-purchases may be used when the value of the procurement transaction under the Federal award does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold of \$350,000, and in accordance with the City's Purchasing Policy. Micro-Purchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations if the cost is determined and documented to be reasonable and purchases are made in accordance with 2 CFR 200.320(a)(1). To the maximum extent practicable, the non-Federal entity should distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers.

Allowable Types of Contracts for informal Micro-Purchases

- Fixed Price: Lump Sum or Unit Price
- Cost Plus a Fixed Fee (with a Not to Exceed limit)
- Time and Materials (with a Not to Exceed limit)
- Purchase Orders

Micro-Purchases Procurement Documentation Requirements

- Detailed Invoice
- Independent Cost Estimate
- SAM.gov verification documentation
- E-Verify documentation
- Certification of No Conflicts of Interest
- Affirmative steps for MWBE/SBE utilization, when possible

- Cost/Price Reasonableness Analysis
- Federal Awarding Agency Terms and Conditions within Contract Provisions
- Standard Federal Terms and Conditions within Contract Provisions, including those in 2 CFR Appendix II to Part 200

Small Purchases

Small Purchases are used when purchasing services, supplies, materials, products, or equipment and the aggregate dollar amount of the procurement transaction is higher than the micro-purchase threshold but does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold of \$350,000. If simplified acquisition procedures are used, price or rate quotations must be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources as provided by the City's Purchasing Policy. The City of Wauchula must first develop a scope of work for services requested or specifications for goods requested so that bidders may submit quotes for the same type of goods or services requested. Inadequate scopes of work or specifications can result in quotes that are too varied to compare "apple-to-apples".

Allowable Types of Contracts for Small Purchases

- Fixed Price: Lump Sum or Unit Price
- Cost Plus a Fixed Fee (with a Not to Exceed limit)
- Time and Materials (with a Not to Exceed limit)
- Purchase Orders

Small Purchases Procurement Documentation Requirements

- Detailed Invoice
- Minimum of two (2) documented quotes or price sources (*the number of quotes can vary but at least two quotes/sources must be obtained under federal small-purchase procurement*).
- Independent Cost Estimate
- Cost/Price Reasonableness Analysis
- SAM.gov verification documentation
- E-Verify documentation
- Certification of No Conflicts of Interest
- Local jurisdiction approval, as required
- Affirmative steps for MWBE/SBE utilization, when possible
- Federal Awarding Agency Terms and Conditions within Contract Provisions
- Standard Federal Terms and Conditions within Contract Provisions, including those in 2 CFR Appendix II to Part 200

Formal Procurement Methods

Sealed Bid Procurements

Sealed Bid Procurements are a formal procurement method preferred for most construction related activities and supplies, materials, products, or equipment exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold of \$350,000. Under the sealed bid procurement method, the City of Wauchula shall publicly solicit bids and award a contract to the responsible contractor whose bid conforms with all the terms and conditions, is responsive, and the lowest price. All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids, and for local and tribal governments, the bids must be opened publicly. Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.

Allowable Types of Contracts for Sealed Bid Purchases

- Firm-Fixed Price Contract: Lump Sum or Unit Price

Sealed Bid Procurement Documentation Requirements

- For construction projects exceeding \$300,000.00
 - 5 percent bid bond in the bid response
 - Winning contractor must execute a performance bond for 100 percent of the contract
 - Winning contractor must execute a payment bond for 100 percent of the contract
- Bid specifications and addenda, if applicable
- All bids received
- Public bid opening sign in sheet and minutes
- Bid Tabulation Sheet that includes all bids received, the date and time the bids were received, the name of the bidder, bid price, and whether each bidder was responsive and responsible.
- Notice to all respondents regarding solicitation outcome
- Documentation substantiating advertisement (i.e., publication affidavit; copy of journal of record advertisement)
- SAM.gov verification documentation
- E-Verify documentation
- Certification of No Conflicts of Interest
- Independent Cost Estimate
- Cost/Price Reasonableness Analysis
- Local jurisdiction approval, as required
- Affirmative steps for MWBE/SBE utilization, when possible

- Federal Awarding Agency Terms and Conditions within Contract Provisions
- Standard Federal Terms and Conditions within Contract Provisions, including those in 2 CFR Appendix II to Part 200

Other Requirements

- Two (2) or more responsive bidders required
- Awarded to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder
- Any or all bids may be rejected for a sound, documented reason
- Bid must be advertised for statutorily required amount of time
- Purchases over \$350,000.00 are to be made per 2 CFR 200.320 (b).

Pre-bid conferences may be conducted to explain the procurement requirements. If the procuring entity plans to hold such a conference, it shall prominently place the notification in the Invitation for Bids. The notification shall include the date, time and location of the conference. If a pre-bid conference is held, it shall be at least fourteen (14) days after the Invitation to Bid (ITB) has been issued. Nothing stated at the pre-bid conference shall change the ITB unless a change is made by written addendum.

Procurement by Competitive Proposals

Request for Proposal (RFP) Procurements

Request for Proposal Procurements are a method of competitive proposals used to publicly solicit proposals for professional services exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold of \$350,000, not to include architectural or engineering services. The RFP must identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance, and price must be included as an evaluation factor (price should represent at least 20 percent of the total score as a best practice). Technical evaluations and selections will be conducted according to the City of Wauchula's written procedures. Awards will be made to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered.

Allowable Types of Contracts

- Firm-Fixed Price Contract: Lump Sum or Unit Price
- Cost Plus a Fixed Fee (with a Not to Exceed limit)
- Time and Materials (with a Not to Exceed limit)

Request for Proposal Procurement Documentation Requirements

- RFP and addenda, if applicable
- All responses received
- Individual scoring sheets and tabulation of all proposals received, the date and time the proposals were received, the name of the proposer and proposal price.
- Scoring sheets summary

- Recommendation of winning response with justification
- Notice to all respondents regarding solicitation outcome
- Documentation substantiating advertisement (i.e., publication affidavit; copy of journal of record advertisement)
- SAM.gov verification documentation
- E-Verify documentation
- Certification of No Conflicts of Interest
- Independent Cost Estimate
- Cost/Price Reasonableness Analysis
- Local jurisdiction approval, as required
- Affirmative steps for MWBE/SBE utilization, when possible
- Federal Awarding Agency Terms and Conditions within Contract Provisions
- Standard Federal Terms and Conditions within Contract Provisions, including those in 2 CFR Appendix II to Part 200

Other Requirements

- Two (2) or more responsive bidders required
- Awarded to highest scoring proposals
- Any or all proposal responses may be rejected for a sound, documented reason
- RFP must be advertised for a reasonable amount of time to garner sufficient responses
- Purchases over \$350,000.00 are to be made per 2 CFR § 200.320(b).

Request for Qualification (RFQ) Procurements

Request for Qualification Procurements are a competitive procurement utilized for professional architectural and engineering services. RFQs are a form of procurement whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated, and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services. It cannot be used to purchase other types of services though A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort. Technical evaluations and selections will be conducted according to the City of Wauchula's written procedures.

Allowable Types of Contracts

- Firm-Fixed Price Contract: Lump Sum or Unit Price
- Cost Plus a Fixed Fee (with a Not to Exceed limit)

- Time and Materials (with a Not to Exceed limit)

Request for Qualifications Procurement Documentation Requirements

- RFQ and addenda, if applicable
- All RFQ responses received
- Individual scoring sheets and tabulation
- Scoring sheets summary
- Recommendation of winning response with justification
- Notice to all respondents regarding solicitation outcome
- Documentation substantiating advertisement (i.e. publication affidavit; copy of journal of record advertisement)
- SAM.gov verification documentation
- E-Verify documentation
- Certification of No Conflicts of Interest
- Independent Cost Estimate and Cost Reasonableness Analysis (cost or price analysis)
- Local jurisdiction approval, as required
- Affirmative steps for MWBE/SBE utilization
- Federal Awarding Agency Terms and Conditions within Contract Provisions
- Standard Federal Terms and Conditions within Contract Provisions, including those in Appendix II of 2 CFR 200

Other Requirements

- Two (2) or more responsive proposals required
- Awarded to highest scoring proposals
- Any or all qualifications responses may be rejected for a sound, documented reason
- RFQ must be advertised for a reasonable amount of time to garner sufficient responses
- Purchases over \$350,000.00 are to be made per 2 CFR § 200.320(b)

Non-Competitive Procurement

Recipients of federal funds are required to conform with the Uniform Guidance at 2 C.F.R § 200 which establishes that all procurement actions of property or services must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition. Non-competitive procurements are only allowed in circumstances where at least one of the conditions below is true:

- The aggregate amount of the procurement transaction does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold.
- The procurement transaction can only be fulfilled by a single source.
- The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from providing public notice of a competitive solicitation.
- The City of Wauchula requests in writing to use a noncompetitive procurement method, and the Federal agency or pass-through entity provides written approval; or
- After solicitation of several sources, competition is determined inadequate.

Sole Source Purchases

Despite not being the preferred method of procurement, careful consideration must be given, and a well-documented, thorough written justification provided for all Sole Source Purchases. Situations that may justify Sole Source purchases:

- A formal solicitation within a reasonable prior period has not produced satisfactory results.
- There is a public exigency or emergency that will not permit a delay resulting from publicizing a competitive solicitation.
- There is a need for continuity of professional services.
- The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes a noncompetitive procurement in response to a written request from the non-Federal entity.
- There is no competitive marketplace for the requirement, such as in cases of monopolies, fixed prices by legislation or government regulation, or proprietary products or services.
- The value of the procurement is below the monetary threshold established for formal solicitation methods.

Small and Minority Businesses, Women's Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms

It is the policy of the City of Wauchula, in compliance with 2 CFR § 200.321, that small businesses, Minority and Women Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE), veteran-owned businesses, and labor surplus area firms (See U.S. Department of Labor's list), are considered as set forth below, subject to any change in federal law affecting these provisions. Such consideration means: :

1. These business types are included on solicitation lists;
2. These business types are solicited whenever they are potential sources.
3. Dividing procurement transactions into separate procurements to permit maximum participation by these business types.
4. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by these business types.

5. Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce; and
6. Requiring the prime contractor, if subcontracts are to be let, to take the affirmative steps listed above.

Language supporting equal opportunity shall be included in solicitation specifications and contract documents, contractor eligibility shall be verified, required documentation shall be secured, and compliance shall be monitored.

Independent Cost Estimate & Cost/Price Analysis

The City of Wauchula and its contractor(s) must perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action including contract modifications. The method and degree of analysis are dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation, but as a starting point, The City of Wauchula and its contractor(s) must make independent cost estimates before receiving bids or proposals.

A cost or price analysis must be conducted when the offeror is required to submit the elements of his estimated cost, e.g., under professional consulting, and architectural engineering services contracts. A cost or price analysis will be necessary when adequate price competition is lacking, and for sole source procurements, including contract modifications or change orders, unless price reasonableness can be established on the basis of a catalog or market price of a commercial product sold in substantial quantities to the general public or based on prices set by law or regulation. A cost or price analysis will be used in all other instances to determine the reasonableness of the proposed contract price.

The City of Wauchula and its contractor(s) will negotiate profit as a separate element of the price for each contract in which there is no price competition and, in all cases, where cost or price analysis is performed. To establish a fair and reasonable profit, consideration will be given to the complexity of the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor's investment, the amount of subcontracting, the quality of its record of past performance, and industry profit rates in the surrounding geographical area for similar work.

Costs or prices based on estimated costs for contracts under grants will be allowable only to the extent that costs incurred or cost estimates included in negotiated prices are consistent with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles.

Bonds & Insurance

The City of Wauchula and its authorized purchasing official(s) shall ensure that bonding requirements are included for construction or facility improvement contracts or subcontracts exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.326.

At a minimum, this includes:

- 1) A bid guarantee from each bidder is equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price. The bid guarantee shall consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of

the bid, execute any required contractual documents within the specified timeframe.

- 2) A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent (100%) of the contract price. A performance bond is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.
- 3) A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent (100%) of the contract price. A payment bond is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by law of all people supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

The City of Wauchula and its authorized purchasing official(s) shall ensure that all bonds are obtained from companies holding certificates of authority as acceptable sureties issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Documentation of bonding requirements and verification of compliance shall be maintained in the procurement file.

Contract Provisions

The City of Wauchula's and its contractor's contracts shall contain provisions outlined in this section. Federal agencies are permitted to require changes, remedies, changed conditions, access and records retention, suspension of work, and other clauses approved by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy.

Contracts for more than the simplified acquisition threshold (\$350,000) must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate.

Contracts more than \$10,000 must address termination for cause and for convenience by the non-Federal entity including how it will be affected and the basis for settlement.

Contracts that meet the definition of "federally assisted construction contract" must include the equal employment opportunity clause provided under 41 CFR §60-1.4(b).

Davis-Bacon Act. (1) Construction contracts for more than \$2,000 must include a provision for compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 3141-4144 and 3146-3148); specifically that: (1) Contractors must be required to pay wages to laborers and mechanics at a rate not less than the prevailing wages; and (2) Contractors must be required to pay wages not less than once a week.

Davis-Bacon Act. (2) Subrecipients must include a copy of the current prevailing wage determination in each solicitation for construction services in excess of \$2,000, and the decision to award a contractor subcontract must be conditioned upon the acceptance of the wage determination. Note: Acceptance of the wage determination is usually implicit upon awarding the contract.

Davis-Bacon Act. (3) Construction contracts for more than \$2,000 must include a provision for compliance with the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (40 U.S.C. § 3145), which provides that each contractor or subrecipient must be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he or she is otherwise entitled. Include copy of the current prevailing wage determination issued by the Department of Labor in each solicitation.

Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 3701-3708). Where applicable, all contracts awarded by the non-Federal entity in excess of \$100,000 that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers must include a provision for compliance with 40 U.S.C. 3702 and 3704, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR Part 5).

Under 40 U.S.C. 3702 of the Act, each contractor must be required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of a standard work week of 40 hours. Work in excess of the standard work week is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than one and a half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in the work week.

The requirements of 40 U.S.C. 3704 are applicable to construction work and provide that no laborer or mechanic must be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation or transmission of intelligence.

Rights to Inventions. Contracts entered into with a small business firm or nonprofit organization and the Federal award meets the definition of “funding agreement”, must comply with the requirements of 37 CFR §401, Rights to Inventions made by Non-Profit Organizations and Small Business Firms under Government Grants, Contracts, and Cooperative Agreements.

Clean Air Act & Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Contracts and subcontracts of amounts in excess of \$150,000 must contain a provision that requires the non-Federal award to comply with the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §7401-7671q.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. §1251-1387).

Debarment & Suspension. The City of Wauchula and its contractor(s) must comply with CDBG regulations regarding debarred or suspended entities, specifically including 24 CFR § 570.609. Contracts must not be awarded to parties listed on the government wide exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM).

Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment. Contractors that apply or bid for any awards must file the required certification affirming their compliance with the Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. §1352). Access by the City of Wauchula, FloridaCommerce, HUD, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor and subcontractor which are directly pertinent to that specific contract for the purpose of making audit, examination, excerpts, and transcriptions.

Contracts are subject to HUD’s Green Building Standards requirements per Federal Register Notices (81 FR 83254).

Procurement of Recovered Materials

When preparing specifications for products that can be produced from recovered materials, the City of Wauchula should include a clause indicating the desire for recycled products. The City of Wauchula

should also define, for the purposes of the specific purchase, the minimum percentage of recovered material which will be required to be considered for the ten percent (10%) preference. In addition, the City of Wauchula should describe the award process so that all vendors know how the evaluation and award is to be made. The City of Wauchula and its contractors will comply with section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6962.

Domestic Preferences for Procurements

The Director of Procurement and Project Management shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States in accordance with 2 CFR 200.322 and the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA). This requirement shall be included in all applicable procurement solicitations and contracts for infrastructure projects funded with Federal financial assistance. The Project Manager shall ensure that all contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers comply with BABAA requirements, including that iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials are produced in the United States, unless a valid waiver or exception is approved. Documentation demonstrating compliance, including certifications and supporting records, shall be maintained in the procurement file.

Recordkeeping & Access to Records

The Project Manager shall maintain records sufficient to detail the history of each procurement action. These records shall include rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price. The records shall also include a justification for lack of competition when competitive bids or offers are not obtained, and the basis for the award, cost or price.

The Federal awarding agency, Inspectors General, the Comptroller General of the United States, and the pass-through entity, or any of their authorized representatives, have the right of access to any documents, papers, or other records of the City of Wauchula which are pertinent to the Federal award, in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts. The right also includes timely and reasonable access to the City of Wauchula's personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents. The City of Wauchula shall include provisions in all awarded contracts that these rights also apply to contractors and that contractors shall maintain all required records for a period of five (5) years from the date the audit report is issued, or six (6) state fiscal years after all reporting requirements are satisfied and final payments have been received, whichever period is longer.

Eligibility & Debarment

Prior to the award of a contract with a contractor, the City of Wauchula shall verify eligibility and debarment status through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) of the prime contractor and all subcontractors and sub-tier subcontractor prior to issuing a contract, including subcontractors and sub-tier subcontractors that were not submitted with the prime contractor's bid, but were utilized for the contract after contract award. The City of Wauchula shall not enter into any contract with any organization which is debarred or suspended or is otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, "Debarment and Suspension". The City of Wauchula will

maintain proof of SAM.gov verification in project files in line with recordkeeping requirements.

Employment Eligibility Verification (E-VERIFY)

The City of Wauchula will comply with Executive Order 11-116, signed May 27, 2011, by the Governor of Florida which requires all agencies under the direction of the Governor to include, as a condition of all contracts for the provision of goods and services in excess of nominal value to expressly require subrecipients to:

- Utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the subrecipient during the subrecipient's executed grant agreement term; and
- Include in all contracts the requirement that contractors, subcontractors, consultants, and subrecipients performing work or providing services use the E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the contractors, subcontractors, consultants, and subrecipients during the term of the agreement.

Section 3

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, requires recipients and subrecipients of CDBG funds to ensure that employment and other economic and business opportunities generated by HUD financial assistance, to the greatest extent feasible, are directed to low-and very low-income persons, particularly recipients of government housing assistance, and business concerns that provide economic opportunities to low-income persons.

It is the policy of the City of Wauchula to ensure that economic opportunities generated from HUD-funded projects to the greatest extent feasible, will be directed to low and very low-income persons, particularly those receiving assistance for housing, and the businesses that provide economic opportunities to these persons. The City of Wauchula will utilize its policies with the intent to direct opportunities to local residents and businesses by requesting all contractors and subcontractors to make a good faith effort to provide equal employment opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, veteran's or marital status, or economic status and to take affirmative action to ensure that both job applicants and existing employees are given fair and equal treatment.

The City of Wauchula implements this policy through awarding contracts to contractors, vendors, professional service providers, consultants and suppliers, to create employment and business opportunities for residents in disaster declared areas throughout Florida and other qualified low- and very low-income persons. The City of Wauchula hopes to strengthen local economies and level the playing field for Section 3 workers and businesses who are most vulnerable post-disaster.

The requirements of Section 3 are dependent upon the date of the contract award.

- Contracts awarded before November 30, 2020, are subject to the Section 3 requirements in 24 CFR 135,
- Contracts awarded on or after November 30, 2020, are subject to the Section 3 requirements in 24

CFR 75

Contracts subject to 24 CFR 75 are also responsible for meeting the compliance requirements of 24 CFR 135 unless superseded by 24 CFR 75.

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COMPLIANCE MONITORING FOR CDBG PROGRAMS
Policy and Procedures

Introduction

Per CDBG regulations at 24 C.F.R. 570.501(b), subrecipients of CDBG funds are responsible for carrying out their programs in compliance with HUD's CDBG Program requirements and federal regulatory requirements, including monitoring their project administrators/consultants, contractors, and subcontractors.

Additionally, 2 CFR 200.328 states that the non-federal entity is responsible for the oversight of the operations of federal award supported activities and that such monitoring must cover each program, function, or activity.

As such, throughout the application, planning, design, and implementation phase of the CDBG project, The City of Wauchula will conduct monitoring of processes, procedures, policy, applications, planning, design, construction, and other applicable phases. The City of Wauchula will work to ensure that the project(s) and program(s) are operating efficiently and effectively and that CDBG funds are being used appropriately. Conducting effective monitoring of program compliance with program guidelines, requirements, regulations, and procedures is important for identifying areas of strong performance and areas that need improvement and/or corrective action.

The City of Wauchula has established the Compliance Monitoring Plan (CMP) to:

- Gauge the overall progress and effectiveness of project/program implementation.
- Identify and resolve compliance issues that may compromise project/program integrity, funding, and service delivery.
- Identify areas that would benefit from technical assistance and/or training.

The CMP may be updated as needed based on program design and any applicable changes to federal and local requirements over the life of the grant.

Types of Monitoring

The City of Wauchula will perform an initial risk assessment to evaluate each CDBG project/program to determine what level of monitoring will be conducted to ensure that all projects are compliant. A range of monitoring methods will be used including, but not limited to:

- **Desk Reviews:** A review of documents submitted by program administration staff, financial management staff, consultants/contractors/vendors.
- **Onsite Reviews:** A review of documentation to ensure compliance and completeness, financial expenditure records, interviews with program administration and financial management staff, and inspection of records for the CDBG activities conducted.
- **Internal Team Reviews:** Pre-monitoring assistance provided during both the early stages of program development and during instances of program staff turnover to assess critical risks and rebuild capacity, including a review of detailed processes to preempt any potential future compliance issues.

Standardized monitoring checklists will be used to ensure consistency and to provide a detailed record of the monitoring.

Risk Assessment

The City of Wauchula will conduct a risk assessment on all programs in order to identify those projects and programs that are most susceptible to fraud, abuse, or mismanagement. The risk assessment provides critical information to effectively target resources toward projects and programs that pose the greatest risk to the integrity of the City of Wauchula's CDBG funding, including identification of the projects and programs to be monitored on-site and remotely, the program areas to be covered, and the depth of the review. This assessment will allow the City of Wauchula to minimize potential risk as it administers its CDBG allocation. The matrix below lists the risk assessment criteria. In addition to the quantitative measures listed in the matrix, qualitative risk factors may also be considered. This will not change the overall risk score but may provide justification for including a project/program in the CMP. Such qualitative factors include but are not limited to:

- local media reports
- litigation
- major new programs undertaken
- subsequent disasters
- staff turnover
- citizen complaints.

The City of Wauchula's CMP includes a Risk Matrix which lists the general risk assessment criteria. In addition to the quantitative measures listed in the matrix, qualitative risk factors may also be considered. The consideration of qualitative risk factors will not change the overall risk score but may provide justification for including an entity in the Monitoring Workplan and Approach. Such qualitative factors include but are not limited to local media reports, litigation, major new programs undertaken, subsequent disasters, staff turnover, and citizen complaints. The City of Wauchula may adjust the matrix outlined below to reflect new criteria or risk factors as identified.

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	HIGH RISK	MEDIUM RISK	LOW RISK
		10 Points	6 Points	3 Points
Organizational Capacity	Subrecipient's current grant management staff capacity and its ability to ensure programmatic compliance with the CDBG regulations.	Turnover of at least 1 key person and program complexity is greater than programmatic knowledge and capacity of its current staff.	Program complexity is greater than programmatic knowledge and capacity of its current staff.	No turnover and program complexity are in line with current staff capacity and program knowledge.

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	HIGH RISK	MEDIUM RISK	LOW RISK
Financial Management/ Funding Award	Total funds allocated to the program, including all funding sources (e.g., federal/state grants, leverage funds, in-kind donations, SBA loans, etc.).	7 Points	5 Points	3 Points
		Over \$100M	\$50M - \$100M	Less than \$50M
Project Complexity	- Type of activities - Complexity of project implementation process - Applicability of federal cross-cutting requirements - Existing policies and procedures - Multiple departments/agencies involved in project	10 Points	6 Points	3 Points
		4+ activity types; Highly complex implementation process; Many cross-cutting requirements apply; No drafted program policies & procedures, and/or internal SOPs; 3+ departments/agencies involved in project	3 or fewer activity types; Implementation process may strain resources; Cross-cutting requirements apply; Drafted but not approved program policies & procedures, and/or internal SOPs; 2 departments/agencies involved in project	1-2 activity types; Implementation process is manageable; Little or no cross-cutting requirements apply; Approved program policies & procedures, and/or internal SOPs; 1 or less departments/agencies involved in project
Implementation Method	Type of entity implementing the project (more layers, more risk).	8 Points	5 Points	2 Points
		Subrecipient with no CDBG Infrastructure experience	Subrecipient with CDBG Infrastructure experience	Consultant
Relevant Experience	Prior experience administering CDBG and/or other federal grant programs.	10 Points	6 Points	3 Points
		No experience	1-3 years	4+ years
Compliance History	Prior monitoring/compliance history with federally funded programs.	8 Points	5 Points	2 Points
		No past monitoring or severe deficiencies were identified.	Evidence of prior monitoring; deficiencies noted, but none severe.	Evidence of prior monitoring; no deficiencies noted.
		5 Points	3 Points	1 Point

Project Implementation Timeline	Projected vs actual timeline for program completion, Deliverables/tasks completed timely; performance management.	Significant project delays experienced (longer than six months).	Project delays less than six months.	Project moving along according to schedule.
Drawdown/Expenditure Rate	CDBG award funding is spent according to project budget and activity work plan.	8 Points	5 Points	1 Point
		Spending below expectations	Spending meeting expectations	Above Expectations - <i>project implementation is ahead of schedule</i>

Monitoring

After the risk analyses are complete and results are finalized, high-risk programs, as identified through the primary factors above, may be reviewed more frequently. Technical assistance may be provided for additional guidance and support.

As necessary and possible, the City of Wauchula will conduct programmatic and fiscal monitoring reviews for each active CDBG program or subrecipient (2 CFR 200.332(b)). Desk reviews may be performed if an onsite review is not feasible. Additional monitoring may occur if a matter is uncovered by an external audit or additional monitoring is necessitated by the possibility of fraud, waste, or mismanagement.

Monitoring Support Team

Once a Risk Assessment is completed on a new program and if assistance needs are identified in the early stages of program development and implementation, The City of Wauchula may approve Monitoring Support Team. The Monitoring Support Team coordinates with the City of Wauchula program staff to ensure full understanding of program status and undertake pre-monitoring assistance to address identified potential risks that may arise as the program develops towards implementation and establishes a work plan to implement solutions during program development.

Following are the three stages of the Monitoring Support Team process:

1. Post-Risk Assessment and Work Plan Development
 - A. Identify key findings of assessment and discuss remedies with program staff.
 - B. Develop recommendations for resolving identified risks.
 - C. Collaborate with program staff to develop goals and action items for recommendations.
 - D. Develop key milestones and due dates for action items.
 - E. Incorporate work plan into the program implementation timeline.

2. Program Implementation

- A. Re-evaluate program for identified risks and make assessment on improvements made or outstanding risks to be addressed.
- B. On-going collaboration with program staff to address risks and complete workplan.

3. Risk Reduction Feedback/Results

- A. Develop a summary of how the risk analysis recommendations and workplan goals or action items resulted in a measurable reduction in risk within the program, which also includes program best practices and lessons learned.
- B. Circulate as appropriate throughout DEO to be referenced for similar programs going forward as institutional knowledge to reference.

Monitoring Process

Programmatic Monitoring

The monitoring review is broken into 4 stages: planning, fieldwork, reporting, and response.

Planning

Once the workplan has been established, an individual, written monitoring strategy will also be developed to further define the scope and focus of each monitoring engagement. In developing the monitoring strategy, the Monitoring Support Team will identify key risk factors associated with specific activities to be monitored, the likelihood of non-compliance and the potential impact. This will determine critical risks that should be addressed during the monitoring visit.

Furthermore, for consultant/contractor monitoring engagements, all consultants/contractors implementing projects under the monitored programs will undergo a risk assessment. This assessment will review key risk criteria as identified in the Risk Matrix above but will include additional risk factors such as a review of past City of Wauchula monitoring and federal Single Audit findings for evidence of outstanding sanctions or non-compliance. These risk assessments will be similar in scope but conducted solely on applicable consultants/contractors during the planning phase of monitoring engagements. The assessment results will support the City of Wauchula in the identification of high-risk consultants/contractors and/or CDBG projects, that will be monitored more frequently as part of the monitoring strategy.

The program and/or entity being monitored will receive a notification letter within 30 days of the planned monitoring review (Desk Monitoring or On-Site Monitoring for construction projects) which will detail the type of monitoring, timeframe to conduct the monitoring, and the nature and scope of the review. Preliminary documentation may be requested to facilitate further planning, such as sample selection, prior to the start of the monitoring. To the greatest extent feasible, documentation on-hand should be reviewed prior to the monitoring engagement to maximize the time available for reviewing documents during the monitoring. Such documentation may include the following:

- Active written agreements with the Monitored Entity.

- Progress and performance reports.
- Payment requests including invoices and support documentation.
- Documentation of previous monitoring(s), including open findings.
- Section 3, Davis-Bacon, Labor Standards, etc. required documentation.
- Copies of any audit reports of the entity/program; and
- Any documentation received from the Monitored Entity.

Any potential deficiencies or evidence of non-compliance identified from the review of documentation prior to the engagement will be incorporated into the monitoring strategy.

Fieldwork

The fieldwork stage is comprised of two monitoring review types: desk monitoring and on-site monitoring. Each form of monitoring has its own process and requirements in order to complete the monitoring:

- Desk Monitoring: A desk monitoring should not exceed 10 business days from the start date of the monitoring. Extensions for desk monitoring can be allowed under extenuating circumstances.
- On-site Monitoring: On-site monitoring should not exceed 5 business days from the start of the monitoring. However, additional on-site reviews at different satellite locations, e.g., different contractors/construction sites, may require an extension of time out in the field in order to complete on-site review(s).

During the fieldwork stage, the City of Wauchula will conduct an entrance conference with the appropriate representatives to explain the purpose of review. During the meeting, the City of Wauchula Compliance Team will:

- Explain the purpose, scope and schedule of the Monitoring Event.
- Confirm key personnel that will assist during the monitoring.
- Determine the times for interviews with key personnel, including the times for key personnel to be available to answer questions about files, if necessary.
- Schedule physical inspections, if applicable; and
- Verify the project grant administration to be reviewed and how access to file will be granted.

Thereafter, the City of Wauchula should receive access to all documents requested in the notification letter and the sample of files selected for review. The City of Wauchula will use the monitoring checklists identified during the planning phase to perform the review. The checklists will be completed by the City of Wauchula throughout the monitoring event, including the notes related to the file review and interviews with key personnel.

Throughout the engagement, the monitoring staff will maintain an on-going dialogue with the program/project management staff. This communication will keep the City of Wauchula staff informed as

to how the monitoring is progressing, enable discussion of any problem areas encountered, and provide the program/project management team an opportunity to present additional information regarding preliminary findings and concerns. This will also minimize the potential for surprises during the exit conference or in the Monitoring Report.

At the conclusion of the monitoring review, the City of Wauchula will conduct an exit conference with key personnel to discuss preliminary findings and concerns. This meeting includes the following objectives:

- To present preliminary results of the monitoring visit and establish a clear understanding of the results of the monitoring review and next steps.
- To provide an opportunity for the program/project team to correct any misconceptions or misunderstandings.
- To secure additional information to clarify or support the position of the program/project team; and
- To provide an opportunity for the program/project team to report any steps taken to correct any deficiencies identified throughout the monitoring review.

During the exit conference, the monitoring team will also communicate next steps with the program/project management staff and establish timelines for corrective actions, if necessary. All stakeholders should have a clear understanding of the monitoring results at the conclusion of the fieldwork phase.

Although the monitoring review may conclude once the City of Wauchula has conducted the exit conference, the monitored entity may be given the opportunity to provide documents to resolve preliminary findings and concerns notated in the exit conference prior to the issuance of the official Monitoring Report. The documents could result in a monitoring review conclusion which may impact the final monitoring results. In most cases, this additional review will further clarify monitoring conclusions raised during the exit conference and will not result in any substantial changes in the preliminary monitoring results or review scope. Regardless of the level of changes to the preliminary monitoring results, if any additional items are identified after fieldwork is complete that affects the final report, the program/project staff or subrecipient should be made aware prior to the issuance of the report.

Reporting

Once fieldwork is completed, a Monitoring Report will be prepared and signed by the OLTR Compliance and Reporting Manager, OLTR Administration Bureau Chief, or their designee, within 60 days from the date of the exit conference, which summarizes the result of the monitoring review. The report should correspond to items discussed during the exit conference. Monitoring reviews may result in:

- **Findings** – issues that require immediate corrective actions by the program.
- **Concerns** – issues regarding the performance of programs or activities that may result in noncompliance if they are not addressed.
- **Observations** – issues which could lead to a concern or finding if not addressed, but there is not

enough evidence at the time of the monitoring that would warrant a concern or finding.

The report will include recommended corrective actions that would remedy the identified deficiency or concern. The tone of the Monitoring Report should be positive and strike a balance between recognizing the common goal of responsibly and effectively implementing CDBG program(s) and reinforcing the needs and requirements to correct any deficiencies. If appropriate, the report should include significant accomplishments or positive changes to establish and/or maintain positive relationships and to recognize the dedication and commitment of the program/project management staff to the program mission.

Response

The program/project management staff or consultant have 30 days to respond to all findings in the written Monitoring Report, unless an alternate timeline is specified in the report. The management response should include a plan and timeline for completing the required corrective actions, or proposals for alternate actions to remedy the situation. For example, the plan and timeline would outline an avenue for program/project management staff or consultant to request an extension of time, usually an additional 30 days, to complete corrective actions or to allow justifications for alternative correction actions. If issues are identified for corrective action and/or the responses to the Monitoring Report are deemed insufficient or incomplete, follow-up actions will be scheduled to track and record the progress of the resolution, including the submission of follow-up letters and issuance of incomplete corrective action determinations. These follow-up actions usually take no longer than 60-90 days from the issuance of the initial Monitoring Report, but the timing and frequency of the follow-up communication will be determined at the City of Wauchula's discretion and should be based on the severity of the deficiency. All follow-up actions and determinations on incomplete actions or responses will be documented.

Once all findings and concerns have been remediated, the City of Wauchula Compliance and Reporting Manager, or their designee, will issue a Clearance Letter to the contractor's project manager or consultant indicating that the issue has been closed. If in the course of finalizing the Monitoring Report, or during the monitoring visit, there was completion in addressing prior findings, the Monitoring Report may serve as the clearance letter, noting that the prior findings were resolved. All findings must be addressed prior to closure of the program/project.

Fiscal Monitoring

The City of Wauchula will perform fiscal monitoring reviews internally for all programs/projects that receive CDBG funding. There are three events that trigger a fiscal monitoring review of a project and/or consultant:

- First draw request,
- Earlier of 25% or \$1 million of draw requests, and
- Final draw request

The monitoring process for fiscal monitoring mimics the process for programmatic monitoring. The City of Wauchula will perform planning, fieldwork, reporting, and receive responses for any findings or concerns needing resolution that were noted in the final report.

Technical Assistance

The City of Wauchula will continuously identify areas of opportunity to provide technical assistance (TA) where needed. The objective of technical assistance is to ensure compliance with Federal and State regulations and program requirements. The nature and extent of TA will be determined at the discretion of The City of Wauchula. Some examples of TA will include:

- Verbal or written advice
- Formal training; and/or
- Documentation and guidance.

When deficiencies are identified through monitoring activities, TA may be required to assist in the resolution of the deficiency. If similar deficiencies are noted for multiple entities, organized TA activities may be coordinated. The training shall be coordinated between monitoring staff and program management staff, and training materials will be posted to the City of Wauchula's website for reference.

Remedies for Non-Compliance

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.338 to 200.342, in the event that the program/project management staff or consultant fails to correct identified deficiencies within a time period which is 90 days of greater from the issuance of the official Monitoring Report, Subrecipient may take one or more of the following actions, as appropriate in the circumstances:

- Temporarily withhold cash payments pending correction of the deficiency by the program/project management staff/consultant or more severe enforcement action by the City of Wauchula.
- Disallow (that is, deny both use of funds and any applicable matching credit for) all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance.
- Wholly or partly suspend or terminate the contract.
- Recommend the Federal Awarding Agency initiate suspension or debarment proceedings as authorized under 2 CFR part 180 and Federal awarding agency regulations.
- Withhold further awards for the project or program.
- Take other remedies that may be legally available.

Additionally, and as identified within 2 CFR 200.521, the City of Wauchula may enact management decisions if continual consultant non-compliance or deficiencies exist through incomplete corrective actions. These conditions may arise from monitoring findings as well as audit findings through the use of any federal subaward the City of Wauchula has received. In these cases, the City of Wauchula may also utilize the remedies described above and/or in consultant agreement in an effort to ensure a consultant comes back into compliance. These decisions may occur as a result of the following reviews:

- A systemic or unresolved deficiency from a monitoring engagement as detailed within this section, with the consultant responding as outlined within the Response phase; or

- Any deficiency(ies) or determination(s) of non-compliance which are identified through other City of Wauchula initiated audit review(s).

ANTI-FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE (AFWA) Policy and Procedures

Purpose

The purpose of this Anti-Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (AFWA) Policy is to establish a comprehensive framework for the prevention, detection, reporting, and resolution of fraud, waste, and abuse associated with CDBG funded activities. This policy ensures that all funds are used in accordance with applicable

federal and state requirements and reinforces the City of Wauchula's commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

Regulatory Authority

This policy is established in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including but not limited to 2 CFR §200.303 (Internal Controls), 2 CFR §200.400–405 (Cost Principles), 2 CFR §200.334 (Record Retention), 18 U.S.C. §1001 (False Statements), Section 112.3187, Florida Statutes (Whistle-blower's Act), and Section 837.06, Florida Statutes (False Official Statements). This policy also aligns with applicable HUD Federal Register Notices governing CDBG programs, as well as any relevant local ordinances.

Definitions

Fraud is defined as any intentional act or omission designed to deceive others, resulting in the victim suffering a loss and/or the perpetrator achieving a gain. Fraud includes false representation of facts, making false statements, or by concealment of information.

Examples of fraud include, but are not limited to:

- Misrepresentation of:
 - Income (Unreported or under-reported)
 - Household composition
 - Financial resources (transferred or hidden resources)
 - Residency
 - Citizenship status
- Using another person's identification
- Falsifying documents such as:
 - Invoices
 - Timesheets
- Forging signatures or documents
- Concealing access to duplicate funding
- Misrepresenting a medical condition to obtain additional benefit
- Misusing funds (diverting them for an unintended use)

Waste is defined as the act of using or expending resources carelessly, extravagantly, or for no purpose, including inefficient or ineffective practices that result in unnecessary costs. This includes situations where unnecessary costs are incurred due to inefficient or ineffective practices, systems, or controls, and includes but is not limited to the following examples:

- Purchasing unnecessary supplies, material, and equipment.
- Purchasing supplies without regard to cost; and
- Using supplies, materials, and equipment carelessly resulting in unnecessary waste and replacement.

Abuse is defined as behavior that is deficient or improper when compared with behavior that a prudent person would consider reasonable and necessary under the circumstances.

Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- Making procurement or vendor selections that are contrary to existing policies or are unnecessarily extravagant or expensive.
- Receiving favor for awarding contracts to certain vendors.
- Using one's position for personal gain or to gain an advantage over another.
- Failing to report damage to equipment or property.
- Creating unneeded overtime; and
- Requesting staff to perform personal errands or work tasks for a supervisor or manager.

Other actions constituting fraud, waste, and abuse include, but are not limited to:

- Any dishonest or fraudulent act
- Misappropriation of funds, supplies or assets
- Impropriety in handling or reporting money or financial transactions
- Profiting as a result of insider knowledge
- Unauthorized disclosure of confidential or private information
- Accepting or seeking anything of material value from contractors, vendors or any person that seeks a beneficial decision, contract, or action for CDBG activities.
- Unnecessary cost or expenditures
- Diversion of program resources

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The City Manager is responsible for ensuring overall compliance with federal, state, and programmatic requirements, including reporting obligations. The Finance Director is responsible for implementing oversight activities, conducting reviews, and coordinating investigations related to fraud, waste, and abuse. Finance staff are responsible for maintaining proper financial controls and ensuring that all expenditures are allowable, reasonable, and properly documented. All employees, contractors, and partners are responsible for adhering to this policy and promptly reporting any suspected fraud, waste, or

abuse. The City of Wauchula and external partners must also comply with these requirements as a condition of receiving CDBG funding.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

The City of Wauchula shall establish and maintain effective internal controls over all CDBG funded activities in accordance with 2 CFR §200.303. These controls shall include, but are not limited to, segregation of duties, proper authorization and approval processes, accurate and complete recordkeeping, regular monitoring and oversight activities, and implementation of corrective actions when deficiencies are identified. The City of Wauchula shall also utilize a risk-based approach to identify areas of higher susceptibility to fraud, waste, and abuse and allocate oversight resources accordingly.

Fraud Awareness and Prevention

The City of Wauchula is committed to promoting a culture of integrity and accountability. This includes providing ongoing training for staff, ensuring clear communication of expectations, incorporating fraud prevention clauses into contracts and agreements, and conducting regular internal monitoring and risk assessments. The City of Wauchula may also utilize data analysis and performance monitoring tools to identify anomalies or trends that may indicate potential fraud, waste, or abuse.

Below are some preventative measures the City of Wauchula will take to proactively combat fraud, waste, and abuse:

- Post the City of Wauchula's fraud hotline number 863-773-3131 in a conspicuous place.
- Ensure that employees know they can report fraud anonymously.
- Ensure no employee has too much control over multiple functions (e.g., the person who reconciles the bank statement will not write or sign checks).
- Perform background checks before hiring employees, particularly employees who will have control over money or be involved in financial matters of the City of Wauchula.
- Ensure ongoing compliance with federal, state, and local regulations through review of the policies and procedures, applicant eligibility and award determinations, and program activity files.
- Conduct regular internal monitoring of the City of Wauchula's CDBG programs and report results to program managers and the City of Wauchula agency director.
- Provide oversight monitoring for the City of Wauchula's CDBG contractor(s).
- Monitor any potential duplication of benefits, any anomalies, any suspected fraud related to performance problems, and any abuse of funds, as required by FloridaCommerce grant requirements.
- Review the risk level associated with all CDBG grant programs to determine the frequency of monitoring, as required by FloridaCommerce grant requirements.

- Identify and assist with investigations of potential fraud, referring cases to FloridaCommerce as appropriate.
- Oversee and coordinate all reporting for the City of Wauchula's CDBG programs, including state reporting requirements, data analysis, and providing data dashboards, as needed.
- Provide technical assistance to program areas regarding compliance issues and questions, as well as with the resolution of monitoring findings.
- Require all staff to review this AFWA policy and complete the acknowledgement form at the end of this policy.

Fraud-Related Training

All City of Wauchula staff shall attend fraud-related training required by HUD and FloridaCommerce, to assist in the proper management and use of CDBG grant funds.

Reporting Requirements

All individuals have a responsibility to report suspected fraud, waste, or abuse. Allegations of waste or abuse may be reported internally through designated reporting channels, including hotline numbers or official email addresses. Allegations of fraud must be reported immediately to FloridaCommerce at cdbgdr_antifraudwasteabuse@commerce.fl.gov and the HUD Office of Inspector General (OIG) at <https://www.hudoig.gov/hotline/report-fraud> or HUD OIG Hotline number: 1-800-347-3735. The City of Wauchula shall ensure that reporting mechanisms are accessible and that individuals may report concerns anonymously if desired.

Florida's Whistle-Blower's Act

The City of Wauchula understands that confidentiality is important to avoid retaliation against individuals who report suspected or alleged fraud, waste, or abuse. Florida's Whistle-blower's Act prevents agencies or independent contractors from taking retaliatory action against an employee who reports to a person or agency designated by the statute (see next paragraph below) violations of law on the part of a public employer or independent contractor (as defined in Section 112.3187(3)(d), Florida Statutes), that create a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety or welfare.

It also prevents agencies or independent contractors from taking retaliatory action against any person who discloses information to an appropriate agency alleging improper use of governmental office, gross waste of funds, or any other abuse or neglect of duty on the part of an agency, public officer, or employee.

Violations of this act should be reported in accordance with Section 112.3187, Florida Statutes. Any employee who has a complaint should immediately contact the Department head, Office of the Inspector General, the Governor's Office of the Chief Inspector General, the Florida Commission on Human Relations, or the state's whistle-blower's hotline at 1-800-543-5353 (Section 112.3187, Florida Statutes).

Investigation

All reported allegations shall be documented and reviewed promptly. The City of Wauchula will conduct preliminary assessments of reported waste or abuse and determine whether further investigation is warranted. All suspected fraud cases shall be referred to FloridaCommerce or appropriate external authorities and shall not be investigated internally due to the potential for criminal implications. The City of Wauchula shall maintain documentation of all complaints, reviews, and determinations in accordance with applicable requirements.

Record Retention

All records related to fraud, waste, and abuse reporting, investigations, and corrective actions shall be maintained in accordance with 2 CFR §200.334 and applicable state record retention requirements. Records shall be stored securely and made available for review upon request by authorized entities.

Administration

This AFWA policy will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to comply with Federal and State requirements. The City of Wauchula Finance Department is responsible for the administration, revision, and application of this policy, which will take effect immediately following its approval.

Acknowledgment

City of Wauchula

Anti-Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (AFWA) Policy Acknowledgment Form

I acknowledge (with my signature below) that I have received and read a copy of the Anti-Fraud, Waste, and Abuse policy and will adhere to the requirements associated with my employment at the City of Wauchula.

Signature

Date

Print Name

CDBG Citizen Participation Plan

Introduction

The City of Wauchula has created this detailed Citizen Participation Plan to satisfy the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, 24 CFR 570.431 and 24 CFR 570.486 and sets forth the jurisdiction's policies and procedures for facilitating citizen participation. This Citizen Participation Plan is consistent with the requirements Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 which amends Section 104(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 24 CFR 570. The Plan sets forth the procedures for Citizen Participation that shall be utilized during each stage of the Community Development Block Grant process and upon its adoption by the City of Wauchula shall remain in effect until otherwise amended.

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide the citizens of the City of Wauchula with an adequate opportunity for meaningful involvement on a continuing basis and for participation in the planning, development, implementation, and assessment of the City of Wauchula's Community Development Block Grant Program-Disaster Recovery Project.

It is the intent of the City of Wauchula, through this Citizen Participation Plan:

- To increase interchange of information between CDBG Staff and the local citizens concerning community development and related concerns.
- To heighten public awareness as to the purpose and function of the CDBG Program and the types of assistance available, especially among low/moderate income residents of CDBG target areas.
- To increase community participation in program planning and implementation and thereby create local support for CDBG goals.
- To allow affected or potentially affected citizens to directly assist in shaping and guiding the program's impact upon their neighborhood as well as the community at large.

Citizen participation is a vital element in the preparation of a method by which community involvement will be solicited and maintained throughout the entire Community Development Block Grant process. The City of Wauchula strives to ensure such participation by utilizing the public hearing process and by appointing a Citizens Advisory Committee.

It is the policy of the City of Wauchula that the effectiveness of citizen participation in the planning, development, implementation, and assessment of the Community Development Block Grant process be analyzed during the public hearings and other called meetings and amendments to the Plan made when necessary. The City of Wauchula will solicit, and respond in a timely manner to, the views and proposals of all citizens, particularly low- and moderate-income persons, members of minority groups, and residents of blighted areas where the

potential exists for the undertaking of CDBG eligible activities. Upon adoption of this Plan, the following technical requirements shall govern this process:

Public Hearings

1. To ensure adequate notice of public hearings, all notices shall be printed in the non-legal section of the (local newspaper) no less than five (5) days and no more than twenty (20) days prior to each public hearing held at any stage of the Community Development Block Grant process.
2. When deemed appropriate, the City of Wauchula may also post notices of such hearings in not less than two public places. The posting of notices may only supplement publication of public hearing notices. A news article located in a conspicuous place in a newspaper of general circulation may be considered as sufficient printed notice to fulfill this requirement. The City of Wauchula may also utilize additional means (personal contact, radio, etc.) to the maximum extent possible to reach target groups identified above when this is necessary. A minimum of two public hearings will be held before the City of Wauchula to provide the greatest access for citizen participation in developing CDBG applications.
3. This requirement will generally be satisfied by holding the hearings at the Historic City Hall located at 225 East Main Street, Wauchula, FL 33873.
4. If it is determined the City of Wauchula has a known concentration of non-English speaking residents; the services of a translator will be obtained in the event a significant number of residents of a target area do not speak English and request such services. Notices shall include information concerning the handicapped.

Citizens Advisory Task Force

1. The City of Wauchula shall establish a Citizens Advisory Task Force for all CDBG projects other than economic development projects, which shall consist of no less than five (5), not more than seven (7) members appointed by the City of Wauchula in a manner, which will ensure substantial representation of low- and moderate-income persons and minorities. Committee members shall serve two (2) year terms.
2. The Citizens Advisory Task Force shall serve as a focal point or liaison between the City of Wauchula and its constituents in regard to CDBG project development and implementation. The Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
 - a) Disseminate information concerning eligible activities, proposed projects, and the status of current projects.

- b) Coordinate various groups which choose to participate in the implementation of community development activities.
 - c) Review written comments assessing the implementation of the CDBG program.
 - d) Monitor the overall implementation of the CDBG program and review program status with administrative personnel on a quarterly basis or more frequently if deemed necessary.
 - e) Monitor the overall implementation of the CDBG program and review program status with administrative personnel on a quarterly basis or more frequently if deemed necessary,
 - f) Monitor the citizen participation process and propose such amendments as may be necessary to this Participation Plan.
3. The Citizen Advisory Task Force shall be a tool through which program progress can be analyzed and proposed amendments discussed, if applicable.

Access to Records

1. The City of Wauchula maintains a complete project file on its Community Development Block Grant program(s) which is available for public inspection during regular office hours in the City of Wauchula Clerk's office. This file shall include but not be limited to the following:
- a. Citizen's Participation Plan
 - b. Community Development Plan
 - c. Community Development Block Grant Application
 - d. Program Amendments
 - e. Environmental Review Record
 - f. Financial Status
 - g. Fair Housing Ordinance
 - h. Equal Opportunity Requirements
 - i. Policies and Procedures Governing Beneficiary Eligibility
 - j. Performance Assessment Report
 - k. Written Comments and City's Response
2. Generally, the project file is available for review by any citizen or group; however, in no case will disclosure be made of any program participant's

financial status.

Technical Assistance

Program staff will provide technical assistance to citizens' committees, groups, and interested persons in the citizen participation process. This technical assistance shall focus on increasing public access to participating in the Community Development Block Grant decision making process through the Citizens Advisory Committee and ensuring that this participation is meaningful.

Technical assistance will be utilized to foster an understanding of program requirements, i.e., equal opportunity, relocation, environmental policies, beneficiary eligibility, etc.

Citizen Complaints and Appeals Policy

Purpose

The City of Wauchula is committed to addressing any concerns or grievances related to FloridaCommerce's or the City of Wauchula's CDBG program. Our goal is to resolve complaints and appeals received by the City of Wauchula efficiently and fairly. Anyone affected by the program can submit a complaint or appeal at any time. The City of Wauchula will address all submissions within fifteen (15) working days of receipt, where practicable.

How to Submit Complaints and Inquiries

Complaints or inquiries may be submitted using any of the following methods:

- Mail: Send complaints or inquiries to:
City of Wauchula
126 South 7th Avenue, Wauchula, FL 33873
- Email: Write to us at scamacho@cityofwauchula.com
- Phone: Call our hotline at (863)773-3131
- In-Person: Visit us at 126 South 7th Avenue, Wauchula, FL 33873

Handling Complaints and Inquiries

Upon receipt, all complaints and inquiries will be reviewed by the City of Wauchula program staff for:

- Investigation, if needed
- Resolution or follow-up actions

The City of Wauchula maintains a tracking system for all submissions, including:

- Complainant's name and contact information
- Date received
- Description of the issue
- Names of individuals contacted
- Summary of results and resolution

The City of Wauchula will make every effort to provide a timely written response to complaints and inquiries within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of complaint, where practicable. The City of Wauchula's goal is to address all concerns sensitively and fairly.

The City of Wauchula program staff will review complaints and inquiries monthly to identify any patterns that might indicate a need for policy changes or additional training.

Complaint Procedure

The following procedures will be followed for all complaints related to the CDBG program received by the City of Wauchula.

1. The complainant shall notify the City Clerk of the complaint. The initial complaint may be expressed verbally or by written correspondence. If the complaint is submitted verbally, the designated City Clerk will document the substance of the complaint, as well as the date and time the complaint was received.
2. The City Clerk will notify the Deputy City Manager of the complaint within two (2) working days.
3. The Deputy City Manager will investigate the complaint and will report the findings to the City of Wauchula's City Manager within three (3) working days.
4. The City of Wauchula City Manager will notify the complainant of the findings of the Deputy City Manager in writing or by telephone within ten (10) working days, where practicable. If the City of Wauchula is unable to respond to the complainant within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the complaint, the City of Wauchula will document why additional time is needed.
5. If the complainant is aggrieved by the decision, they must submit the complaint in writing (if previously submitted verbally) to the City Clerk, who will forward the complaint along with actions taken by the Deputy City Manager to the City Manager for their review. This will be accomplished within five (5) working days of receipt of the written complaint.
6. The City Manager will have thirty (30) working days to review the complaint and respond to the complainant in writing.
7. If the complainant is not satisfied with the response of the City Manager, they must notify the City Clerk in writing that he or she requests a hearing by the City of Wauchula's City Commission. The complainant will then be placed on the next regularly scheduled meeting agenda. The City Clerk will notify the complainant in writing of the date of the hearing.
8. At the hearing, the complainant will have the opportunity to present all relevant facts, witnesses, etc., relating to the substance of the complaint. The City of Wauchula's City Commission will consider the evidence presented at the hearing and forward to the complainant within ten (10) days a certified copy of the minutes of the hearing and a response to the complaint.

Complaints concerning the general administration of the CDBG Program may be submitted in writing directly to (FloridaCommerce) the following address:

FloridaCommerce

Office of Long-Term Resiliency
The Caldwell Building
107 E Madison St. MSC 420
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Complaints can also be submitted to FloridaCommerce via the agency's website at <https://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/office-of-the-inspector-general/complaint2>.

Complaints Related to Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Violations

All citizen complaints relating to Fair Housing or Equal Opportunity Violations alleging discrimination shall be forwarded to HUD for resolution, via the following methods:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Regional IV, Atlanta Regional Office of FHEO
77 Forsyth Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Or

Complainant may contact the HUD FH/EO Intake Specialist directly at the Toll-Free Telephone at:

1-(800) 669-9777

Or

Complainant may submit an inquiry online at <https://www.hud.gov/fairhousing/fileacomplaint>.

Formal Appeals

Specific policies and procedures related to filing appeals, as well as the type(s) of determinations that are appealable, are detailed in individual FloridaCommerce-approved program guidelines.

Citizens, however, can generally appeal decisions relating to:

- Program eligibility
- Assistance award calculations
- Program outcomes related to damage assessments

Opportunities for administrative hearings are provided to all appellants pursuant to section 120.569, Florida Statutes. Refer to Florida Administrative Code rules 28-106.104(2), 28-106.20(2), and 28-106.301 for details on filing a petition. Mediation is also available under Section 120.573, Florida Statutes.

Petitions must be filed with the Agency clerk within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the determination from the City of Wauchula. If reconsideration or an informal appeal is requested, the appeal period under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, will be extended until a decision is made.

For additional assistance, contact the City of Wauchula Deputy City Manager at (863)773-3131..

Record Keeping

The City of Wauchula will maintain a dedicated file for all reports of complaints and appeals, ensuring proper documentation and tracking, including how each complaint was resolved, or alternatively, directed to FloridaCommerce or HUD for investigation and resolution.

Compliance with Applicable Laws

This policy does not invalidate nor supersede the personnel or other policies currently adopted by the City of Wauchula. It is intended to serve as a guide for handling CDBG program complaints and appeals in compliance with federal and state laws.

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CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Duplication of Benefits Policy

Background

CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funding intends to address the unmet needs of a community. The funds are supplemental to primary forms of assistance, including private insurance, FEMA funds, SBA loans, and other federal grants. To avoid duplicative assistance and potential de-obligation of funding, the City of Wauchula will utilize all possible funding sources before applying CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT dollars to a project.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (the “Stafford Act”), as amended, 42 U.S.C. §5121 et seq., established the requirements for Duplication of Benefits (DOB) analysis. The Stafford Act DOB requirements apply to all federal agencies, including HUD, administering a disaster recovery program in which financial assistance for emergency response and long-term recovery is provided. CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT grants are subject to these requirements.

Section 312(a) of the Stafford Act requires federal agencies to assure that no person, business concern, or other entity receiving federal financial assistance receives funds for any part of a loss already paid by insurance or any other source. Section 312(c) makes any person receiving duplicative assistance liable to the Federal Government for the duplicative amount and states that “the agency which provided the duplicative assistance shall collect [it] from the recipient when the head of such agency considers it to be in the best interest of the Federal Government” (42 USC 5155(c)). Additionally, Section 312(b) of the Act permits the payment of assistance to someone who is or may be entitled to future payments from insurance or another source “if such person agrees to repay all duplicative assistance to the agency providing the Federal assistance” (42 USC 5155(b)).

On June 20, 2019, HUD issued Federal Register guidance applicable to DOB, 84 FR 28836, entitled “Updates to Duplication of Benefits Requirements under the Stafford Act for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Grants,” outlining the DOB requirements consistent with the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA) as provided in division D of Public Law 115-254. The 2019 DOB Notice, 84 FR 28836, is applicable to activities FloridaCommerce submits to HUD on or after the applicability date of June 25, 2019, and (per 88 FR 32049) before October 5, 2023.

The 2019 DOB Notice—84 FR 28836—revised the DOB requirements that apply to CDBG–DR and CDBG-MIT grants for disasters declared between January 1, 2015, and December 31, 2021. However, section V.B.2(iii) of this notice specifies that for major disasters or emergencies declared between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2021 (DRRA Qualifying Disasters), a statutory exception applies due to DRRA amendments to section 312 of the Stafford Act. Per 84 FR 28841, The full amount of a subsidized loan available to the applicant for the same purpose as CDBG–DR and CDBG-MIT assistance must be included in the DOB calculation unless one of the exceptions in section V.B.2., including V.B.2(iii), applies.

For DRRA Qualifying Disasters, FEMA has advised that a loan is not a prohibited duplication of benefits under section 312(b)(4)(C) of the Stafford Act, as amended by section 1210 of the DRRA, provided that all Federal assistance is used toward a loss suffered as a result of a major disaster or emergency. These temporary changes to the treatment of subsidized loans made by the DRRA (division D of Pub. L. 115– 254) sunset on October 5, 2023 (as specified in section V.B.2, 84 FR 28841).

DOB Overview

Fundamentally, the state and its subrecipients, including the City of Wauchula, must prove that they have accounted for funding an applicant has received for the same purpose as the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT grant, prior to expenditure of grant funds. The following are sources of funding assistance provided for structural damage and loss that are considered a DOB and under federal law must be deducted from the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT assistance provided:

- FEMA Public Assistance Grants
- Private and/or FEMA (NFIP) Insurance
- SBA Loans
- Charitable Donations of property, supplies, services, and volunteer labor
- Local or State Funds
- Other Federal Programs
- Any other funding source available for the same purpose as a CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT grant that may duplicate assistance.

The City of Wauchula will follow FloridaCommerce's established procedures for DOB verification—including in the applicable Policy Manual and the Program Guidelines for each program—to address the specific types of DOB and related analysis that is performed for each project (e.g., FEMA Public Assistance for public infrastructure projects). The City of Wauchula will consider all possible disaster recovery funding sources when calculating DOB.

The Stafford Act requires that recipients/subrecipients of federal disaster recovery funding make certain that no "person, business concern or other entity" will receive duplicative assistance.

A DOB occurs when:

- A beneficiary receives assistance, and
- The assistance comes from multiple sources (private insurance, FEMA, NFIP, non-profits, etc.), and
- The total assistance amount exceeds the need for a particular recovery purpose.

Eligible recipients of CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT assistance may have previously received assistance from other sources. Under the requirements of Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5121, et seq.), as interpreted and applied by HUD, FloridaCommerce must take into account certain aid received by the City of Wauchula in determining the amount of assistance which can be granted. In accordance with the Stafford Act, all projects must perform due diligence to identify potentially duplicative sources of funding, analyze whether the source is duplicative, and include duplicative sources in an assessment that is deducted from the project's need-based award determination.

Funds received from any source will reduce the amount of disaster assistance if the evidence of expenditures at least equals the amount of assistance provided from the source(s). Documentation must be provided demonstrating the cost and type of assistance.

Not all types of assistance would constitute a DOB. FloridaCommerce allows for reductions of DOB totals if the City of Wauchula can prove that the use or control of the funds meet certain criteria. For DOB calculations, the City of Wauchula must exclude amounts that are:

- Provided for a different purpose.
- Provided for the same purpose (eligible activity), but for a different, allowable use (cost).
- Funds not legally available to the applicant/subrecipient.
- A private loan; or
- Declined or cancelled subsidized loans (only the amount of a subsidized loan that is declined or cancelled is not a DOB. To exclude declined or cancelled loan amounts from the DOB calculation, the City of Wauchula and FloridaCommerce must document that all or a portion of the subsidized loan is cancelled or declined.) The full amount of a subsidized loan available for the same purpose as CDBG-DR assistance is assistance that must be included in the DOB calculation unless one of the exceptions in section V.B.2. of 84 FR 28836 applies.
- Any other asset or line of credit available to the applicant.

If the City of Wauchula chooses to leverage the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funds with funding provided by other sources, leveraged funds must be in accordance with the Stafford Act to ensure that the City of Wauchula does not receive a DOB for the same purpose and/or effect to recover from the specified disaster.

The City of Wauchula's CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Grant Program[s] is/are subject to the DOB requirements of the 2019 DOB Federal Register guidance (84 FR 28836) and the applicable requirements. The policy outlined in these guidelines follows the duplication of benefits guidance included in Federal Register Vol. 84, No. 119 (June 20, 2019), 84 FR 28836.

[DOB Policy and Procedures](#)

The City of Wauchula is responsible for calculating and reporting to FloridaCommerce any DOB the City of Wauchula may have incurred. FloridaCommerce will provide oversight and monitoring

to ensure DOB calculations have been completed and are accurate. Best practice related to DOB analysis is for the City of Wauchula to coordinate with the other funding source via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a process to obtain data related to the assistance the funding source has provided.

Below is the DOB process followed by the City of Wauchula which is based upon FloridaCommerce's process.

Step 1

At application, the City of Wauchula was required to declare the existence of any leveraged funds. With its application, the City of Wauchula provided, as applicable, documentation for the source of leveraged funds (local funds, FEMA, insurance, etc.).

Step 2

Following execution of the Subrecipient CDBG-DR or CDBG-MIT IRP Grant Agreement and prior to expenditure of any funds, a comprehensive DOB analysis is conducted by FloridaCommerce for the City of Wauchula's CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT project(s). As part of this comprehensive DOB analysis, the City of Wauchula is required to provide FloridaCommerce the following:

1. A Completed DOB Form
 - A. FloridaCommerce's DOB Analysis Worksheet.

As the City of Wauchula leveraged funds from other sources, The City of Wauchula was required to also provide:

1. Documentation from leveraged funding source(s), e.g., executed grant agreements, charitable donation(s) documentation, insurance policy/proceed documentation.
2. Attachment B of the Subrecipient Grant Agreement (Project Budget) outlining where leveraged funds will be expended.

Step 3

Following project design, FloridaCommerce conducts an additional DOB verification.

As part of this additional DOB verification, the City of Wauchula will provide FloridaCommerce a comprehensive budget outlining which funding source will pay for each element of the project to ensure that all activities are eligible under the applicable funding source. This comprehensive budget will account for every component outlined in the design.

Ongoing DOB Procedures

If a duplicative benefit is discovered after the disaster recovery award is provided, the City of Wauchula will recapture the amount of the duplicative award.

If a DOB issue is identified while the City of Wauchula's CDBG-DR or CDBG-MIT IRP Grant Agreement with FloridaCommerce is still active, the City of Wauchula will repay the duplicative amount to FloridaCommerce's Disaster Recovery Program.

If a DOB issue is identified after the City of Wauchula's CDBG-DR IRP Grant Agreement with FloridaCommerce is closed, the citizen applicant will repay the duplicative amount to FloridaCommerce:

Cashier
Florida Department of Commerce
Disaster Recovery Programs
107 East Madison Street, MSC 420
The Caldwell Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

The City of Wauchula will maintain documentation for all corresponding financial transactions related to the repayment(s) in the City of Wauchula's grant file. The City of Wauchula will submit a copy of the completed documents and supporting documentation to the FloridaCommerce Grant Manager assigned to the agreement.

CDBG Labor Standards Policy and Procedures

Introduction

The City of Wauchula will use the below policies and procedures to ensure compliance with Federal Department of Labor (DOL) requirements at 29 CFR Parts 1, 3, and 5, as well as contractual requirements specified in the City of Wauchula's grant agreement with FloridaCommerce.

The City of Wauchula appoints the City Clerk as Labor Compliance Officer (LCO) for the City of Wauchula. The LCO is tasked with overall administration and enforcement of the City of Wauchula's compliance with Labor standards for the CDBG project.

Administration

Pre-Construction

1. The LCO will create, maintain, and preserve a Labor Standards file for each of the City of Wauchula's CDBG projects, for a minimum of three years, after completion of construction, or final disposition of any compliance issues—whichever occurs last. The City of Wauchula's appointment of the LCO for the project should be added to the Labor Standards file.
2. The City of Wauchula and its LCO will utilize the City of Wauchula's *Labor Standards Compliance Review Checklist* to ensure compliance with Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA), Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (CWHSSA), and the Copeland Anti-Kickback Act of 1986.
3. Following the City of Wauchula's receipt of FloridaCommerce's approval of the environmental review for the project and subsequent issuance of the Authority to Use Grant Funds, the project engineer's completion of the bid documents (plans and specifications), the Labor Compliance Officer accesses the [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) webpage and downloads the proper wage decision(s) for the CDBG project.
4. The LCO provides the wage decision(s) to the project engineer/designer and to the City of Wauchula's project manager.
5. The Project Engineer inserts the wage decision(s) and the Federal Labor Standards Provisions (HUD-4010) into the plans and specifications and finalizes the Invitation to Bid (ITB) package. The City of Wauchula then forwards the ITB to FloridaCommerce for approval. Following receipt of FloridaCommerce approval, the City of Wauchula solicits bids from construction contractors.
6. The City of Wauchula holds a Pre-Bid Conference where compliance with Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA), Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (CWHSSA), and Copeland Anti-Kickback Act of 1986 requirements are discussed with the attending

contractors. Section 3 requirements are discussed during this meeting as well. The LCO attends to answer any questions specific to Federal labor requirements.

7. Following the City of Wauchula's solicitation of the prime contractor, receipt and opening of bids, confirmation that the selected contractor is not on the Excluded Parties List (review of contractor eligibility in SAM.gov), FloridaCommerce approval of the procurement, and issuance of the Notice of Award, a **Pre-Construction meeting** is held with the prime contractor.

At the pre-construction meeting, the LCO will communicate to the prime contractor and any available subcontractors its responsibilities and obligations regarding labor standards, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Submission of *Prime Contractor Notification of Participation and Certifications Form* to the City of Wauchula.
- b. Submission of the *Subcontractor Notification of Participation and Certifications Form* to the City of Wauchula.
- c. Submission of a printout from the SAM.gov webpage, evidencing that the prime contractor is not on the Excluded Parties List.
- d. Submission of weekly payrolls to the City of Wauchula using Form WH-347 (or an acceptable alternate payroll form). The prime contractor must also collect weekly payroll reports from any subcontractor(s) it hired to execute the project, review the subcontractor(s) payroll reports, and forward the records to the City of Wauchula.
 - i. Requiring all subcontractors, if any, working on the project to submit weekly payrolls using Form WH-347 (or an acceptable alternate payroll form).
- e. Acquiring and submitting evidence from the SAM.gov webpage that any subcontractor(s) hired by the prime contractor is/are not on the Excluded Parties List.
- e. Posting in a conspicuous location at the job site the Federal wage decision(s) in the construction contract.
- f. Posting in a conspicuous location at the job site the WH-1321 (Workers' Rights Under Davis-Bacon) form.
- g. Posting in a conspicuous location any DOL-approved additional work classifications and wage rates.
- h. Maintaining payroll records for a minimum of three years (prime contractor responsibility) following completion of the project.

9. The LCO verifies that the City of Wauchula awarded the contract within 90 days of the bid opening date. In cases when the award date is more than 90 days after the bid opening, the LCO will verify (via the SAM.gov webpage) that the wage decision(s) in the ITB package has not been amended or superseded. In instances where the wage decision(s) has been amended or superseded, the LCO will download the current wage decision(s) from the SAM.gov webpage, and provide it to the Project Engineer for modification into the contract between the prime contractor and the City of Wauchula. Documentation of verification of the wage decision choice(s) will be maintained in the Labor Standards compliance file for each project.
10. Following execution of the contract, the City of Wauchula issues the Notice to Proceed (NTP). The LCO communicates with the prime contractor to ensure that weekly CPRs will be submitted from the start of construction (date identified on the NTP) through project completion.
11. “No work” payrolls are not required to be submitted for weeks in which no work was performed. However, the prime contractor must notify the City of Wauchula or the LCO that construction of the project has temporarily stopped and provide the estimated date that construction will resume.

Construction

1. Shortly after construction commences, the LCO will conduct field inspection(s) at the job site to:
 - a. Conduct interviews with employees of the prime contractor and any subcontractor(s) hired to execute the project. (*The LCO should use the HUD-11 Form to record interviews*).
 - b. Verify the contractor posted the federal wage decision(s) and WH-1321 form in a conspicuous location at the job site.
 - c. Verify the contractor posted all DOL-approved additional work classifications and wage rates, if any, in a conspicuous location at the job site.
 - d. Take a photograph of the wage decision(s), WH-1321 form, and any DOL-approved additional work classifications and wage rates, to document verification of the contractor’s posting requirements.
 - i. The LCO should later add the photograph to the Labor Standards file for the project.
2. Following the City of Wauchula’s receipt of weekly certified payroll reports (CPRs) from the prime contractor and any subcontractor(s) that is executing the project, the LCO begins to review the CPRs for compliance with DBRA and other labor-related requirements, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Detection of falsification indicators on the CPRs.

- b. Work classifications in the CPRs align with those in the wage decision(s).
 - i. In instances where classifications presented in the payrolls are not listed in the wage decision(s), the LCO will coordinate with the prime contractor and request that the contractor complete a Request for Authorization of Additional Classification and Rate (SF 1444).
 - 1. Following contractor completion of the SF 1444, the LCO forwards the completed form to FloridaCommerce for submission to the DOL.
- c. Prevailing wages (including fringe benefits) are being paid to the workers based on their work classifications.
- d. Overtime is being paid at a rate of 1.5 times the straight-time wage rate for hours over 40 worked on the project, plus 1.0 times the fringe benefit (if applicable to the classification) rate.
- e. Comparison of weekly payrolls to information recorded on HUD-11 forms to test and verify the accuracy of the information on the payroll records. Sign and date the Payroll Examination section of the HUD-11 forms following completion of comparisons. Additionally, add any review comments to the Remarks field in the Payroll Examination section.
 - i. In cases where there are discrepancies between the payroll reports and the HUD-11 forms, take the appropriate action needed to investigate and resolve compliance issues, including communicating with the City of Wauchula and the prime contractor.
- f. Payroll deductions are bona fide and do not constitute kickbacks to the contractor from the worker (*e.g. wage decision requires that a worker be paid \$20.00 per hour, and the Contractor pays the worker the \$20.00 per hour, which for a 40-hour week would total \$800.00, but makes a non-bona fide deduction of \$150.00 for that week that brings the worker's hourly rate down to \$16.25*);
 - i. The contractor provides employee authorization for any non-standard deductions (e.g., health, dental insurance, 401k deduction, etc.) taken from the employees' earnings.
 - ii. The contractor provides support for other non-standard deductions taken that do not require employee authorization (e.g., court-ordered child support, wage garnishments, etc.).
 - iii. The non-standard items the employee(s) authorized, as well as the corresponding amounts, align with the information on the face of the contractor(s) CPRs.

- g. Each payroll report is certified by the owner, corporate officer, or a designee authorized in writing by the owner or a corporate officer.
 - h. No Helper classifications are included in the payrolls—unless the DOL has approved a Helper classification.
 - i. For instances where workers are classified as Trainees or Apprentices, there is documentation that each such worker is participating in a formal program approved by the Agency for Workforce Innovation or the U.S. Department of Labor, and is being paid according to the requirements of that program.
3. Ensure that form HUD 4710i (Semi-Annual Labor Standards Enforcement Report) is completed semi-annually and submitted (electronically to DBLS_SAR@hud.gov) to HUD within one week of the reporting period (i.e., by April 7 and October 7 each year a project is active).
4. The City of Wauchula's LCO will provide FloridaCommerce with any requested information needed for the agency's reporting to HUD or DOL, or for requests relating to monitoring reviews.

Enforcement

1. In instances where the LCO identifies wage underpayments, contractor non-compliance with overtime pay requirements, or unsupported deductions, the LCO will communicate with the contractor to attempt to have the areas of non-compliance remediated. The LCO will ensure that any needed corrections are made promptly, including the payment of wage restitution as needed, and the assessment and collection of Liquidated Damages penalties, as appropriate.
2. Labor Standards non-compliance incidences, including infractions, restitutions, liquidated damages, reporting and compliance will be tracked in the City of Wauchula's *Labor Standards Non-Compliance Tracking Sheet*.
 - a. The completed *Labor Standards Non-Compliance Tracking Sheet* must be added to the Labor Standards file following project completion.

Note during basic enforcement and corrections, the contractor must only submit a correction CPR to evidence wage restitution paid. Other documentation such as check copies, copies of cancelled checks, receipts signed by employees, employee signatures on the correction CPR, etc., is not required.

3. The City of Wauchula reserves the right to take the following enforcement actions to bring a prime contractor and/or its subcontractor(s) into compliance with labor standards:
 - Restrict contractor access to the project site.

- Reduce contract payments for a non-compliant subcontractor(s).
 - Withhold payment(s) to a contractor following receipt of a pay application—until all labor compliance issues have been addressed and resolved.
4. The LCO will ensure that all labor compliance issues have been resolved prior to close out of the CDBG project by FloridaCommerce.

Additionally, the LCO will ensure that all labor-related records associated with the above policies and procedures are added to the Labor Standards compliance file that is created, maintained, and preserved for the CDBG project.

Liquidated Damages

In instances where a worker was underpaid for overtime hours worked, Liquidated Damages penalties in the amount of **\$32** for each calendar day in which an individual did not receive the required overtime compensation will be assessed to the contractor.

1. In each case where an overtime violation is identified, the LCO must notify the employer in writing of the amount of liquidated damages computed, and the City of Wauchula's intent to assess.
 - a. A copy of the notice shall be sent to the prime contractor when the employer involved is a subcontractor.
 - b. The notice must inform the employer that it has 60 days to file a written request for a reduction or waiver of liquidated damages and that absent a timely reduction or waiver request, the determination is final.
2. The employer may request a reduction or waiver of liquidated damages.
 - a. The City of Wauchula may approve a reduction or waiver in instances where the computation of liquidated damages is incorrect or where the violation(s) occurred inadvertently notwithstanding the exercise of due care on the part of the employer.
3. The employer's request must be made in writing to the City of Wauchula within 60 days after the date of the notice and must explain the reason(s) why a reduction or waiver is warranted.
 - a. If the computed amount of liquidated damages is **\$100** or less, the City of Wauchula may request (via FloridaCommerce) that the HUD Labor Standards Specialist issue a final order affirming, reducing, or waiving liquidated damages.

- b. If the computed amount of liquidated damages is greater than **\$100** but no more than **\$500**, the City of Wauchula may request (via FloridaCommerce) that the HUD Deputy Director issue a final order affirming, reducing, or waiving liquidated damages.
 - c. If the computed amount of liquidated damages is greater than **\$500**, the City of Wauchula may forward the matter to the DOL (via FloridaCommerce) through the HUD Deputy Director.
- 4. In instances when the cumulative wage restitutions are \$1,000.00 or more, and where a waiver has not been approved, the City of Wauchula will submit a Labor Standards Enforcement Report to FloridaCommerce (for submission to the DOL).
- 5. Payment of liquidated damages penalties by an employer are to be made to FloridaCommerce, which will wire the funds to HUD.
- 6. The City of Wauchula will retain all records associated with the assessment, recordation, reduction, and waiver of an employer's liquidated damages penalties, as well as evidence of payment of liquidated damages penalties by the contractor.

Complaints

- 1. The LCO will receive and screen employee and other complaints or allegation of violation and will investigate all complaints, especially those relating to allegation of underpayment.
 - a. All complaints received will be recorded on the Complaint Intake Form (HUD 4731).
 - b. The LCO will ensure that all worker complaints are examined and resolved, especially allegations of underpayment, prior to closeout of the CDBG project.
 - c. The LCO will refer to FloridaCommerce (for referral to HUD or the DOL) any complex issues and/or payroll falsification cases.
 - d. The LCO will maintain full documentation relating to how the complaints was addressed, including referral of the case to FloridaCommerce (if necessary)
 - e. The LCO will ensure that each complaint received has been fully resolved, or alternatively, that the complaint has been referred to FloridaCommerce, prior to the City of Wauchula commencing the closeout process for the CDBG project.
- 2. For non-CWHSSA covered projects, the LCO will refer to FloridaCommerce (for referral to the DOL Wage and Hour Division) any potential Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) overtime violations a contractor may have committed.

Reporting

The City of Wauchula shall comply with all financial and performance reporting requirements. Reports shall be accurate, complete, and submitted in accordance with established timelines.

Audit Requirements (2 CFR 200 Subpart F)

The City of Wauchula shall comply with the Single Audit Act, 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart F, and its Subrecipient Grant Agreement Attachment I – Audit Requirements. If applicable thresholds are met, an independent audit shall be conducted and submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse

Record Retention (2 CFR 200.334)

The City of Wauchula shall retain all records related to federal awards for the required retention period and ensure records are accessible for review by authorized entities.

Conflict of Interest (2 CFR 200.318)

The City of Wauchula shall maintain a conflict-of-interest policy and require disclosure of any potential conflicts by employees, contractors, and consultants involved in federal award activities.

Corrective Actions and Noncompliance

The City of Wauchula shall take prompt corrective action when instances of noncompliance are identified. Noncompliance may result in enforcement actions, including repayment of funds, suspension, or termination of the award.