CHAPTER 5 – CDBG CONTRACT

This section of the CDBG Manual provides guidance on the steps that must be fulfilled before a funded project is implemented and an overview of the requirements a grantee has as a result of signing a CDBG Contract.

Caution:
- Prior to seeking any professional services or contractors, a Grantee must understand and follow the procurement processes required of CDBG funded projects. See Chapter 7 – Procurement.
- Prior to contracting for non-general administrative services, a Grantee must receive a Notice of Release of Funds/Environmental Clearance from the Department.

NOTICE OF APPROVAL
A letter announcing the award is sent to each successful CDBG program applicant. The letter specifies the amount of the award and the activity or activities funded. The amount of the award may be different than the requested amount. An approved applicant is required to designate an employee of the local governmental entity to have principal day-to-day responsibility for the administration of this grant. In addition, a CDBG Certified Administrator must be employed or contracted by the grantee to oversee the administration of the grant. The CDBG Certified Administrator may be the designated employee responsible for day-to-day administration or a contracted professional, in either case the Certified Administrator must be recognized by the Department as being a Certified Administrator.

The Notice of Approval cautions the grantee about incurring costs. Non-administrative costs incurred prior to receiving a Notice of Release of Funds/Environmental Clearance cannot be reimbursed with CDBG funds unless a special pre-agreement is executed. Only a very limited number of costs may be incurred prior to receiving a Notice of Release of Funds/Environmental Clearance. Only costs associated with the general administration of a grant are allowable such as contracting for administrative services or hiring staff to administer the grant. Administrative costs include the related costs necessary for completing the Special Conditions requirements of the CDBG Contract this includes the environmental review. Contracts for general administration services must be executed after the Notice of Approval date. All expenses incurred prior to the Notice of Approval cannot be reimbursed by CDBG funds or be considered as match.

A grantee will also find in the Notice of Approval the contact information for the Program Representative. This is the Department staff person who is the principal contact for all matters concerning this grant.

CDBG CONTRACT
Note: As a result of the Office of Management and Budget’s release of the Super Circular and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Notice of Transition to 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Final Guidance, the Department has made several changes and additions to the CDBG Contracts. Grantees are strongly encouraged to thoroughly review the CDBG contracts prior to execution.

The grantee will receive a complete electronic copy of the CDBG Contract (see the sample contract) after receiving the Notice of Approval. This is the contract between the Department and the grantee. The grantee should thoroughly review the terms and conditions of the contract with its attorney.
The Chief Elected Official is the only individual recognized by the Department authorized to sign and execute CDBG contractual documents and official correspondence. This applies to any contract extensions and amendments involving changes in terms, conditions and amounts. At the time of application, the grantee should have passed a resolution authorizing the Chief Elected Official to sign such documents.

The grantee has 30 days to review and return a signed original or color PDF image of the CDBG Contract signature page to the Department for full execution. It is not necessary to return a complete copy of the signed contract. Grantee may email a color PDF image of the signature page to the designated program representative or the original to the following address, at the attention of your Program Representative:

Community Development Block Grant
Nebraska Department of Economic Development
P.O. Box 94666
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509-4666

Upon receipt, the Department will return a scanned copy of the contract with both signatures for recordkeeping. A complete copy of the contract, including the fully executed signature page, must be retained in the grantee’s records.

Terms
The CDBG Contract contains a project description, time of performance, sources and uses of funds, conditions governing the use of CDBG funds and the special conditions for release of funds. In most cases, the special conditions of the contract must be satisfied within three months and the project completed within twenty-four years.

Each grantee is responsible for adhering to all the terms of their CDBG Contract. A substantial number of regulations, acts, and statutes apply to the grant.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS
Recipients of CDBG funds are advised to carefully review their CDBG Contract before implementing the funded project. Contained within the contract is a section entitled Special Conditions for Release of Funds. The section begins by stating that “Funding of the amount stipulated in §1.01 will not be released to the Recipient by the Department until the following Special Conditions for Release of Funds are met.” These Special Conditions must be satisfactorily completed by the identified date, or the Department reserves the right to cancel the contract if these special conditions are not met within this specified period.

Note: Project costs cannot be obligated or incurred prior to the Department issuing a written Notice of Release of Funds/Environmental Review to the Grantee.

Typical Special Conditions
Grantee Information Sheet
Documentation is required that the Grantee has completed and returned this form to the Department. This form should be resubmitted to the Department anytime a representative identified on the form has changed.
Environmental Review
Documentation is required by the Department evidencing the Grantee’s completion of its responsibilities for environmental review and decision making pertaining to the project, and its compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and other provisions of Federal law as specified in 24 C.F.R. Part 58, which furthers the purposes of NEPA. (See Chapter 6)

Language Assistance Plan (Project Specific)
Documentation is required by the Department evidencing the grantee’s completion of its responsibilities regarding Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons, assignment of an LEP Representative, a Four Factor Analysis, and a description of the actions grantee will take to fulfill the requirements to provide meaningful access to LEP persons.

Authorization to Request Funds
Documentation is required that the Grantee has completed and returned this form to the Department. This form should be resubmitted to the Department anytime a representative identified on the form has changed.

Financial Management
Documentation is required evidencing completion of all financial management system requirements and execution of the financial management certification form prescribed by the Department.

Procurement Standards and Code of Conduct

Excessive Force Certification
Documentation is required that the Grantee has adopted a policy to prohibit the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies against any individual engaged in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations.

Fair Housing
Documentation is required that the Grantee has specifically provided a description of the actions it will take during the course of the grant to fulfill the requirements to affirmatively further fair housing. (See later in this chapter for more guidance on fair housing)

Implementation Schedule
Documentation that the grantee has completed and submitted this form to the Department.

CDBG Certified Administrator
Documentation is required that the grantee has selected a CDBG Certified Administrator. This includes a letter from the Chief Elected Official identifying the CDBG Certified Administrator and the procurement method utilized.

Disclaimer: The above list represents a list of typical standard special conditions, however all CDBG Contracts are tailored to a specific project with unique standard conditions. The Special Conditions for Release of Funds in the CDBG Contract must be satisfied before the Notice of Release of Funds will be issued for that project. Forms and samples to assist in completing special condition requirements are available from the Department’s website.
Federal and State Requirements
In PART V: SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSURANCES the grantee agrees to comply with: the Administrative Requirements of the program; those applicable items in the current Consolidated Plan; Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and 24 CFR Part 570; as well as other laws and regulations, both federal and state, as they are applicable to the approved Project.

The grantee must gain understanding of all the requirements for which they are agreeing to comply. The following is a summary of some of the requirements and not an exhaustive list of the responsibilities of CDBG grantees.

Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Provisions

- **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**
  Provides that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied program benefits of, or subject to discrimination based on race, color and/or national origin under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

- **Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974**
  Provides that no person shall be excluded from participation in (including employment), defined program benefits of, or subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex under any program or activity funded in whole or in part under Title I (Community Development) of the Act.

- **Age Discrimination Act of 1975**
  Provides that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied program benefits of, or subject to discrimination on the basis of age under any program or activity receiving federal funding assistance.

- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**
  Provides that no otherwise qualified individual shall; solely by reason of his or her handicap, be excluded from participation in (including employment), denied program benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal funding assistance.

United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations require that grantees follow specific steps in complying with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Attachment 2 provides guidance on those compliance steps.

- **Americans with Disability Act**
  Extends civil rights to those with disabilities in the following areas: employment, public accommodations, state and local government services, and telecommunications. Discrimination could occur if facilities are designed or constructed (built for initial occupancy after January 26, 1993) and are not accessible or usable by those with disabilities. The ADA also mandates that structurally-based architectural and communications barriers be removed, provided that the removal be readily achievable, easily accomplished and capable of being accomplished with little difficulty or expense.

- **Executive Order 11246**
  Applies to all federally-assisted construction contracts and subcontracts. It provides that no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation,
gender identity, or national origin in any phase of employment during the performance of a federal or federally-assisted construction contract in excess of $10,000. Grantees must include the applicable equal opportunity language in the bid specifications and contract documents.

- **Executive Order 11063, As Amended by Executive Order 12259**
  Provides that the administration of all federal programs and activities relating to housing and urban development be carried out in a manner to further housing opportunities throughout the United States. Under this executive order, if HUD (or in this case, the state) concludes that any person or entity applying for or participating in, or supervised or regulated under, a program or activity relating to housing and urban development has not complied with this order or any applicable rule, regulations, or procedures issued or adopted pursuant to this order, they shall endeavor to remedy such violation by informal means, including conference, conciliation and persuasion. In the event of failure of such informal means, sanctions may be imposed.

- **Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, As Amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988**
  This law, seeking fair housing practices throughout the United States, prohibits any person from discriminating in activities associated with housing, because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, or familial status. The grantee must also administer programs and activities relating to housing and urban development in a manner that affirmatively promotes fair housing and furthers the purposes of Title VIII.

**Environmental Standards and Provisions**
For more information on environmental requirements refer to Chapter 6:

- **Title IV of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act and regulations at 24 C.F.R. Part 35**
  National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and regulations at 24 C.F.R. Part 58
  Environmental review procedures, including completing a checklist and determining and publishing a Finding of Significance or of No Significant Impact for a project, are a necessary part of this process. Pursuant to these provisions, the grantee must also submit environmental certifications to the Department when requesting that funds be released for the project.

  The grantee must certify that the proposed project will not significantly impact the environment and that the grantee has complied with environmental regulations and fulfilled its obligations to give public notice of the funding request, environmental findings and compliance performance.

- **EPA List of Violating Facilities**
  The grantee will ensure that the facilities under its ownership, lease, or supervision which will be utilized in the accomplishment of the program are not listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) List of Violating Facilities.

- **Flood Insurance**
  The grantee will comply with the flood insurance purchase requirement of §102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973. §102(a) requires, on and after March 2, 1974, the purchase of flood insurance in communities where such insurance is available as a condition for the receipt of any federal financial assistance for construction or acquisition purposes for use in any area that has been identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as an area having special flood hazards.
Historic Preservation


- Consulting with the state Historical Preservation Officer to identify properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that are subject to adverse effects (see 36 C.F.R. Part 800.0) by the proposed activity; and,
- Complying with all requirements established by the state to avoid or mitigate adverse effects upon such properties.


For more information on labor standards requirements refer to Chapter 9 – Construction & Labor Standards

- Davis-Bacon Act
- Section 2 of the June 13, 1934 Act Popularly Known as The Copeland Anti-Kickback Act Contract Work
- Hours and Safety Standards Act
- Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968
- Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938

AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING

All CDBG grantees, regardless of the type of CDBG project, must certify that they will affirmatively further fair housing in the community (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968). This requirement dictates some form of action to be taken by the grantee, not just passive compliance with existing laws and ordinances. The requirement is not limited to those grantees with a housing activity, but must be undertaken by all DED CDBG grantees each time a grant is awarded.

Fair housing choice is the ability of persons of similar income levels to have available to them a like range of housing choices regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability. Local governments, because of their influence and power, are in the most effective position to promote fair housing. CDBG grantees make a commitment to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing in the community as a recipient of CDBG funds. Although the Department has a specific action requirement, it is important for grantees to be aware that this is a commitment to understand every individual’s fair housing rights and ensure all local policies and practices do not hinder fair housing and when appropriate actively further fair housing.

Grantees, as a Special Conditions requirement must:

- Identify a local contact, preferably an employee or elected official of the local government, as the community Fair Housing representative that will actively promote fair housing and ensure potential fair housing violations are reported to the appropriate agencies. The Department does not expect, or recommend, that the community Fair Housing representative take on the responsibility of deciding whether specific complaints are legitimate violations of the Fair Housing Act. Instead the Fair Housing representative needs to make individuals aware of the agencies that can assist them with investigating and resolving a complaint that is potentially a violation of the Act.
- Inform the Department of a specific action they will undertake to further fair housing and clearly document the action that was taken in the project file. Documentation of the Fair Housing Action
can include newspaper articles, meeting and board minutes, contracts and agreements with workshop presenters, sign-in sheets, web-sites, and video files.

Standard, minimal actions that may be undertaken without additional actions only by a grantee that it is a first-time recipient of CDBG funds and with permission from the Department program representative:

- Add the Equal Opportunity Fair Housing logo to official letterhead.
- Prominently display posters, logo, and informational material on fair housing in the village office and community meeting places.
- Pass a Fair Housing Resolution with a commitment to fair housing and measurable action steps to promote fair housing.

Acceptable Fair Housing Actions for purposes of meeting the Special Conditions requirement that Affirmatively Further Fair Housing:

- Undertake a review of existing fair housing ordinances, zoning and land use practices for discriminatory policies and practices. Document the review and make it available to the public. Develop a Fair Housing Plan with corresponding action steps to address discriminatory policies and practices.
- Take an action step identified in your Fair Housing Plan that has not been previously taken.
- Develop a community Fair Housing web-page which prominently displays the community’s commitment to Further Fair Housing on the community web-site including links to fair housing enforcement and education agencies such as the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission, the Fair Housing Center of Nebraska-Iowa, and HUD.
- Enhance the community’s Fair Housing Web-page with additional resource and education materials.
- Print a notice or advertisement that appears in a prominent location of the local newspaper that states that the grantee is an active supporter of fair housing laws. The notice or advertisement must include the contact information for the community Fair Housing representative.
- Support and participate in an educational program coordinated with local realtors, home builders, and/or mortgage lenders designed to provide information on fair housing rights.
- Provide a housing referral and counseling services session with fair housing advocates to assist minorities, women, and persons with disabilities seeking housing within the grantee’s jurisdiction.
- Host an informational fair housing session for local employers to encourage cooperation in efforts to find housing for their employees and to promote equal housing choices within the community.
- Speak to an elementary school class about the Fair Housing rights of the children and their families.
- Request assistance from the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission or other advocacy groups to host a fair housing informational or technical assistance seminar in your community or region.
- Sponsor a billboard that informs citizens of their basic fair housing rights and contacts if they feel they have experienced discrimination.
- Invite the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission (NEOC) or other Fair Housing advocacy organization to have a discussion with a group of lenders or rental property owners and managers about their fair housing responsibilities.
- Host a Fair Housing Month (April) event such as a Fair Housing poster contest or Housing information event that includes Fair Housing advocates.
- Other actions approved in advance by the Department on a per grant basis.
Basic Facts about Individual Rights and Other Components in the Fair Housing Act

What Housing Is Covered?
The Fair Housing Act covers most housing. In some circumstances, the Act exempts owner-occupied buildings with no more than four units, single-family housing sold or rented without the use of a broker, and housing operated by organizations and private clubs that limit occupancy to members.

What Is Prohibited?

In the Sale and Rental of Housing:
No one may take any of the following actions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or handicap:

- Refuse to rent or sell housing
- Refuse to negotiate for housing
- Make housing unavailable
- Deny a dwelling
- Set different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling
- Provide different housing services or facilities
- Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection, sale, or rental
- For profit, persuade owners to sell or rent (blockbusting) or
- Deny anyone access to or membership in a facility or service (such as a multiple listing service) related to the sale or rental of housing.

In Mortgage Lending:
No one may take any of the following actions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or handicap (disability):

- Refuse to make a mortgage loan
- Refuse to provide information regarding loans
- Impose different terms or conditions on a loan, such as different interest rates, points, or fees
- Discriminate in appraising property
- Refuse to purchase a loan, or
- Set different terms or conditions for purchasing a loan.

In Addition:
It is illegal for anyone to:

- Threaten, coerce, intimidate or interfere with anyone exercising a fair housing right or assisting others who exercise that right.
- Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation or preference based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or handicap. This prohibition against discriminatory advertising applies to single-family and owner-occupied housing that is otherwise exempt from the Fair Housing Act.
- Threaten, coerce, intimidate or interfere with anyone exercising a fair housing right or assisting others who exercise that right.
- Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation or preference based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or handicap. This prohibition against discriminatory
advertising applies to single-family and owner-occupied housing that is otherwise exempt from
the Fair Housing Act.

Additional Protection if You Have a Disability

If you or someone associated with you:

- Have a physical or mental disability (including hearing, mobility and visual impairments, chronic
  alcoholism, chronic mental illness, AIDS, AIDS Related Complex and mental retardation) that
  substantially limits one or more major life activities
- Have a record of such a disability or
- Are regarded as having such a disability

Your landlord may not:

- Refuse to let you make reasonable modifications to your dwelling or common use areas, at your
  expense, if necessary for the disabled person to use the housing. (Where reasonable, the landlord
  may permit changes only if you agree to restore the property to its original condition when you
  move.)
- Refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services if necessary
  for the disabled person to use the housing.
- Examples:
  o A building with a "no pets" policy must allow a visually impaired tenant to keep a guide dog.
  o An apartment complex that offers tenants ample, unassigned parking must honor a request
    from a mobility-impaired tenant for a reserved space near her apartment if necessary to
    assure that she can have access to her apartment.

However, housing need not be made available to a person who is a direct threat to the health or safety of
others or who currently uses illegal drugs.

Requirements for New Buildings

In buildings that are ready for first occupancy after March 13, 1991, and have an elevator and four or
more units:

- Public and common areas must be accessible to persons with disabilities
- Doors and hallways must be wide enough for wheelchairs
- All units must have:
  - An accessible route into and through the unit
  - Accessible light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats and other environmental controls
  - Reinforced bathroom walls to allow later installation of grab bars and
  - Kitchens and bathrooms that can be used by people in wheelchairs.

If a building with four or more units has no elevator and will be ready for first occupancy after March 13,
1991, these standards apply to ground floor units.

These requirements for new buildings do not replace any more stringent standards in State or local law.

Housing Opportunities for Families

- Unless a building or community qualifies as housing for older persons, it may not discriminate
  based on familial status. That is, it may not discriminate against families in which one or more
  children under the age of 18 live with:
- A parent
- A person who has legal custody of the child or children or
- The designee of the parent or legal custodian, with the parent or custodian's written permission.
- Familial status protection also applies to pregnant women and anyone securing legal custody of a child under 18.

**Exemption:** Housing for older persons is exempt from the prohibition against familial status discrimination if:
- The HUD Secretary has determined that it is specifically designed for and occupied by elderly persons under a Federal, State or local government program or
- It is occupied solely by persons who are 62 or older or
- It houses at least one person who is 55 or older in at least 80 percent of the occupied units, and adheres to a policy that demonstrates an intent to house persons who are 55 or older.

A transition period permits residents on or before September 13, 1988, to continue living in the housing, regardless of their age, without interfering with the exemption.

**If You Think Your Rights Have Been Violated**
HUD is ready to help with any problem of housing discrimination. If you think your rights have been violated, the Housing Discrimination Complaint Form is available for you to download, complete and return, or complete online and submit, or you may write HUD a letter, or telephone the HUD Office nearest you. You have one year after an alleged violation to file a complaint with HUD, but you should file it as soon as possible.

**What to Tell HUD:**
- Your name and address
- The name and address of the person your complaint is against (the respondent)
- The address or other identification to the housing involved
- A short description to the alleged violation (the event that caused you to believe your rights were violated)
- The date(s) to the alleged violation

**Where to Write or Call:**
Send the Housing Discrimination Complaint Form or a letter to the HUD Office nearest you or you may call that office directly.

**If You Are Disabled:**
HUD also provides:
- A toll-free TTY phone for the hearing impaired: 1-800-927-9275.
- Interpreters
- Tapes and braille materials
- Assistance in reading and completing forms

**What Happens when You File a Complaint?**
HUD will notify you when it receives your complaint. Normally, HUD also will:
- Notify the alleged violator of your complaint and permit that person to submit an answer
- Investigate your complaint and determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe the Fair Housing Act has been violated
- Notify you if it cannot complete an investigation within 100 days of receiving your complaint
NOTICE OF RELEASE OF FUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

After receiving a Notice of Release of Funds/Environmental Clearance and incurring eligible costs, the grantee may request CDBG funds from the Department. The grantee must complete and send to the Department a Request for CDBG funds only as funds are needed for the project. CDBG funds will be disbursed electronically to the grantee’s bank account generally within two weeks if the request contains no errors. The grantee has only 5 business days to spend CDBG funds following receipt.

The Department recommends to grantees, as a sound financial practice, that CDBG funds be drawn after the grantee has incurred and paid the eligible expense. It is an absolute requirement that expenses are incurred prior to drawing CDBG funds. More information on requesting funds is available in Chapter 12.

AMENDMENTS

During the course of administering a project, situations may occur that require a change in the original terms of the CDBG contract. These changes are referred to as contract modifications or amendments, and include contract extensions.

Grantees must request approval from the Department for any modification or amendment to the CDBG contract. When submitting the request for approval, the grantee must complete and submit the CDBG Contract Amendment Request form to the Department along with any attachments required by the Department.

Common amendment requests include:
- Changes to the budget
- Extensions of the contract end date
- Decreases in proposed accomplishments
- Amendments to program guidelines

*The Department will review amendment requests using the following factors:*
- The effect the amendment will have on the points earned in the selection process.
- Whether the amendment is appropriate and will enhance the overall impact of the original project.
- Grantee’s performance and capacity. (An on-site visit may be required before a determination can be made).
- Any other relevant information.

The Department will inform grantees in writing as to whether the amendment has been approved. When the amendment is approved, the Department will provide the Grantee with a formal contract amendment, which will need to be executed by the grantee and the Department. Grantees should never assume that an amendment has been, or will be approved, and no action should be taken until written approval from the Department is received by the grantee.

Grantees should be aware that changes to the budget that allocate funds from one activity to another activity may require the Grantee to provide additional matching funds for the project, as the proportion of match to CDBG funds that was approved during the application phase must be maintained when the budget is modified.

Additional items may be required to accompany the submission of the CDBG Contract Amendment Request Form depending on the type of amendment request. Below is a list of the common types of
contract amendments and the attachments to be submitted to the Department with the CDBG Contract Amendment Request Form. For other types of contract amendments, please contact your program representative at the Department to determine what information will be required to process your request.

Changes to the Budget/Sources and Uses

- **Attachment 1**: Letter from the Chief Elected Official including:
  1) Certification that the local governing body has approved the budget amendment;
  2) Identification and reasons for the proposed budget amendment; including
     a. Changes to the nature of the project requiring the amendment
     b. Steps being taken to avoid any future amendment requests for the same reasons
  3) If additional local matching funds are required as a result of this amendment, certification that such funds are available.
  4) If the amendment includes a new activity, certification that the activity meets the national objective.

- **Attachment 2**: Minutes from the public hearing held on the proposed amendment (required if reallocating more than 10% of the total original grant amount).

- **Attachment 3**: If the budget amendment will affect major milestones, a revised implementation schedule showing when major milestones will be completed for each activity

- **Attachment 4**: Certification of re-evaluation of the environmental assessment (this form is included in Chapter 6 – Environmental Review)

Extensions of the Contract End Date

- **Attachment 1**: A letter from the Chief Elected Official stating the following:
  1) Certification that the local governing body has approved the extension;
  2) Identification and reasons for the proposed amendment; including
     a. Changes to the nature of the project requiring the amendment;
     b. Steps being taken to avoid any future amendment requests for the same reasons
  3) If additional local matching funds are required as a result of this extension, certification that such funds are available.

- **Attachment 2**: A revised implementation schedule showing when major milestones will be completed for each activity

Decreases in Proposed Accomplishments

- **Attachment 1**: A letter from the Chief Elected Official stating the following:
  1) Certification that the local governing body has approved the decrease in proposed accomplishments;
  2) Identification and reasons for the proposed amendment; including
     a. Changes to the nature of the project requiring the amendment;
     b. Steps being taken to avoid any future amendment requests for the same reasons
  3) If additional local matching funds are required as a result of this decrease, certification that such funds are available.

- **Attachment 2**: A revised implementation schedule showing when major milestones will be completed for each activity

Amendments to Program Guidelines (Housing and/or Commercial Rehabilitation)

- **Attachment 1:** Letter from the Chief Elected Official stating the following:
  1) Certification that the local governing body has approved the amendment to the program guidelines;
  2) Identification and reasons for the proposed amendment;
  3) If additional local matching funds are required as a result of this amendment, certification that such funds are available.

- **Attachment 2:** If the program guidelines amendment will affect major milestones, a revised implementation schedule showing when major milestones will be completed for each activity

- **Attachment 3:** A complete copy of the proposed revised program guidelines

**Note:** The CDBG Contract Amendment Request Form is available on the Department’s website at: [http://opportunity.nebraska.gov/community/grants/applications/cdbg-forms](http://opportunity.nebraska.gov/community/grants/applications/cdbg-forms)
This contract is entered into between the State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development ("Department") and the [Village/City] of [Anytown], Nebraska ("Grantee") upon the date of signature by both parties.

RECITALS:

A. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") has designated the Department as administrator of and has awarded the Department funds for the Community Development Block Grant Program ("CDBG").

B. The Grantee submitted an application ("Application") to undertake community development activities ("Project" or "Program") authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 ("HCDA" or "Act") and its corresponding federal regulations (24 C.F.R. Part 570) using CDBG funds.

C. The Department approved the Application with the authorized use of CDBG funds premised upon and conditioned on the Grantee fulfilling one of the three listed CDBG national objectives as a result of the CDBG-assisted activity:
   1. LMI Area Benefit: This national objective is usually satisfied in the context of community development projects involving public facilities or public improvements that serve a primarily residential area with at least 51% low to moderate income ("LMI") residents.
   2. LMI Limited Clientele: This national objective is usually satisfied when the public facilities or public improvements will be used for activities designed to benefit a particular group of persons (at least 51% of whom are LMI persons) rather than everyone in a general area.
   3. SBA Prevention/Elimination: This national objective addresses the prevention or elimination of slum and blighted areas ("SBA"). It is usually satisfied in the context of community development projects involving public facilities or public improvements by demonstrating the activities undertaken prevent or eliminate objectively determinable signs of slum or blight in a defined slum or blighted area. The specific criteria for qualifications for this national objective can be found in the CDBG regulations.

Failing to fulfill a national objective will result in the disallowance of CDBG funding for the Project, and CDBG regulations require the Grantee to repay all CDBG funds to the Department.

D. Based upon the Application, the following is the proposed LMI beneficiary data that was established at the time of Project approval and that is being used by the Department to ascertain the LMI national objective proposed to be met by the Project:
   1. The subcategory of LMI benefit being utilized for the Project is:
      - LMI Area Benefit
      - LMI Limited Clientele
      - LMI Jobs
      - LMI Housing
   2. The data for proposed beneficiaries is → 000 persons, of whom 000 (00.00%) are LMI persons.
AGREEMENT:
Premised on the Recitals above and in consideration of the mutual promises and understandings of the parties set forth below, the parties agree as follows:

PART I: TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

§1.01 Amount, Use, and Payment of CDBG Funds.
The total amount of CDBG funds to be paid by the Department to the Grantee for allowable expenses incurred will not exceed XX Thousand Dollars ($XXX,000).

The Nebraska Community Development Block Grant Program Administration Manual (“Administration Manual”) describes many restrictions governing the receipt of CDBG funds from the Department. Included among those restrictions are limitations on the amount of CDBG funds the Grantee is allowed to use for administrative expenses. Only XXX Dollars ($XXX) of CDBG funds may be used for approved administrative and audit expenses.

The CDBG funds granted to the Grantee must be used to fund the Project as detailed in the Application. The Project generally involves [description of activities] for [Anytown], Nebraska.

Requests by the Grantee for reimbursement of Project administration expenses will not be paid by the Department unless a CDBG Certified Administrator has been identified and is administering the Project at the time of each request for reimbursement of administration expenses. This requirement is applicable at all times throughout Project completion (including final Project reports).

To request payment of allowable expenses, the Grantee must submit a request for payment in the manner and form prescribed by the Department to the Housing and Community Development Division, Department of Economic Development, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94666, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4666.

§1.02 Time of Performance.
The time of performance for this contract is [24] months from [date]; therefore, the termination date of this contract will be [date]. All of the required activities and services, except for submission of final reports, administration, and audit, must be completed by or before this date. The provisions of this contract that survive the termination date are specified in Part IV.

§1.03 National Objective Compliance—Failure Requiring Repayment by Grantee.
Failing to fulfill a national objective will result in the disallowance of CDBG funding for the Project, and CDBG regulations require the Grantee to repay all CDBG funds to the Department.

§1.04 Incorporation of RECITALS.
All provisions of the RECITALS are incorporated as agreed provisions of this contract.

PART II: SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS.
Funding of the amount stipulated in §1.01 will not be released until the following special conditions for release of funds are met. These special conditions must be satisfactorily completed no later than [date]. The Department reserves the right to cancel the contract if these special conditions are not met by this date.
§2.01  **Grantee Information Sheet.** The Grantee must submit a completed Program Grantee Information Sheet to the Department as prescribed.

§2.02  **Environmental Review.** The Grantee must submit documentation to the Department evidencing the completion of its responsibilities for environmental review and decision making pertaining to the Project and its compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other provisions of federal law, as specified in 24 C.F.R. Part 58, which further the purposes of NEPA.

§2.03  **Authorization to Request Funds Form.** The Grantee must complete and return an Authorization to Request Funds form as prescribed by the Department.

§2.04  **Financial Management.** The Grantee must submit documentation evidencing completion of all financial management system requirements and execution of the financial management certification form prescribed by the Department.

§2.05  **Procurement Standards.** The Grantee must submit documentation to the Department evidencing adoption of appropriate procurement standards in compliance with provisions of federal law including, but not limited to, 24 C.F.R. Part 85, 24 C.F.R. §570.489, and 2 C.F.R. §§200.318 through 200.326 (with emphasis on the provisions in 2 C.F.R. §200.322 regarding procurement of recovered materials). Such procurement standards must include written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of the Grantee’s employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts.

§2.06  **Excessive Force Certification.** The Grantee must provide documentation that it has adopted a policy to prohibit the use of excessive force by local law enforcement agencies against any individual engaged in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations.

§2.07  **Fair Housing.** The Grantee must submit documentation identifying its fair housing representative, and it must include the representative’s name and contact information. The Grantee must submit a description of the actions it will take during the course of the Project to fulfill any requirements to affirmatively further fair housing and must also submit documentation demonstrating the actions that were actually taken, including the details of such actions (e.g. when the actions occurred, who participated, who benefitted, etc.). The requirement to submit documentation demonstrating the actions that were actually taken need not be submitted within the time frame for completion of the special conditions, but such documentation must be submitted prior to closeout of the grant. The Department’s Administration Manual contains additional detail about affirmatively furthering fair housing.

§2.08  **Implementation Schedule.** The Grantee must complete and submit the Nebraska CDBG Grantee Implementation Schedule Form. The Implementation Schedule will serve as the schedule for completion of the Project and may be used by the Department to assess Project progress.

§2.09  **CDBG Certified Administrator Required.** The Grantee must submit documentation identifying the CDBG Certified Administrator that will be used for the Project. The Department’s Administration Manual contains details about the certification process. Reimbursement of Project expenses will not be paid by the Department unless a CDBG Certified Administrator is identified and administering the Project at the time of the request for reimbursement.
§2.10 Limited English Proficiency. The Grantee must submit documentation evidencing completion of its responsibilities to ensuring meaningful access to the Project activities and services for persons with Limited English Proficiency (“LEP”) as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Executive Order 13166; and HUD’s final “Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons”, which was published in the Federal Register on January 22, 2007 and which became effective on March 7, 2007 (“HUD LEP Guidance”).

Such documentation must include all of the following: (1) information identifying the LEP representative for the Grantee, including the representative’s name and contact information; (2) a Four Factor Analysis that is consistent with the HUD LEP Guidance; and (3) a description of the actions the Grantee will take during the course of the Project to fulfill the requirements to provide meaningful access to LEP persons. If deemed necessary as a result of the Four Factor analysis, the Grantee will also prepare and submit to the Department a Language Access Plan (“LAP”) that includes all elements of an effective LAP as defined by HUD.

The Grantee must also submit documentation demonstrating LEP services provided and keep records of all requests for LEP services and all LEP services actually provided. The requirement to submit documentation demonstrating the LEP services provided need not be submitted within the time frame for completion of the special conditions, but such documentation must be submitted prior to closeout of the grant.

§2.11 Other Special Conditions. None.

PART III: SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS.

§3.01 Sources and Uses of Funds.

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<tr>
<th>SOURCES→</th>
<th>CDBG</th>
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The Sources and Uses of Funds table above reflects:

- The anticipated total costs of the CDBG-assisted Project.
- The CDBG-assisted activities being funded.
- The sources and amounts of other matching funds required for each activity.
- The maximum authorized CDBG funds for each CDBG-assisted activity.
- The ratio (derived by computation, not expressly shown) of CDBG funds to other matching funds for each CDBG-assisted activity that is a further limitation upon the maximum authorized CDBG funds which may be paid for each activity. The ratio is invoked as a limitation if the actual total costs of the activity are less than anticipated.

[An example illustrates this point: If the anticipated cost of an activity, such as the acquisition of equipment, was $100,000–with $40,000 to be from CDBG funds and $60,000 to be from the benefited business–but the actual cost of the equipment turned out to be $90,000, then the 40% ratio limits CDBG]
The proportionality (derived by computation, not expressly shown) of funding from all funding sources for each activity and for the Project in total. Disbursement of CDBG funds will be made only on a pro rata basis with all other funding sources for each activity and for the Project in total. CDBG funds will not be the first funds invested in the Project, but rather CDBG funds will flow into the Project in proportion to all other funding sources.

PART IV: OTHER CONTRACTUAL CONDITIONS.

§4.01 Program Income.
Program income is regulated by the provisions of 24 C.F.R. §570.489(e). The exact text of this regulation should be consulted for definitions and other guidance concerning program income.

Program income generally means any gross income received by the Grantee or a subrecipient of the Grantee that was generated from the use of CDBG funds; however, some exceptions are detailed in 24 C.F.R. §570.489(e)(2). Program income includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- payments of principal and interest on loans made using CDBG funds.
- proceeds from the disposition (by sale or long-term lease) of real property purchased or improved with CDBG funds.
- proceeds from the disposition of equipment purchased with CDBG funds.
- interest earned on program income pending its disposition.
- interest earned on CDBG funds held in a revolving loan fund's cash balance interest-bearing account.

All program income received prior to the completion of the approved grant activities must be applied to those activities prior to requesting additional CDBG funds from the Department. In other words, the Grantee’s pool of program income must be the "first out" and must be fully depleted before it may request "new" CDBG funds from the Department.

The Grantee agrees to treat all received and/or retained program income as additional CDBG funds subject to all requirements applicable to the CDBG Program. Additionally, the Grantee agrees to submit regularly occurring reports to the Department regarding program income and agrees, upon the Department’s request, to maintain a contractual relationship with the Department for the duration of the time period in which the Grantee maintains program income.

§4.02 Matching Requirements.
The Grantee agrees to provide matching and other leveraged funds for each approved activity in the amounts, ratios, and proportions set forth in Part III. Matching and other leveraged funds must be expended during the grant period.

With each request for CDBG funds, the Grantee is required to certify the amount of matching funds applied to the Project. Project costs are to be paid from grant and matching funds as specified in Part III. The Grantee will be responsible for costs that exceed the total Project costs.

§4.03 Legal Authority and Acceptance of Environmental Review Responsibility.
By signing this contract, the Grantee certifies that it possesses the legal authority to accept CDBG funds and to carry out the Project described in this contract and that the Grantee's chief elected official:
(a) Consents to assume the status of responsible federal official and the responsibilities for environmental review and decision making under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.
(NEPA) and other provisions of federal law as specified in 24 C.F.R. Part 58 which further the purposes of NEPA; and

(b) Is authorized and consents, on behalf of the Grantee, to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts for the purpose of enforcement of their responsibilities as such responsible federal official.

§4.04 Designation of Officials to Execute Contract and Amendments.
The Director of the Department or their designee is the official authorized to execute this contract and any amendments to this contract on behalf of the Department.

The Chief Elected Official of the Grantee or their designee is the official authorized to execute this contract and any amendments to this contract on behalf of the Grantee.

Either party may request amendments to this contract; however, amendments will not take effect until mutually agreed to in writing by both parties.

§4.05 Grantee Compliance with CDBG Regulations and Uniform Administrative Requirements.
The Grantee must comply with all applicable CDBG Regulations in 24 C.F.R. Part 570. The Grantee must also comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements set forth in this contract and in 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (which have been adopted by HUD through 2 C.F.R. Part 2400) or any reasonably equivalent procedures and requirements that the Department may prescribe.

In particular, the Grantee agrees to establish internal controls in order to have reasonable assurance that the Grantee is carrying out the Project in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of this contract, as required by 2 C.F.R. §200.303. The Grantee also agrees to comply with provisions regarding the protection of personally identifiable information, as required by 2 C.F.R. §200.303 and 2 C.F.R. §200.512.

§4.06 Record Keeping.
The Grantee agrees to keep the following records: (1) records as specified in 24 C.F.R. §570.506 Records to be Maintained; (2) adequate documentation to support costs charged to the CDBG Program; (3) records detailing procurement procedures followed by Grantee; (4) records that include data on the racial, ethnic, and gender characteristics of persons who are applicants for, participants in, or beneficiaries of the Project, as required by 24 C.F.R §570.490 for fair housing and equal opportunity purposes; and (5) any other records as the Department may reasonably require. The Grantee agrees to keep such records so the Department can perform a 24 C.F.R. §570.492 State’s review and audits.

All records pertinent to this grant and work undertaken as part of the Project must be retained by the Grantee for the period required by 2 C.F.R. §200.333 (as interpreted by HUD and applied to the CDBG Program through 24 C.F.R. §570.490). The Grantee also agrees to comply with the methods for collection, transmission, and storage of information as described in 2 C.F.R §200.335.

The Department and any duly authorized official of the state and federal government will have full access to and the right to examine, audit, excerpt, and/or transcribe any of the Grantee’s records pertaining to all matters covered by this contract. The Grantee agrees to transfer records pertinent to this grant and work undertaken as part of the Project to the Department upon request.
§4.07 Reports.
The Grantee must submit semiannual reports to the Department, in such form as it may prescribe, pertaining to the activities undertaken as a result of this contract. The Grantee will also be required to submit a final performance and financial report, in such form as the Department may prescribe, at grant closeout. All semiannual reports must be submitted to the Department no later than thirty (30) days following the end of the reporting period. All final performance and financial reports must be submitted to the Department no later than ninety (90) days after the termination date of this contract. Additionally, prior to closeout, the Grantee must submit documentation demonstrating the actions that were taken to affirmatively further fair housing and demonstrating the LEP services provided by the Grantee during the course of the grant.

§4.08 Cost Principles; Audits; Post-Closeout Adjustments and Continuing Responsibilities.
The Grantee is responsible for the efficient and effective administration of the CDBG funds provided to it under this contract. The Grantee agrees to administer the CDBG funds in a manner consistent with this contract, HUD’s administrative requirements for the CDBG program, the provisions of the Department’s Administration Manual, and all federal and state laws, regulations, and executive orders applicable to the CDBG-assisted Project.

Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) must be followed, and audits of this grant will be conducted in accordance with the Single Audit Act of 1984, as amended, and the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements in 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (which have been adopted by HUD through 2 C.F.R. Part 2400). The Grantee is required by 2 C.F.R §200.512 to submit the required audit reporting package to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (“FAC”) within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the auditor’s reports or nine (9) months after the end of the audit period, whichever is earlier. Audit costs are an allowable general administration cost subject to limitations established by the applicable law and the Department.

The closeout of this grant does not affect the right of the Department or any duly authorized official of the state and federal government to disallow costs and recover funds from the Grantee on the basis of a later audit or other review. In other words, the obligation of the Grantee to return any funds due as a result of an audit is not affected by closeout of this grant.

§4.09 Conflict of Interest.
The Grantee must comply with the conflict of interest prohibitions set forth for the CDBG program in 24 C.F.R. §570.489 and 2 C.F.R. §200.318 and in the Grantee’s written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest submitted to the Department as required in Part II. In the event prohibited conflicts of interest arise, the Grantee must inform the Department of such conflicts of interest as soon as possible. Exceptions to the prohibition may be granted by the Department on a case-by-case basis.

§4.10 Applicability to Subrecipients and Contractors.
All provisions of this contract will be made binding on any subrecipient or contractor of the Grantee, and the Grantee will, nonetheless, remain fully obligated under the provisions of this contract.

Any such subrecipient or contractor of the Grantee must be authorized to transact business in the State of Nebraska. All subrecipients and contractors are expected to comply with all Nebraska Secretary of State and Department of Revenue registration requirements, including any registration requirements pertaining to types of business entities (e.g. sole proprietorship, partnership, foreign/domestic limited liability company, association, or foreign/domestic corporation). Construction contractors are expected
to meet all applicable requirements of the Nebraska Contractor Registration Act and provide a current, valid certificate of registration to the Grantee for its records.

Upon request of the Department, the Grantee must submit copies of written agreements executed between the Grantee and any subrecipients or contractors relating to the Project.

§4.11 Funding Source Recognition.
Prior to referring to the Project or Project activities in publications, the Grantee must inform the Department and, if requested, include a reference to the CDBG funding made available for the Project.

If the Project results in any copyrightable material or inventions, the Department and/or the State of Nebraska reserves the right to a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use and/or authorize others to use the work or materials for governmental purposes.

§4.13 Religious Activities.
The Grantee agrees that CDBG funds provided under this contract will not be used for inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization, prohibited by 24 C.F.R. 570.200(j).

§4.14 Title, Use, and Disposition of Property/Supplies/Equipment; Insurance.
The Grantee agrees to comply with the provisions of 2 C.F.R. §§200.311 through 200.316 regarding the title, use, and disposition of property, supplies, and equipment.
In accordance with 2 C.F.R. §200.310, the Grantee agrees to, at a minimum, provide insurance coverage that is equivalent to the insurance it provides for its other property for the real property and equipment acquired or improved with CDBG funds.

§4.15 Anti-Lobbying.
To the best of the Grantee’s knowledge and belief: no federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid by or on behalf of the Grantee to any person for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

If any funds other than federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the Grantee must complete and submit Standard Form-LLL “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying” in accordance with its instructions.

§4.16 Waivers and Assignment of Interest.
No conditions or provisions of this contract can be waived unless approved by the Department in writing. The Grantee may not assign or transfer any interest in this contract to any other party without the written consent of the Department.
§4.17 Non-Waiver of Rights.
The Department's failure to insist upon the strict performance of any provision of this contract or to exercise any right based upon breach will not constitute a waiver of any rights under this contract.

§4.18 Severability.
If any provision of this contract or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity will not affect other provisions of this contract.

§4.19 Early Termination; Termination by Mutual Agreement.
The Department may terminate this contract for any reason upon sixty (60) days written notice to the Grantee.

This contract may also be terminated, in whole or in part, prior to the completion of project activities when both parties agree that continuation is not feasible or would not produce beneficial results commensurate with the further expenditure of funds. In the event of mutual termination, the parties must agree on the termination conditions, including the effective date and the portion to be terminated.

The Grantee may not incur new obligations for the terminated portion after the effective date and must cancel as many outstanding obligations as possible. The Department will make funds available to the Grantee to pay for allowable expenses incurred before the effective date of termination.

§4.20 Termination for Cause.
In the event of a default or violation of the terms of this contract by the Grantee or a failure to use the grant for only those purposes set forth herein, the Department may take the following actions (which are supplemental to other default remedies specified elsewhere in this contract):

(a) Suspension. After notice to the Grantee, the Department may suspend the contract and withhold any further payment or prohibit the Grantee from incurring additional obligations of grant funds pending corrective action by the Grantee or a decision to terminate.

(b) Termination. The Department may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, at any time whenever it is determined that the Grantee has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract. The Department will promptly notify the Grantee in writing of the determination to and the reasons for termination, along with the effective date. Payments made to the Grantee or recoveries by the Department under contracts terminated for cause will be in accordance with the legal rights and liabilities of the parties. Payments and recoveries may include, but are not limited to, payments allowed for costs determined to be in compliance with the terms of this contract up to the date of termination. The Grantee must return all unencumbered funds, and any costs previously paid by the Department that are subsequently determined to be unallowable through audit and closeout procedures may be recovered from present grant funds or deducted from future grants.

§4.21 Termination Due to Loss of Funds.
This contract may terminate, in full or in part at the discretion of the Department, in the event the Department suffers a loss of funding or a termination of the federal funds which permit it to fund this grant. In the event it suffers such a loss of funding, the Department will give the Grantee written notice which will set forth the effective date of full or partial termination or, if a change in funding is required, setting forth the change in funding.
§4.22 State of Nebraska Non-Liability/Hold Harmless.
The Grantee must hold the State of Nebraska and the Department harmless from any and all claims, demands, and actions based upon or arising out of any activities or services performed by the Grantee or by its officials, officers, employees, agents, or associates.

§4.23 Entire Agreement; Binding Effect; Counterparts.
This instrument and any attachments, the approved Application, and those items incorporated by reference contain the entire agreement between the parties. Any statements, inducements, or promises not contained therein will not be binding upon the parties.

This agreement will be binding upon and will inure to the benefit of the successors, assigns, and legal representatives of the parties.

This agreement or any amendment to this agreement may be signed in any number of counterparts; each of which will be considered an original, and all of which taken together will constitute one agreement or amendment, as the case may be.

§4.24 Governing Law.
This agreement shall be governed by, construed according to the laws and regulations of, and subject to the jurisdiction of the State of Nebraska.

§4.25 Verification of Work Eligibility Status for New Employees.
The Grantee is required and hereby agrees to use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of new employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska.

In this context, "new employees" means employees hired on or after the effective date of this contract. A "federal immigration verification system" means the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a), known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the work eligibility status of a newly hired employee.

This contractual obligation to verify work eligibility status for new employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska also applies to any and all subcontractors utilized by the Grantee in performing this contract. The Grantee will be responsible to the Department for enforcing this requirement with its subcontractors.

A failure by the Grantee to adhere to these requirements is a violation of the statutory requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. §4-114 and, as such, will be deemed a substantial breach of this contract which could result in the Department declaring the Grantee to be in default on the contract.

§4.26 Debarment, Suspension, and Ineligibility; Universal Numbering System and Registration Requirements.
By executing this contract, the Grantee certifies, represents, and warrants that the Grantee and all subrecipients or contractors to be used by the Grantee in performing this contract are not debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, placed in ineligibility status, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by HUD or any other federal agency under the provisions of Executive Order 12549 “Debarment and Suspension” and any applicable government debarment and suspension regulations. The
Grantee agrees to immediately notify the Department if it or any of its subrecipients or contractors become sanctioned or debarred. The Grantee acknowledges that suspension or debarment and/or use by the Grantee of suspended or debarred subrecipients or contractors is cause for termination of this contract.

The Grantee agrees to comply with all requirements established by the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) concerning participation in the Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (“DUNS”), registration with the Federal System for Awards Management (“SAM”), and maintenance of such participation and registration.

**§4.27 Mandatory Disclosures.**

As required by 2 C.F.R. §200.113, Grantee must immediately disclose to the Department, HUD, and/or other appropriate authorities (with a copy to the Department) all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the use of CDBG funds provided under this contract.

**§4.28 Force Majeure.**

Neither party shall be liable for any costs or damages resulting from its inability to perform any of its obligations under the contract due to a natural disaster or other similar event outside the control of and not the fault of the affected party (“Force Majeure Event”). A Force Majeure Event shall not constitute a breach of the contract. The party so affected shall immediately give notice to the other party of the Force Majeure Event. The Department may grant relief from performance of the contract if the Grantee is prevented from performance by a Force Majeure Event. The burden of proof for the need for such relief shall rest upon the Grantee. To obtain release based on a Force Majeure Event, the Grantee shall file a written request for such relief with the Department.

Labor disputes with the impacted party’s own employees will not be considered a Force Majeure Event and will not suspend performance requirements under the contract.

**§4.29 Drug Free Workplace.**

The Grantee agrees to maintain a drug free workplace environment to ensure worker safety and workplace integrity and agrees to provide a copy of its drug free workplace policy at any time upon request by the Department.

**§4.30 Notice.**

Except as otherwise expressly specified herein, all notices, requests, or other communications shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given if delivered personally or mailed by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid and return receipt requested, to the parties at their respective addresses set forth in the Application, in this contract, or at such other addresses as may be specified in writing by either of the parties. All notices, requests, or communications shall be deemed effective upon personal delivery or four (4) calendar days following deposit in the mail.

**§4.31 Survival.**

The terms of this contract regarding national objective compliance, program income, use of funds, matching requirements, record keeping, audits, reports, and notice (and other terms that by their nature should survive the termination or expiration of this contract) shall survive expiration or termination of this contract.
PART V: COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS.
The Grantee agrees to comply with the administrative requirements for the CDBG program established by the Department and HUD, with the provisions of the Department's Administration Manual, and with all federal and state laws, regulations, and executive orders applicable to the CDBG-assisted Project, as now in effect and as such law may be amended, during the term of this contract including, but not limited to:

- Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended ("HCDA").
- Clean Air Act and Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.
- Federal Restrictions on the use of the power of eminent domain.
- The Davis-Bacon Act (and related requirements).
- Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (and related requirements).
- Copeland “Anti-Kickback” Act (and related requirements).
- Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act, the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act, and regulations at 24 C.F.R. Part 35.
- Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968; and 24 C.F.R. Part 135.
- The requirement in the HCDA to affirmatively further fair housing.
- Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (and related acts and requirements).
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (The Fair Housing Act); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; The Housing for Older Persons Act of 1995; and related acts and requirements.
- Nebraska Uniform Energy Efficiency Standards, §§81-1608 to 81-1626.

ACCEPTANCE PROVISIONS.
The parties acknowledge they have read and understand this contract, they agree to its provisions, and that it will be effective on the date when both parties have signed.

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<th>GRANTEE→ [Village] of [Anytown], Nebraska</th>
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SECTION 504

Responsibilities at the Local Level

The passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 marked the first time in U.S. history that the civil rights of persons with disabilities were specifically protected.

The intent of the Rehabilitation Act was to end discrimination based on disability when federal funding was involved. This represented a national commitment to equal opportunity.

This law reflects an awareness that accessibility extends beyond building and buses to attitudinal prejudices. Inaccessibility in any form will lead to the limitation of full economic and social participation of citizens in any community and will limit a community’s potential.

Section 504 of the rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, applies to all Grantees of federal funds.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development issued its procedures and policies on June 2, 1988, 15 years after Congress passed the Rehabilitation Act. These regulations require that any applicant for, or recipient of federal funds will not discriminate on the basis of handicap in employment or in programs for qualified handicapped persons.

“Handicap person” is defined as an individual who has a physical or mental impairment substantially limiting one or more major life activities, has a record of this type of impairment and is regarded as having such an impairment.

Grantees must ensure that contracts, subcontracts or agreements contain nondiscrimination clauses.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988, requires that your entire community comply with Section 504 in all operations.

Self-Evaluation

The first step determining whether a municipality meets Section 504 requirements is a self-evaluation. The assessment must include an examination of all functions of the Grantees distributing or receiving funds.

Handicapped persons and or representative organizations, as well as, any interested persons must be included in the process. The self-evaluation must include careful inspection of:

- employment and personnel policies and practices,
- the extent to which programs and activities are readily accessible usable by individuals with disabilities,
- the extent to which benefits and service delivery is free from discriminatory effects,
- the intent to which contractual arrangements are free from subjecting handicapped persons to discrimination,

An effective approach to examining service and program accessibility is to do a walk through of the process required for participation. Analyze not only the physical path traveled, but also the administrative requirements, service delivery, eligibility, criteria and application procedures.
Any policies and practices that are found to be contrary to Section 504 requirements must be modified and steps taken to remedy the discrimination.

**Transition Plan**

When and if structural barriers have been identified during the self-evaluation process and cannot be removed with nonstructural solution, a transition plan must be completed and be made available for public inspection. The transition plan must involve disabled persons and or representative organizations. The plan must:

- identify physical obstacles in the facilities that limit program accessibility,
- describe in detail the method that will be used to make facilities accessible,
- specify a schedule to achieve full program compliance and if the plan is longer than one year identify steps to be taken during each year,
- indicate the person responsible for implementing the plan,
- identify the person or groups with whose assistance the plan was prepared.

“Accessible” under Section 504 mean ensuring that program and activities when viewed in their entirety are accessible to, and usable by individuals with handicaps.

Grantees are not necessarily required to make each existing facility or every part of an existing facility accessible, although in some cases that will be the only way to achieve accessibility.

**Specifics About Communication**

Communication is also an important component of accessibility. Disabilities may include a wide variety of impairments - hearing, visual, speech or mobility. Varied approaches may be required to assure effective information dissemination such as using audio and visual materials. Members of the community who have disabilities must likewise be able to communicate with the town. Auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreter, may be required.

Grantees must ensure effective communication with persons with all types of disabilities in all activities. Where the Grantee communicates with applicants and beneficiaries by phone, a TDD is required or an equally equivalent system must be available.

**Specifics About Nondiscrimination In Employment**

Any federally assisted Grantee cannot legally limit, segregate or classify applicant or employees in any way that negatively affects their status or opportunities because of handicap. In pre-employment and employment activities discrimination based on a handicap must not occur and reasonable accommodations must be made to the physical or mental limitations of otherwise qualified individuals unless it creates undue hardship for the Grantee.

It is important to remember that the essence of Section 504 provides for equal opportunity not necessarily identical results or level of achievements. Section 504 does not require the hiring or promotion of someone simply because they have a disability.

Reasonable accommodation in employment is determined on a case by case basis. It means reasonable modifications on the job or the work place to enable a handicapped person to perform the job for which they are qualified.
HUD’s regulations specify that an employer is prohibited from discriminating in:
- Recruiting, advertising and processing of applications,
- Hiring, upgrading, promoting, tenure, demotion, transfer, layoffs, termination right or return from layoffs, illness and rehiring,
- Rates of pay and any other forms of compensation,
- Job assignments, classifications and description, organizations structure, lines, progression and seniority lists.

A Grantee must examine its employment policies and practices as part of the detailed self-evaluation. This assessment scrutinizes employment tests and other procedures of selection to make sure that they do not screen out handicapped persons. Selection procedures must be job related and measure a person’s ability not an impairment.

**Specifics About Program Accessibility**

Under HUD’s regulations program accessibility is divided into two broad categories: non-housing and housing. The technical standards used by HUD for determining physical access in both categories is the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards. (UFAS)

“Facility” is defined under Section 504 as any portion of a building, equipment, roads, walkways, parking lot or other real property. “Accessible” for non-housing purposes means that a facility or portion of a facility can be approached, entered and used by individuals with physical handicaps. For housing purpose, accessible means in addition that a dwelling is on an accessible route and adaptable inside.

Non housing programs as well as existing facilities in which they are situated must be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. Accessibility problems will be determined once again under your self-evaluation. The focus of program access is providing your programs in the most integrated setting possible. Providing separate or different programs is illegal unless necessary to achieve equal opportunity.

Methods of improving program access in existing facilities can include:
- Relocating programs to accessible facilities or accessible portions facilities.
- Acquiring or building new facilities,
- Selectively altering facilities,
- Changing operating policies and procedures,
- Assigning aides to assist beneficiaries,
- Adding or redesigning equipment or furnishings,
- Conducting home visits.

All newly constructed multi-family, federally assisted housing project under Section 504 must have:
- A minimum of 5% of total dwelling units accessible for individuals with mobility impairments,
- An additional 2% of units accessible for persons with hearing or vision impairments,
- All units made adaptable that are on the ground level or can be reached by an elevator.

The Fair Housing Amendment Act (Title VII) passed in 1988, extended federal housing anti-discrimination protection to families and people with disabilities. Section 504 is often more exacting in its requirements than Title VII.
The primary difference between the two is the Fair Housing Amendment requires that a landlord must allow a tenant to make reasonable modifications to a unit, paid for by the tenant. Section 504 provides that the landlord is responsible for making, and paying for reasonable accommodations.

**Compliance And Complaints**
HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity is responsible for seeking cooperation from and providing assistance to recipients regarding compliance. FHEO may perform periodic reviews of Grantees or require reports or other information to measure your compliance, including records of program participation by individuals with handicaps.

A complaint can be made by any individual or authorized representative of that individual who believes they have been the subject of discrimination based on a disability. This complaint would be filed with FHEO. The complainant’s identity will be held in confidence unless written authorization is given.

The time period for filing complaints is within 180 days of the alleged act. The Grantee will be notified by FHEO within 10 calendar days of receiving the complaint. Within 20 calendar days of this acknowledgement the complaint will be accepted, rejected or referred to the appropriate federal agency.

Rather than having to exhaust administrative appeals a person who believes their rights have been violated under Section 504 may file in federal court. The remedy through court action may include the award of damages, back pay, seniority and as with any equal opportunity action, attorney fees, or injunction against the noncomplying project.

It is HUD’s policy to encourage informal resolutions to matters, solicit voluntary compliance and corrective action. Noncompliance with requirements of Section 504 may ultimately result in the termination of or refusal to grant federal assistance.

**Special Requirements For Grantees With 15+ Employees**
There are several special requirements for Section 504 compliance for Grantees with 15 or more full or part time employees.

Grantees must keep a list of interested person or groups consulted in the self-evaluation process, a description of the areas examined and problems identified and a description of the modifications made and remedies taken to eliminate discriminatory policies and practices. This should remain available for public review for at least 3 years after completion.

A least one person must be designated to coordinate compliance efforts and most often it is the City Manager.

A grievance procedure must be adopted for larger municipalities incorporating due process standards and allowing for prompt local resolution of any complaints of discrimination based on disability. Existing grievance procedures can often be adapted to satisfy this requirement.

Initial and continuing notices must be given to the public, job applicants and employees of their rights.
under Section 504 and the municipality’s policy against discrimination, including that reasonable accommodation will be made.

Similar notice needs to be included in any municipal recruitment or information material. The notice must include:

- A statement that your municipality does not discriminate on the basis of handicap status in the provision of its programs, services or personnel practices.
- The name of the program coordinator who is the responsible employee designated to coordinate the implementation of the handicapped discrimination requirements.
- Methods of notification which ensure that visually impaired and hearing impaired persons will have access to the information.