

Attachment A: Preamble, including required analysis, for proposed repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter D, Ending Homelessness Fund

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes the repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter D, Ending Homelessness Fund. The purpose of the repeal is to eliminate an outdated rule, while adopting a new updated rule under separate action.

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.

1. Mr. Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect, the proposed repeal does not create or eliminate a government program, but relates to the repeal, and simultaneous readoption making changes to an existing activity, administration of the Department's Ending Homelessness Fund.

2. The proposed repeal does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor is the proposed repeal significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that any existing employee positions are eliminated.

3. The proposed repeal does not require additional future legislative appropriations.

4. The proposed repeal does not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor 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 action will repeal an existing regulation, but is associated with a simultaneous readoption making changes to an existing activity, the administration of the Department's Ending Homelessness Fund.

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 this 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 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 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 repealed chapter would be an updated and more germane rule. There will not be economic costs to individuals required to comply with the repealed chapter.

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 October 25, 2024, to November 29, 2024, to receive input on the proposed repealed chapter. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Rosy Falcon, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941 or email HomelessPrograms@tdhca.texas.gov. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Central Time, November 29, 2024.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The proposed repeal is made pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules, and pursuant to Tex. Transp. Code §512.402(g), which requires the Department to issue rules governing the Ending Homelessness Fund. Except as described herein the proposed repealed chapter affects no other code, article, or statute.

10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter D, Ending Homelessness Fund

§7.61 Purpose and Use of Funds

§7.62 EH Fund Subrecipient Application and Selection

§7.63 Availability of Funds

§7.64 Application Review Process

§7.65 Contract Term and Limitations

Attachment B: Preamble for proposed new 10 TAC Chapter 7, Subchapter D, Ending Homelessness Fund

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes new Subchapter D, Ending Homelessness Fund. The purpose of the proposed new sections is to comply with the requirements of Tex. Transp. Code §502.415 while increasing flexibility for the use of the Ending Homelessness Fund.

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, Executive Director, has determined that, for the first five years the proposed new rule would be in effect:

1. The proposed rule does not create or eliminate a government program, but relates to the readoption of this rule which makes changes to administration of the Department's Single Family Programs.
2. The proposed new rule 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 new rule does not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The proposed new rule will not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department nor a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The proposed new rule is not creating a new regulation, except that it is replacing a rule being repealed simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The proposed new rule will not expand or repeal an existing regulation.
7. The proposed new rule will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.
8. The proposed new rule 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, in drafting this proposed new rule, has attempted to reduce any adverse economic effect on small or micro-business or rural communities while remaining consistent with the statutory requirements of Tex. Gov't Code §2306.111.

1. The Department has evaluated this proposed new rule and determined that none of the adverse effect strategies outlined in Tex. Gov't Code §2006.002(b) are applicable.

2. The Department has determined that because the proposed new rule serves to clarify and update existing requirements and does not establish new requirements for which there would be an associated cost, there will be no 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 rule does 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 rule as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the rule will be in effect the proposed new rule has no economic effect on local employment because the rule serves to clarify and update existing requirements and does not establish new requirements or activities that may positively or negatively impact local economies.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.022(a) states that this "impact statement must describe in detail the probable effect of the rule on employment in each geographic region affected by this rule..." Considering that participation in the Department's Single Family Programs is at the discretion of the local government or other eligible subrecipients, there are no "probable" effects of the proposed new rule on particular geographic regions.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for each year of the first five years the proposed new rule is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the rule will be a more germane rule that better aligns administration to federal and state requirements. There will not be any economic cost to any individuals required to comply with the new section because the processes described by the rule have already been in place through the rule found at this section being repealed.

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 rule is in effect, enforcing

or administering the rule does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments because the rule updates and clarifies existing requirements and does not impose new requirements.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. The public comment period will be held October 25, 2024, to November 29, 2024, to receive input on the proposed new rule. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Rosy Falcon, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 8711-3941, or email to HomelessPrograms@tdhca.texas.gov. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Central Time, November 29, 2024.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The new chapter is proposed pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules, and pursuant to Tex. Transp. Code §512.402(g), which requires the Department to issue rules governing the Ending Homelessness Fund. Except as described herein the proposed new rule affects no other code, article, or statute.

CHAPTER 7 HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS

SUBCHAPTER D ENDING HOMELESSNESS FUND

§7.61 Purpose and Use of Funds

(a) As authorized by Tex. Transp. Code §502.415, the Ending Homelessness Fund (EH Fund) provides grant funding only to counties and municipalities for the purpose of combating homelessness.

(b) The Department shall publish an EH Fund Plan each biennium, as approved by the Department's Board. The EH Fund Plan shall include a description of EH Fund eligible activities, and an outline of activities and Subrecipients that will be given funding priority.

(~~b~~c) Permitted EH Fund eligible activities include any activity determined to ~~be eligible under Subchapter B of this Chapter, Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP), and as otherwise described in this subchapter and Subchapter A of this chapter~~ provide local programs to prevent and eliminate homelessness. Such activities may include any activity eligible under Subchapter B of this Chapter, Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP). The EH Fund Plan may further limit eligible activities.

(~~e~~d) Capitalized terms used in this subchapter shall follow the meanings defined in Subchapter A of this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Additionally, any words and terms not defined in this section but defined or given specific meaning in 24 CFR Part 576, or used in that Part and defined elsewhere in state or federal law or regulation, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings defined therein, unless the context herein clearly indicates otherwise.

(de) Funds awarded under the EH Fund are not subject to any Match requirements, but may be used as Match for other programs that do require Match.

§7.62 EH Fund Subrecipient Application and Selection

(a) The Department will produce an Application which, if properly completed by an eligible Applicant and approved by the Department, may satisfy the Department's requirements to receive an award of funds under the EH Fund. Applicants that have an existing ESG or HHSP Contract or who have been awarded ESG or HHSP funds may be eligible to submit an abbreviated EH Fund Application if such Application is made available by the Department.

~~(b) Funds will be available to Applicants determined to be eligible for the EH Fund under §7.63(b)(1) of this subchapter, or as specified in a NOFA as defined in and under §7.63(b)(2) of this subchapter (relating to Availability of Funds), as applicable as further described in the EH Fund Plan.~~

(c) Application for funds. Applicants for an award from the EH Fund must submit the following items:

(1) A complete Application including an Applicant certification of compliance with state rules, federal laws, rules, and guidance governing the EH Fund as provided in the Application;

(2) All information required under Subchapter B of this chapter (related to Homeless Housing and Services Program) to conduct a Previous Participation and Executive Award Review and Advisory Committee review;

(3) A proposed budget in the format required by the Department;

(4) Proposed performance targets in the format required by the Department; and

~~(5) Activity descriptions, including selection of administration under Subchapter B of this chapter (related to Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP)), as further described in the EH Fund Plan.~~

~~(d) Applications submitted by existing ESG or HHSP Subrecipients or awarded Applicants for ESG or HHSP, eligible activities are limited to those activities in HHSP.~~

(e) The Department must receive all Applications within 30 calendar days of notification of eligibility to Applicants per §7.63(b)(1) of this subchapter, or as specified in the ~~NOFA~~EH Plan, as applicable.

~~§7.63 Availability of Funds~~

~~(a) Funds available under the EH Fund will be made available at least once per state fiscal year to eligible Applicants dependent on the amount of funding made available.~~

~~(b) The balance of the EH Fund will determine the distribution method.~~

~~(1) For an annual, uncommitted balance that does not exceed \$1,000,000 as of the end of the state fiscal year, the total of available EH funds will be distributed equally, up to the amount requested, among the total number of entities satisfying all of the following requirements:~~

~~(A) Are Subrecipients or awarded Applicants of ESG or HHSP;~~

~~(B) Are counties or municipalities;~~

~~(C) Have indicated that they wish to participate in the EH Fund; and~~

~~(D) Have identified the minimum amount of funds they would accept and the maximum amount of funds they would be able to expend during the Contract Term.~~

~~(2) For an annual, uncommitted fund balance that exceeds \$1,000,000 as of the end of the state fiscal year, the total of available EH Funds may be made available through a NOFA, which may include being made available to counties and municipalities that are not existing ESG or HHSP Subrecipients or awarded Applicants. If the amount of uncommitted funds in the EH Fund is greater than \$1,000,000, an award made available through a NOFA shall not exceed \$250,000 per Applicant per state fiscal year, unless there are no other eligible Applicants.~~

§7.6463 Application Review Process

(a) Review of Applications. When ~~not using a NOFA,~~ an Application is received in response to solicitation by the Department, it will be assigned a "Received Date" and processed as noted below. An Application will be prioritized for review based on its "Received Date." All Applications received by the deadline described in §7.62(e) of this subchapter will be reviewed by the Department for completeness and administrative deficiencies to prepare for Board action and potential funding.

(b) The administrative deficiency process allows staff to request that an Applicant provide clarification, correction, or non-material missing information to resolve inconsistencies in the original Application or to assist staff in evaluating the Application. Staff will request such information via a deficiency notice. Staff will send the deficiency notice via email. Responses to the Department's deficiency notice must be submitted electronically to the Department. A review of the Applicant's response may reveal that additional administrative deficiencies are exposed or that issues initially identified as an administrative deficiency are actually determined to be beyond the scope of an administrative deficiency process, meaning that they are, in fact, matters of a material nature not susceptible to be resolved. For example, a response to an administrative deficiency that causes a new inconsistency which cannot be resolved without reversing the first deficiency response would be an example of an issue that is beyond the scope of an administrative deficiency. Department staff will make a good faith effort to provide an Applicant with confirmation that an administrative deficiency response has been received and/or that such response is satisfactory. Communication from staff that the response was satisfactory does not establish any entitlement to points, eligibility status, or to any presumption of a final determination that the Applicant has fulfilled any other requirements.

(1) An Application with outstanding administrative deficiencies may be suspended from further review until all administrative deficiencies have been cured or addressed to the Department's satisfaction. The administrative deficiency process allows staff to request that an Applicant provide clarification, correction, or missing information to resolve inconsistencies in the original Application or to assist staff in evaluating the Application.

(2) Applications that have completed the review process may be presented to the Board for approval with priority over Applications that continue to have administrative deficiencies at the time Board materials are prepared, regardless of "Received Date."

(3) If all funds available under a solicitation from the Department are awarded, all remaining Applicants will be notified and the remaining Applications will not be processed.

(c) Responses to administrative deficiencies. The time period for responding to a deficiency notice commences on the first calendar day following the deficiency notice date. If an administrative deficiency is not resolved to the satisfaction of the Department by 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, on the seventh calendar day following the date of the deficiency notice, the Application shall be terminated. Applicants that have been terminated may reapply unless the Application period has closed.

(d) An Application must be substantially complete when received by the Department. An Application may be terminated if the Application is so unclear or incomplete that a thorough review cannot reasonably be performed, as determined by the Department. Such Application will be terminated without being processed as an administrative deficiency. Specific reasons for a Department termination will be included in the notification sent to the Applicant but, because the termination may occur prior to completion of the full review, will not necessarily include a comprehensive list of all deficiencies in the Application. Termination of an Application may be subject to §1.7 of this part, (relating to Appeals Process).

§7.6564 Contract Term and Limitations

~~(a) For EH Fund Applicants that do not have a current ESG or HHSP Contract, and have not been awarded ESG or HHSP funds, †The Department requires evidence in the form of a certification or resolution adopted by the governing body of the Applicant specifying who is authorized to enter into a Contract on behalf of the Applicant. This certification or resolution is due to the Department no later than 90 calendar days after the award has been approved by the Board, must be received prior to Contract execution of any Contract for EH funds, and must include:~~

(1) Authorization to enter into a Contract for EH Funds;

(2) Title of the person authorized to represent the organization and who also has signature authority to execute a Contract; and

(3) Date that the certification or resolution was adopted by the governing body, which must be within 12 months of Application submission.

(b) EH Fund Contracts will generally have an initial period of 12 months for fund Expenditure. A request to extend the Contract Term must evidence that the extension is necessary to provide activities required under the Contract, and provide good cause for failure to timely expend the funds. Extensions of a Contract Term are considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to §7.4(e) of this title (relating to Amendments and Extensions of Contracts).

(1) The Executive Director or his or her designee may approve an extension to the Contract Term that for up to six months from the original Contract Term.

(2) Board approval is required if the Subrecipient requests to extend the Contract Term for more than six months from the original Contract Term. Extensions for greater than 12 months may not be granted.