



Office of Grant Management and  
Community Development

# Substantial Amendment to PY 2013 through PY 2015 Annual Action Plans

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

Comment Period: January 16 through February 16, 2016.

## Proposed Substantial Amendment to Program Year (PY) 2013, 2014 and 2015 Annual Action Plans

<b>Grantee Name:</b>	City of Brownsville
<b>Name of Department Administering Funds:</b>	Office of Grant Management & Community Development
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### Background

The Substantial Amendment to the PY 2013, 2014 and 2015 Annual Action Plans describes program and funding amendments to previous City of Brownsville Annual Action Plans, as proposed by the Office of Grant Management and Community Development (OGMCD).

The City of Brownsville ("the City") is a Participating Jurisdiction in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME Investment Partnerships Program ("HOME"). As part of the City of Brownsville's current Citizen Participation Plan ("CPP"), public notice and public hearings are required for Substantial Amendments to the City's Annual Action Plan. As per the City's CPP and 24 CFR Part 91, the City will amend its approved plan whenever it makes one of the following decisions:

1. To make a change in the goal, priority, or activity of the Consolidated Plan; or
2. To carry out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan (including program income), not previously covered in the Action Plan; or
3. To change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity included in the annual action plan.

Further, a substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan is defined by the City as a transfer between two or more Plan activities that is greater than 30% of the HOME program funds.

### Introduction

The City of Brownsville Office of Grant Management and Community Development (OGMCD) receives funding on an annual basis from HUD for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). These funds are allocated by the City to various activities through the preparation and submission of a 3-5 year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans submitted to HUD. The OGMCD is the lead department responsible for the development and administration of the Annual Action Plans for the City.

In this proposed Substantial Amendment, the City is proposing to allocate \$1,265,011.98 in HOME funds to two new HOME-eligible activities and accommodate budgetary changes for an existing activity. These funds are possible due to uncommitted program income generated from homebuyer activities, uncommitted HOME funds from previous years, and recapture funds in connection to a 2009 HOME activity.

### Community Engagement

Community Engagement regarding this Substantial Amendment was achieved through several methods, and is in compliance with the City's current Citizen Participation Plan. The Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Public Comment was advertised in The Brownsville Herald on January 16, 2016, with the 30-day period ending on February 16, 2016 at 5:00 pm. The notice was also posted on the City's website, City Libraries, Community Network Centers and the Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville. Notice was provided in both English and Spanish. A summary of comments



received at the public hearings and in writing during the public comment period, along with the City's responses will be submitted to HUD.

### Summary of Proposed Changes

The City proposes the following changes as part of this Substantial Amendment:

Activity Name	Current Budget	Change	New Funding Amount
1. Single Family New Construction	\$ -	\$ 543,253.00	\$ 543,253.00
2. Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program (Phase I)	\$ 557,525.73	\$ 208,374.27	\$ 765,900.00
3. Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program (Phase II)	\$ -	\$ 513,385.00	\$ 513,385.00
4. Land Acquisition of Scattered Lots	\$ 180,000.00	\$ (180,000.00)	\$ -
5. CHDO Operating Expenses	\$ 50,000.00	\$ (50,000.00)	\$ -
6. New Construction- Scattered Sites	\$ 99,189.75	\$ (99,189.75)	\$ -

- Allocation:** \$557,525.73 in uncommitted CHDO reserve funds from 2013 and 2015, as well as uncommitted program income and uncommitted HOME funds from previous years, will be allocated to the Brownsville Affordable Homeownership Corporation (BAHC), a community housing development organization (CHDO), for the acquisition of a minimum of 5 scattered lots and construction of a minimum of 5 energy-efficient, single family housing units within City of Brownsville limits.
- Change:** The administration of the City of Brownsville's Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program (Phase 1) will be transferred to the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville (CDCB), which will administer the program as a subrecipient. This is to expedite the processing of applications and the completion of ongoing reconstruction projects. In addition, the City is proposing to increase the Program's budget by \$208,374.27 to accommodate an updated demolition and reconstruction budget as well as project-related soft costs associated with the administration of the program. A minimum of 9 owner-occupied households located within City of Brownsville limits will be assisted.
- Allocation:** \$513,385 will be allocated to the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville (CDCB) to administer, as a subrecipient, Phase II of the City of Brownsville's Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program. Phase II of the program will provide low interest loans to qualified owner-occupied households to assist with the reconstruction of substandard homes. A minimum of 6 owner-occupied households located within City of Brownsville limits will be assisted.
- Reduction:** \$180,000 will be reduced from the Land Acquisition of Scattered Lots project. Funding was originally awarded to Architecture for Charity of Texas, Inc., and was included in the PY 2014 annual action plan through the substantial amendment process.
- Reduction:** \$50,000 will be reduced from the CHDO Operating Expenses project. Funding was awarded to Architecture for Charity of Texas, Inc., and was included in the PY 2014 Annual Action Plan through the substantial amendment process.
- Reduction:** \$99,189.75 will be reduced from the New Construction-Scattered sites project. Funding was originally awarded to Architecture for Charity of Texas, Inc., and was included in the PY 2015 Annual Action Plan.

### Substantial Amendment Process Schedule

#### Comment Period

The City of Brownsville must provide for and encourage public participation, emphasizing involvement by low and moderate income people, especially those living in low and moderate income neighborhoods. Therefore, the City is accepting written comments on this proposed Substantial Amendment for a 30-day period beginning January 16, 2016 and ending at 5:00 pm on February 16, 2016. Any interested party may submit their written comments to Ms. Marina Zolezzi, Director, Office of Grant Management & Community Development, RE: Substantial Amendment Public Input, 1150 E. Adams, El Tapiz Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Brownsville, TX 78520; Phone: (956) 548-6167; e-mail: [mzolezzi@cob.us](mailto:mzolezzi@cob.us); fax: (956) 548-6161.

#### Public Hearings

In addition to the 30-day comment period, two (2) Public Hearings on the proposed changes will take place:

- February 4, 2016 (6:00 pm): Substantial Amendment Public Hearing  
1150 E. Adams (El Tapiz Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)



- February 16, 2016 (6:00 pm): Brownsville City Commission Meeting  
1001 E. Elizabeth Street (Commission Chambers)

**Submission**

The substantial amendment will be submitted to HUD as early as February 17, 2016.

**Public Notice**

The City of Brownsville has provided public notice of a 30-Day Comment Period (starting on January 16, 2016 and ending at 5:00 pm on February 16, 2016) in the Brownsville Herald, a local newspaper. All interested parties are encouraged to submit their written comments to Ms. Marina Zolezzi, Director of the Office of Grant Management and Community Development.

**Comments Received**

*(Comments received during the 30-day Comment Period will be included in this section)*

