

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
TDHCA Governing Board Approved Draft of
10 TAC Chapter 1, Subchapter D, Certain Subsections Noted Below

Disclaimer

Attached is a draft of proposed 10 TAC Uniform Guidance for Recipients of Federal and State Funds, §1.401 Definitions, §1.402 Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements, §1.403 Single Audit Requirements, §1.404 Purchase and Procurement Standards, §1.405 Bonding Requirements, §1.409 Records Retention, and §1.410 Determination of Alien Status for Program Beneficiaries; which were approved by the TDHCA Governing Board on September 3, 2020. This action will entail the repeal of the current rule and a contemporaneous new rule being proposed to replace it. This document, including its preamble, is expected to be published in the September 18, 2020, edition of the Texas Register and that published version will constitute the official version for purposes of public comment and can be found at the following link: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/index.shtml>.

Public Comment

Public Comment Period:

Start: 8:00 a.m. Austin local time on September 18, 2020
End: 5:00 p.m. Austin local time on October 19, 2020

Comments received after 5:00 p.m. Austin local time on October 19, 2020, will not be accepted. Written comments may be submitted, in hard copy or electronic formats within the designated public comment period to:

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Attn: Brooke Boston
Rules Comments
P.O. Box 13941
Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Email: brooke.boston@tdhca.state.tx.us

Those making public comment are encouraged to reference the specific draft rule, policy, or plan related to their comment as well as a specific reference or cite associated with each comment.

Please be aware that all comments submitted to the TDHCA will be considered public information.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Street Address: 221 East 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701
Mailing Address: PO Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711-3941
Main Number: 512-475-3800 Toll Free: 1-800-525-0657
Email: info@tdhca.state.tx.us Web: www.tdhca.state.tx.us

Attachment 1: Preamble, including required analysis, for proposed repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 1, Subchapter D, Uniform Guidance for Recipients of Federal and State Funds, §1.401 Definitions, §1.402 Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements, §1.403 Single Audit Requirements, §1.404 Purchase and Procurement Standards, §1.405 Bonding Requirements, §1.409 Records Retention, and §1.410 Determination of Alien Status for Program Beneficiaries

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes the repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 1, Subchapter D, Uniform Guidance for Recipients of Federal and State Funds, §1.401 Definitions, §1.402 Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements, §1.403 Single Audit Requirements, §1.404 Purchase and Procurement Standards, §1.405 Bonding Requirements, §1.409 Records Retention, and §1.410 Determination of Alien Status for Program Beneficiaries. The purpose of the proposed repeal is to clarify requirements for participants of the Department's program.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.0045(b) does not apply to the rule proposed for action because it was determined that no costs are associated with this action, and therefore no costs warrant being offset.

The Department has analyzed this proposed rulemaking and the analysis is described below for each category of analysis performed.

a. GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.0221.

Mr. Bobby Wilkinson has determined that, for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect:

1. The proposed repeal does not create or eliminate a government program but relates to changes to existing guidance for program subrecipients.
2. The proposed repeal does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor are the rule changes significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that eliminates any existing employee positions.
3. The proposed repeal does not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The proposed repeal will not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor in a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The proposed repeal is not creating a new regulation, except that it is being replaced by a new rule simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The proposed repeal will not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation.
7. The proposed repeal will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.
8. The proposed repeal will not negatively or positively affect the state's economy.

b. ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL OR MICRO-BUSINESSES OR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2006.002.

The Department has evaluated the proposed repeal and determined that the proposed repeal will not create an economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities.

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed repeal does not contemplate nor authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

d. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(6). The Department has evaluated the proposed repeal as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect there would be no economic effect on local employment; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required to be prepared for the rule.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Mr. Wilkinson has determined that, for each year of the first five years the proposed repeal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the changed sections would be an updated and more germane rule. There will not be economic costs to individuals required to comply with the repealed section.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed repeal is in effect, enforcing or administering the repeal does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. The public comment period will be held September 18, 2020, to October 19, 2020, to receive input on the proposed action. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Brooke Boston, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941 or email bboston@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, October 19, 2020.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The proposed repeal is made pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Except as described herein the proposed amended sections affect no other code, article, or statute.

§1.401 Definitions

§1.402 Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements

§1.403 Single Audit Requirements

§1.404 Purchase and Procurement Standards

§1.405 Bonding Requirements

§1.409 Records Retention

§1.410 Determination of Alien Status for Program Beneficiaries

Attachment 2: Preamble, including required analysis, for proposed new 10 TAC Chapter 1, Subchapter D, Uniform Guidance for Recipients of Federal and State Funds, §1.401 Definitions, §1.402 Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements, §1.403 Single Audit Requirements, §1.404 Purchase and Procurement Standards, §1.405 Bonding Requirements, §1.409 Records Retention, and §1.410 Determination of Alien Status for Program Beneficiaries

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes new 10 TAC Chapter 1, Subchapter D, Uniform Guidance for Recipients of Federal and State Funds, which includes new §1.401 Definitions; §1.402 Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements; §1.403 Single Audit Requirements; §1.404 Purchase and Procurement Standards; §1.405 Bonding Requirements; §1.409 Records Retention; and §1.410 Determination of Alien Status for Program Beneficiaries.

The purpose of the proposed new sections is to make clarifications regarding cross-cutting state and federal requirements applicable to those organizations participating in Department programs. The proposed sections changes include: minor changes to several definitions in §1.401 Definitions; clarifies what programs are applicable for this section in §1.402 Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements; clarifies when the Single Audit requirements apply in §1.403 Single Audit Requirements; provides a more orderly list of procurement process documentation in §1.404 Purchase and Procurement Standards; clarifies when this section's requirements apply in §1.405 Bonding Requirements; clarifies that any entity who performs services on behalf of a subrecipient, must also follow record retention requirements in §1.409 Records Retention; and clarifies the election process for subrecipients in §1.410 Determination of Alien Status for Program Beneficiaries.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.0045(b) does not apply to the rule proposed for action because it was determined that no costs are associated with this action, and therefore no costs warrant being offset.

The Department has analyzed this proposed rulemaking and the analysis is described below for each category of analysis performed.

a. GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.0221.

Mr. Bobby Wilkinson has determined that, for the first five years the proposed new sections would be in effect:

1. The proposed new sections do not create or eliminate a government program but relates to changes to existing regulations applicable to Department subrecipients.
2. The proposed new sections do not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor are the rule changes significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that eliminates any existing employee positions.
3. The proposed new sections do not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The proposed new sections will not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor in a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The proposed new sections are not creating a new regulation, except that they are replacing sections being repealed simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The proposed new sections will not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation.

7. The proposed new sections will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.

8. The proposed new sections will not negatively or positively affect the state's economy.

b. ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL OR MICRO-BUSINESSES OR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2006.002.

The Department has evaluated the proposed new sections and determined that the proposed actions will not create an economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities.

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed new sections do not contemplate or authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

d. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(6).

The Department has evaluated the proposed new sections as to their possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the proposed new sections would be in effect there would be no economic effect on local employment; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required to be prepared for the rule.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Mr. Wilkinson has determined that, for each year of the first five years the proposed new sections are in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the new sections would be an updated and more germane rule. There will not be economic costs to individuals required to comply with the new sections.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed new sections are in effect, enforcing or administering the amendments does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. The public comment period will be held September 18, 2020, to October 19, 2020, to receive input on the proposed new sections. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Brooke Boston, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941 or email bboston@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, October 19, 2020.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The proposed new sections are made pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Except as described herein the proposed new sections affect no other code, article, or statute.

§1.401 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Capitalized words used herein have the meaning assigned in the specific Chapters and Rules of this Title that govern the program associated with the request, or assigned by federal or state law.

(1) Affiliate--Shall have the meaning assigned by the specific program or programs described in this title.

(2) Department--The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

(3) Equipment--tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year or a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000. Entities not subject to UGMS do not have to include information technology systems unless the item exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000.

(4) Executive Award Review and Advisory Committee ("EARAC")--the Committee established in Tex. Gov't Code chapter 2306, that recommends the award or allocation of any Department funds or resources.

(5) Professional services--for a unit of government is as defined by state law. For Private Nonprofit Organizations it means services:

(A) within the scope of the practice, as defined by state law, of:

- (i) accounting;
- (ii) architecture;
- (iii) landscape architecture;
- (iv) land surveying;
- (v) medicine;
- (vi) optometry;
- (vii) professional engineering;
- (viii) real estate appraising;
- (ix) professional nursing; or
- (x) legal services; or

(B) provided in connection with the professional employment or practice of a person who is licensed or registered as:

- (i) a certified public accountant;
- (ii) an architect;
- (iii) a landscape architect;
- (iv) a land surveyor;
- (v) a physician, including a surgeon;
- (vi) an optometrist;
- (vii) a professional engineer;
- (viii) a state certified or state licensed real estate appraiser;
- (ix) attorney; or
- (x) a registered nurse.

(6) Single Audit--The audit required by Office of Management and Budget ("OMB"), 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F, or Tex. Gov't Code, chapter 783, Uniform Grant and Contract Management, as reflected in an audit report.

(7) Single Audit Certification Form--A form that lists the source(s) and amount(s) of Federal funds and/or State funds expended by the Subrecipient during their fiscal year along with the outstanding balance of any loans made with federal or state funds if there are continuing compliance requirements other than repayment of the loan.

(8) Subrecipient--~~Includes any entity, or Administrator as an entity defined under Chapter 20,~~ receiving or applying for federal or state funds from the Department under Chapters 6, 7, or 20, or as identified by Contract or in this subchapter. Except as otherwise noted in this subchapter or by Contract, the definition does not include Applicants/Owners who have applied for and/or received funds under a program administered by in the Multifamily Finance Division program, except for CHDO Operating funds or TCAP-RF funds where the entity is funded through a grant or Subrecipient Contract. A Subrecipient may also be referred to as Administrator.

(9) Supplies--means tangible personal property other than "Equipment" in this section.

(10) Uniform Grant Management Standards ("UGMS")--The standardized set of financial management procedures and definitions established by Tex. Gov't Code, chapter 783 regarding Uniform Grant and Contract Management to promote the efficient use of public funds by requiring consistency among grantor agencies in their dealings with grantees, and by ensuring accountability for the expenditure of public funds. State agencies are required to adhere to these standards when administering grants and other financial assistance agreements with cities, counties and other political subdivisions of the state. This includes all Public Organizations including public housing and housing finance agencies. In addition, Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 2105, regarding Administration of Block Grants, subjects subrecipients of federal block grants (as defined therein) to the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards.

§1.402 Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements

(a) Subrecipients shall comply with the cost principles and uniform administrative requirements set forth in UGMS provided, however, that all references therein to "local government" shall be construed to mean Subrecipient. Private Nonprofit Subrecipients of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), HOME Investments Partnership Program (HOME), Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), and Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE WAP) do not have to comply with UGMS unless otherwise required by Notice of Funding Availability ("NOFA") or Contract. For federal funds, Subrecipients will also follow 2 CFR Part 200, as interpreted by the federal funding agency.

(b) In order to maintain adequate separation of duties, the Subrecipient shall ensure that no individual has the ability to perform more than one of the functions described in paragraphs (1) - (5) that might result in a release of funds without appropriate controls:

- (1) Requisition authorization;
- (2) Encumbrance into software;
- (3) Check creation and/or automated payment disbursement;
- (4) Authorized signature/electronic signature; and
- (5) Distribution of paper check.

(c) For Subrecipients with fewer than five paid employees, demonstration of sufficient controls to similarly satisfy the separation of duties required by subsection (b) of this section, must be provided at the time that funds are applied for.

§1.403 Single Audit Requirements

(a) For this section, the word Subrecipient also includes Multifamily Development Owners who have applied for or received Direct Loan Funds, grants, or 811 PRA funds from the Department who are or

have an Affiliate that is required to submit a Single Audit, i.e. units of government, ~~and~~ nonprofit organizations.

(b) Procurement of a Single Auditor. A Subrecipient or Affiliate must procure their single auditor in the following manner unless subject to a different requirement in the Local Government Code:

(1) Competitive Proposal procedures whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and a contract awarded to the most qualified competitor. Proposals should be advertised broadly, which may include going outside the entity's service area, and solicited from an adequate number (usually two or more) of qualified sources. Procurements must be conducted in a manner that prohibits the use of in-state or local geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals;

(2) A Subrecipients may not use the sealed bid method for procurement of the Single Auditor. There is no requirement that the selected audit firm be geographically located near the Subrecipient. If a Subrecipient does not receive proposals from firms with appropriate experience or responses with a price that is not reasonable compared to the cost price analysis, the submissions must be rejected and procurement must be re-performed.

(c) A Subrecipients ~~and or~~ Affiliates must confirm that ~~they are~~ it is contracting with an audit firm that is properly licensed to perform the Single Audit and is not on a limited scope status or under any other sanction, reprimand or violation with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy. The Subrecipient must ensure that the Single Audit is performed in accordance with the limitations on the auditor's license.

(d) A Subrecipients ~~is~~ are required to submit a Single Audit Certification form within two (2) months after the end of ~~their~~ its fiscal year indicating the amount they expended in Federal and State funds during their fiscal year and the outstanding balance of any loans made with federal funds if there are continuing compliance requirements other than repayment of the loan.

(e) Subrecipients that expend \$750,000 or more in federal and/or state awards or have an outstanding loan balance associated with a federal or state resource of \$750,000 or more with continuing compliance requirements, or a combination thereof must have a Single Audit or program-specific audit conducted. If the Subrecipient's Single Audit is required by 2 CFR 200, subpart F, the report must be submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditor's report or nine (9) months after the end of its respective fiscal year. If a Single Audit is required but not under 2 CFR 200, subpart F, the report must be submitted to the Department the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditor's report or nine months after the end of its respective fiscal year.

(f) Subrecipients are required to submit a notification to the Department within five business days of submission to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. Along with the notice, the Subrecipient must indicate if the auditor issued a management letter. If a management letter was issued by the auditor, a copy must be sent to the Department.

(g) The Department will review the Single Audit and issue a management decision letter for audit findings pertaining to the Federal award provided to the Subrecipient from the Department. If the Single Audit results in disallowed costs, those amounts must be repaid or an acceptable repayment plan must be entered into with the Department in accordance with 10 TAC §1.21, Action by Department if Outstanding Balances Exist.

(h) In evaluating a Single Audit, the Department will consider both audit findings and management responses in its review. The Department will notify Subrecipients and Affiliates (if applicable) of any Deficiencies or Findings from within the Single Audit for which the Department requires additional information or clarification and will provide a deadline by which that resolution must occur.

(i) All findings identified in the most recent Single Audit will be reported to EARAC through the Previous Participation review process described in Subchapter C of this Chapter. The Subrecipient may submit

written comments for consideration within five ~~(5)~~ business days of the Department's management decision letter.

(j) If the Subrecipient disagrees~~d~~ with the auditors finding(s), and the issue is related to administration of one of the Department's programs, an appeal process is available to provide an opportunity for the auditee to explain its disagreement to the Department. This is not an appeal of audit findings themselves. The Subrecipient may submit a letter of appeal and documentation to support the appeal. The Department will take the documentation and written appeal into consideration prior to issuing a management decision letter. If the Subrecipient does~~id~~ not disagree with the auditor's finding, no appeal to the Department is available.

(k) In accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 and the State of Texas Single Audit Circular §.225, with the exception of nondiscretionary CSBG funds except as otherwise required by federal laws or regulations, the Department may suspend and cease payments under all active Contracts, or refrain from executing a new Contract for any Board awarded contracts, until the Single Audit is received. In addition, the Department may fail-elect not to renew an entity in accordance with Section 1.411(f) of this Chapter, or not, amend extend and/or notor enter into a new Contract with a Subrecipient until receipt of the required Single Audit Certification form or the submission requirements detailed in subparagraph (e) of this section.

(l) In accordance with Subchapter C of this Chapter (relating to Previous Participation Reviews), if a Subrecipient applies for funding or an award from the Department, findings noted in the Single Audit and the failure to timely submit a Single Audit Certification Form or Single Audit will be reported to EARAC.

§1.404 Purchase and Procurement Standards

(a) The procurement of all goods and services shall be conducted, to the maximum extent practical, in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the standards of 2 CFR Part 200 and UGMS, as applicable.

(b) Subrecipients shall establish, and require its subrecipients/Subcontractors (as applicable by program regulations) to establish, written procurement procedures that when followed, result in procurements that comply with federal, state and local standards, and grant award contracts. Procedures must:

(1) include a cost or price analysis that provides for a review of proposed procurements to avoid purchase of unnecessary or duplicative items. Where appropriate, analyzing lease versus purchase alternatives, performing the proposed service in-house, and performing any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach.

(2) require that solicitations for goods and services provide for a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product or service to be procured. In competitive procurements, such a description shall not contain features which unduly restrict competition, but must contain requirements that the bidder/offeror must fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals. A description, whenever practicable, of technical requirements in terms of functions to be performed or performance required, including the range of acceptable characteristics or minimum acceptable standards. The specific features of "brand name or equal value" that bidders are required to meet must be listed in the solicitation.

(3) include a method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting awardees.

(c) Documentation of procurement processes, to include but not be limited to the items in paragraphs (1) to (9) of this subsection, ~~rationale for the type of procurement, cost or price analysis, procurement package, advertising, responses, selection process, contractor selection or rejection, certification of conflict of interest requirements being satisfied, and evidence that the awardee is not an excluded entity~~

in the System for Award Management ("SAM") must be maintained by the Subrecipient in accordance with the record retention requirements of the applicable program:

- (1) rationale for the type of procurement,
 - (2) cost or price analysis,
 - (3) procurement package,
 - (4) advertising,
 - (5) responses,
 - (6) selection process,
 - (7) contractor selection or rejection,
 - (8) certification of conflict of interest requirements being satisfied, and
 - (9) evidence that the awardee is not an excluded entity in the System for Award Management (SAM).
- (d) In accordance with 34 Texas Administrative Code, Part 1, Chapter 20, Subchapter D, Division 1-§20.13, each Subrecipient shall make a good faith effort to utilize the state's Historically Underutilized Business Program in contracts for construction, services (including consulting and Professional Services) and commodities purchases.
- (e) The State of Texas conducts procurement for many materials, goods, and appliances. Use of the State of Texas Co-Op Purchasing Program does not satisfy the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200. For more detail about how to purchase from the state contract, please contact: State of Texas Co-Op Purchasing Program, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. If Subrecipients choose to use the Cooperative Purchasing Program, documentation of annual fee payment is required.
- (f) All vehicles considered for purchase with state or federal funds must be pre-approved by the Department via written correspondence from the Department. Procurement procedures must include provisions for free and open competition. Any vehicle purchased without approval may result in disallowed costs.

§1.405 Bonding Requirements

(a) The requirements described in this subsection relate ~~only~~ to construction or facility improvements ~~for in DOE WAP, HOME, CDBG, NSP, HHSP, EH Fund, TCAP-RF, and ESG Subrecipients, or other fund source required by state or federal law or regulation to have bonding for construction or facility improvements.~~

(1) For construction contracts exceeding \$100,000, the Subrecipient must request and receive Department approval of the bonding policy and requirements of the Subrecipient to ensure that the Department is adequately protected.

(2) For construction contracts in excess of \$100,000, and for which the Department has not made a determination that the Department's interest is adequately protected, a "bid guarantee" from each bidder equivalent to 5% of the bid price shall be requested. 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 his bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified. A bid bond in the form of any of the documents described in this paragraph may be accepted as a "bid guarantee."

(A) A performance bond on the part of the Subrecipient for 100% of the contract price. A "performance bond" is one executed in connection with a contract, to secure fulfillment of all obligations under such contract.

(B) A payment bond on the part of the subcontractor/vendor for 100% of the contract price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by statute of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

(C) Where bonds are required, in the situations described herein, the bonds shall be obtained from companies holding certificates of authority as acceptable sureties pursuant to 31 CFR Part 223, "Surety Companies Doing Business with the United States."

(b) A unit of government must comply with the bond requirements contained in Texas statutes, including but not limited to Tex. Gov't Code ch. 2253 and Tex. Local Gov't Code §252.044, ~~and~~ §262.032, or §392.0525, as applicable.

§1.409 Records Retention

(a) For this section, the word Subrecipient also includes Multifamily Development Owners who have Direct Loan Funds or grants, or 811 PRA assistance. Client Records including Multifamily Development Owners. The Department requires Subrecipient organizations, and any entities who perform services and assistance on their behalf, to document client services and assistance. Subrecipient organizations must arrange for the security of all program-related computer files through a remote, online, or managed backup service. Confidential client files must be maintained in a manner to protect the privacy of each client and to maintain the same for future reference. Subrecipient organizations must store physical client files in a secure space in a manner that ensures confidentiality and in accordance with Subrecipient organization policies and procedures. To the extent that it is financially feasible, archived client files should be stored offsite from Subrecipient headquarters, in a secure space in a manner that ensures confidentiality and in accordance with organization policies and procedures.

(b) Records of client eligibility must be retained for five ~~(5)~~ years starting from the date the household activity is completed, unless otherwise provided in federal regulations governing the program.

(c) Other records must be maintained as described in the Contract or the LURA, and in accordance with federal or state law for the programs described in the Chapters of this Part.

§1.410 Determination of Alien Status for Program Beneficiaries

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide uniform Department guidance on Section 401(a) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1986 (PRWORA), which provides that an alien who is not a Qualified Alien is not eligible for any federal or state public benefit.

(b) Definitions. The words and terms in this chapter shall have the meanings described in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Capitalized words used herein have the meaning assigned in the specific Chapters and Rules of this Title that govern the program under which program eligibility is seeking to be determined, or assigned by federal or state law.

(1) Nonprofit Charitable Organization--An entity that is organized and operated for purposes other than making gains or profits for the organization, its members or its shareholders, and is precluded from distributing any gains or profits to its members or shareholders; and is organized and operated for charitable purposes.

(2) Public Organization--An entity that is a Unit of Government or an organization established by a Unit of Government.

(3) Qualified Alien--A person that is not a U.S. Citizen or a U.S. National and is described at 8 U.S.C. §1641(b) or (c).

(4) State--The State of Texas or the Department, as indicated by context.

(5) Subrecipient--An entity that receives federal or state funds passed through the Department.

(6) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE)--Automated intergovernmental database that allows authorized users to verify the immigration status of program applicants.

(c) Applicability for Federal Funds.

(1) The determination of whether a federal program, or activity type under a federal program, is a federal public benefit for purposes of PRWORA is made by the federal agency with administration of a

program or activity, not by the Department. Only in cases in which the federal agency has given clear interpretation that it requires PRWORA to be applicable to a program or activity will this rule be applied by the Department.

(2) The requirements of this section are applicable to Subrecipients of federal funds passed through the Department for which the federal program has made a determination that the activity performed by the Subrecipient requires compliance with PRWORA. However, certain exemptions under PRWORA may exist on a case specific, or activity specific basis as further described in this rule.

(d) Applicability for State Funds. The Department has determined that State Housing Trust Funds that are provided to a Subrecipient that is a Public Organization to be distributed directly to individuals, are a state public benefit.

(e) No Applicable Exemptions under PRWORA. If no exemptions under PRWORA are applicable to the Subrecipient or to the activity type, as further detailed in this section, then the Subrecipient must verify U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Qualified Alien status ("legal status") using SAVE and evaluate eligibility using the rules for the applicable program under this Title.

(f) Exemptions Under PRWORA.

(1) In accordance with 8 U.S.C. §1642(d), a Subrecipient that is a Nonprofit Charitable Organization receiving funds from the Department for which the federal program or activity requirement is that a household be verified for eligibility status, is not required to verify that an individual is a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Qualified Alien.

(2) For activities in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Department of Energy Weatherization Program performed by a Nonprofit Charitable Organization (identified as a Private Nonprofit Organization in the Subrecipient's Contract with the Department), where the Department must ensure that an individual is a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Qualified Alien, a Subrecipient must ensure compliance with the verification requirement through electing to proceed under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of this paragraph. Subrecipients will submit in writing to the Director of Community Affairs or his/her designee no later than six months prior to the beginning of a Contract Term its election under one of the subparagraphs in this subsection. For existing Subrecipients, an election made under this subsection does not need to be restated annually, but will continue from the election made in the prior year unless the Subrecipient notifies the Department otherwise in writing before the deadline. For new Subrecipients, if no such election is made by the deadline the election must be made with the Application or if there is no Application before Contract execution. If the existing Subrecipient does not notify the Department of the election in writing by the deadline but refuses to abide by its election, the Subrecipient will no longer not be eligible to perform as a Subrecipient in the program as further provided for in paragraph (3) of this subsection. Failure by the Subrecipient to select an option by the deadline is good cause for nonrenewal or termination of a Contract.

(A) Subject to affirmation by U.S. Health and Human Services, the Subrecipient may voluntarily elect to request from the household and transmit to the Department, or a party contracted by the Department, sufficient information or documentation so that the Department is able to ensure an individual is a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Qualified Alien.

(i) The Nonprofit Charitable Organization must provide and maintain a sufficient method of electronic transmittal system that allows for such information to be provided to the Department or its contractor, and ensures the secure safekeeping of such paper and/or electronic files, and receipt of subsequent response back from the Department or its contracted party.

(ii) Upon receipt of the results of the verification performed by the Department, or its contracted party, the Nonprofit Charitable Organization must utilize those results in determining household eligibility, benefits, income, or other programmatic designations as required by applicable federal program guidance or as determined by other program rules under this Title.

(B) The Subrecipient may voluntarily elect to perform verifications through the SAVE system, as authorized through the Department's access to such system.

(C) The Subrecipient may voluntarily elect to procure an eligible qualified organization to perform such verifications on their behalf, subject to Department approval.

(i) The Nonprofit Charitable Organization and/or its procured provider must maintain sufficient evidence and documentation that verification has taken place so that such verification can be confirmed by the Department, and must ensure the secure safekeeping of such paper and/or electronic files.

(ii) Upon receipt of the results of the verification performed by the procured provider, the Nonprofit Charitable Organization must utilize those results in determining household eligibility, benefits, income, or other programmatic designations as required by applicable federal program guidance or as determined by other program rules under this Title.

~~(D) If no election is made by the deadline in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Subrecipient will be provided notification under Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 2105 that the Department does not intend to renew the Contract with the Subrecipient at the end of the current Contract Term. The Subrecipient may have a right to request a hearing under Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 2105.~~

(3) Other activities that do not require verification by Public Organizations or Nonprofit Charitable Organizations are described in the August 5, 2016, HUD, HHS, and DOJ Joint Letter Regarding Immigrant Access to Housing and Services.

(g) The Department may further describe a Subrecipient's responsibilities under PRWORA, including but not limited to use of the SAVE system, in its Contract with the Subrecipient. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to be a waiver, ratification, or acceptance of noncompliant administration of a program prior to the rule becoming effective.

(h) A Subrecipient must establish that an individual is a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Qualified Alien using the documents deemed acceptable by the Department, and which have been published on the Department's website. This information may be updated by the Department from time to time, and highly encourages Subrecipients or other concerned parties to contact the Department if revisions are suggested.