

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TDHCA Governing Board Approved Rule Action for

10 TAC Chapter 2, Subchapter B, Enforcement for Noncompliance with Program Requirements of Chapters 6 and 7, §2.201, Cost Reimbursement, and §2.202 Sanctions and Contract Closeout

Disclaimer

Attached is a rule action relating to 10 TAC Chapter 2, Subchapter B, Enforcement for Noncompliance with Program Requirements of Chapters 6 and 7, §2.201, Cost Reimbursement, and §2.202 Sanctions and Contract Closeout, that was approved by the TDHCA Governing Board on January 16, 2025.

This rule will be released for public comment and returned to the Board for final adoption.

This document, including its preamble, is expected to be published in the January 31 2025, edition of the *Texas Register* and that published version will constitute the official version for purposes of public comment and can be found at the following link: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/index.shtml>.

In compliance with §2001.023, Texas Government Code, a summary of the rule and action follows:

10 TAC Chapter 2, Subchapter B, Enforcement for Noncompliance with Program Requirements of Chapters 6 and 7, §2.201, Cost Reimbursement, and §2.202 Sanctions and Contract Closeout, have been identified by staff as needing several minor revisions. The current rule was last amended in March 2021. Changes bring this rule into consistency with other more recent revisions to Department rules and processes and to improve clarity. This rule will be released for public comment and returned to the Board for final adoption.

Public Comment

Public Comment Period: Start: 8:00 a.m. Austin local time on January 31, 2025

End: 5:00 p.m. Austin local time on March 4, 2025

Comments received after 5:00 p.m. Austin local time on March 4, 2025, will not be accepted.

Written comments may be submitted, within the designated public comment period to:

brooke.boston@tdhca.state.tx.us

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

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

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Street Address: 221 East 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701

Mailing Address: PO Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711-3941

Main Number: 512-475-3800 Toll Free: 1-800-525-0657

Email: info@tdhca.state.tx.us Web: www.tdhca.state.tx.us

Departamento de Vivienda y Asuntos Comunitarios de Texas

Acción reglamentaria aprobada por la Junta Directiva del TDHCA respecto a

la sección [§] 2.201 [“Reembolso de costos”] y la sección [§] 2.202 [“Sanciones y liquidación contratos”] del subcapítulo B [“Observancia respecto al incumplimiento de requisitos de programas de los capítulos 6 y 7”] del capítulo 2 del título 10 del Código Administrativo de Texas (TAC)

Exención de responsabilidad

Se adjunta una acción reglamentaria relacionada con la sección [§] 2.201 [“Reembolso de costos”] y la sección [§] 2.202 [“Sanciones y liquidación contratos”] del subcapítulo B [“Observancia respecto al incumplimiento de requisitos de programas de los capítulos 6 y 7”] del capítulo 2 del título 10 del Código Administrativo de Texas (TAC), que recibió aprobación por parte de la Junta Directiva del Departamento de Vivienda y Asuntos Comunitarios (TDHCA) el 16 de enero de 2025.

Esta regla se publicará para someterse a comentarios del público y se devolverá a la Junta para su adopción final.

Se espera que este documento, incluyendo su preámbulo, se publique en la edición del *Texas Register* del 31 de enero de 2025. Esa versión publicada constituirá la versión oficial para fines de comentarios públicos y se puede encontrar en el siguiente enlace: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/index.shtml>.

De conformidad con la sección [§] 2001.023 del Código de Gobierno de Texas, se presenta a continuación un resumen de la regla y de la acción:

El personal ha identificado que la sección [§] 2.201 [“Reembolso de costos”] y la sección [§] 2.202 [“Sanciones y liquidación contratos”] del subcapítulo B [“Observancia respecto al incumplimiento de requisitos de programas de los capítulos 6 y 7”] del capítulo 2 del título 10 del Código Administrativo de Texas (TAC) necesitan varias modificaciones menores. La regla actual se modificó por última vez en marzo de 2021. Los cambios ponen esta regla en coherencia con otras modificaciones más recientes de las reglas y procesos del Departamento, mejorando asimismo la claridad. Esta regla se publicará para someterse a comentarios del público y se devolverá a la Junta para su adopción final.

Comentarios del público

Periodo de comentarios del público: Inicio: 8:00 a. m., hora local de Austin, del 31 de enero de 2025

Finalización: 5:00 p. m., hora local de Austin, del 4 de marzo de 2025

No se aceptarán los comentarios que se reciban después de las 5:00 p. m., hora local de Austin, del 4 de marzo de 2025.

Los comentarios por escrito pueden enviarse de manera electrónica dentro del período designado de comentarios del público a **brooke.boston@tdhca.state.tx.us**.

Se anima a quienes formulen comentarios públicos a que hagan referencia al borrador de la regla, política o plan específico relacionado con su comentario, así como una referencia o cita específica asociada a cada comentario. Tenga en cuenta que todos los comentarios enviados al TDHCA se considerarán información pública.

DEPARTAMENTO DE VIVIENDA Y ASUNTOS COMUNITARIOS DE TEXAS

Dirección: 221 East 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701

Dirección de correspondencia: P.O. Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711-3941

Número principal: 512-475-3800 Número gratuito: 1-800-525-0657

Correo electrónico: txhaf@tdhca.state.tx.us Web: www.tdhca.state.tx.us

Attachment 1: Preamble, including required analysis, for proposed repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 2, Subchapter B, Enforcement for Noncompliance with Program Requirements of Chapters 6 and 7, §2.201, Cost Reimbursement, and §2.202 Sanctions and Contract Closeout

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes the repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 2, Subchapter B, Enforcement for Noncompliance with Program Requirements of Chapters 6 and 7, §2.201, Cost Reimbursement, and §2.202 Sanctions and Contract Closeout. The purpose of the proposed repeal is to make changes to bring this rule into consistency with other more recent revisions to Department rules and processes and to improve clarity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Department has evaluated the repeal and determined that the 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 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 repeal as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the 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 repeal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the changed sections would be an updated and more germane rule. There will not be economic costs to individuals required to comply with the repealed section.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the 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 January 31, 2025 through March 4, 2025, to receive input on the proposed action. Comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Brooke Boston at brooke.boston@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, March 4, 2025.

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

§2.201, Cost Reimbursement

§2.202 Sanctions and Contract Closeout

Attachment 2: Preamble, including required analysis, for proposed new 10 TAC Chapter 2, Subchapter B, Enforcement for Noncompliance with Program Requirements of Chapters 6 and 7, §2.201, Cost Reimbursement, and §2.202 Sanctions and Contract Closeout

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes new 10 TAC Chapter 2, Subchapter B, Enforcement for Noncompliance with Program Requirements of Chapters 6 and 7, §2.201, Cost Reimbursement, and §2.202 Sanctions and Contract Closeout. The purpose of the proposed repeal is to make changes to bring this rule into consistency with other more recent revisions to Department rules and processes and to improve clarity.

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

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

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

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

1. The new sections do not create or eliminate a government program but relates to changes to an existing activity: how to handle certain facets of enforcement actions relating to the Community Affairs and Homelessness Programs.
2. The new sections do not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor are the rule changes significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that eliminates any existing employee positions.
3. The new sections do not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The new sections will not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor in a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The new sections are not creating a new regulation, except that they are replacing sections being repealed simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The new sections will not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation.
7. The new sections will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.
8. The new sections will not negatively or positively affect the state's economy.

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

The Department has evaluated the new sections and determined that they 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 new sections do not contemplate or authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

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

The Department has evaluated the new sections as to their possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the new sections would be in effect there would be no economic

effect on local employment; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required to be prepared for the rule.

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

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the new sections are in effect, enforcing or administering the sections 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 January 31, 2025 through March 4, 2025, to receive input on the proposed action. Comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Brooke Boston at brooke.boston@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, March 4, 2025.

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

§2.201, Cost Reimbursement

(a) The Department may place on Cost Reimbursement any ~~e~~Contract, other than non-Discretionary CSBG. Cost reimbursement requires Subrecipients to submit supporting documentation and back up for Expenditures or Obligations prior to the Department releasing funds. The Department staff ~~shall establish appropriate review protocols for each party placed on cost reimbursement status, will indicate~~ ing for each entity placed on Cost Reimbursement status whether all expenses will be reviewed or a sample, and the nature of any additional documentation that the Department will be required from the Subrecipient in connection therewith. Approving ~~€~~The decision by the Department to release of funds in a cost review situation does not constitute final approval of the expenditure. Funds so advanced remain subject to future reviews, monitorings, and audits and in no way does the decision to release funds serve to ~~constrain or limit those staff performing further reviews, monitoring, or audits~~them.

(b) In addition to the reporting requirements outlined in §6.7 of this Title (relating to Subrecipient Reporting Requirements) an entity on Cost Reimbursement must submit, at a minimum, their expanded general ledger, chart of accounts, cost allocation plan, and bank reconciliations for the previous three months. Upon review of those items the Department will request submission of back up for some or all of the reported Expenditures.

(c) To the extent that the Contract has budget caps, ~~€~~the budget caps for each budget category will be enforced each month for which the entity is on Cost Reimbursement.

(d) An entity will be removed from Cost Reimbursement when the Department determines that identified risks or concerns have been sufficiently mitigated.

(e) An entity on Cost Reimbursement remains subject to further reviews, monitoring, and audits.

(f) The Department reserves the right to outsource some or all of its work associated with the Cost Reimbursement process to a third party.

§2.202 Sanctions and Contract Closeout

(a) A ~~A~~ Subrecipients that enters into a Contract with the Department to administer programs are required to follow all Legal Requirements governing these programs.

(b) If a Subrecipient fails to comply with program and Contract requirements, rules, or regulations and in the event monitoring or other reliable sources reveal material Deficiencies or Findings in performance, or if the Subrecipient fails to correct any Deficiency or Finding within the time allowed by federal or state law, the Department, in order to protect state or federal funds, may take reasonable and appropriate actions, including, but not limited to, one or more of the items described in paragraphs (1) - (6) of this subsection. In so doing, the Department will not take any action that exceeds what it is permitted to do under applicable state and federal law. The Department, as appropriate, may provide written notice of its actions and the rights of a Subrecipient to appeal.

(1) ~~Place~~ the Subrecipient on Cost Reimbursement as further described in §2.201 of this subchapter;

(2) With the exception of non-Discretionary CSBG, withhold all payments from the Subrecipient (both reimbursements and advances) until acceptable confirmation of compliance with the rules and regulations are received by the Department;

(3) Reduce the allocation of funds to Subrecipients as described in §2.203 of this subchapter (relating to Termination and Reduction of Funding for CSBG Eligible Entities) and as limited for LIHEAP funds as outlined in Tex. Gov't Code, Chapter 2105;

(4) With the exception of non-Discretionary CSBG, suspend performance of the Contract or reduce funds until proof of compliance with the rules and regulations are received by the Department or a decision is made by the Department to initiate proceedings for Contract termination;

(5) If permitted by applicable state and federal statute and regulations, elect not to provide future grant funds to the Subrecipient, either prospectively in general or until appropriate actions are taken to ensure compliance; and/or

(6) Terminate the Contract. Adhering to the requirements governing each specific program administered by the Department, as needed, the Department may determine to proceed with the termination of a Contract, in whole or in part, at any time the Department establishes there is good cause for termination. Such cause may include, but is not limited to: fraud; waste; abuse; fiscal mismanagement; not providing services to clients, or failing to expend Contract funds to serve clients, as contemplated under the Contract; or other serious Findings in the Subrecipient's performance. For CSBG contract termination procedures, refer to §2.203 of this subchapter.

(c) Contract Closeout. When a Contract is terminated, or voluntarily relinquished, the procedures described in paragraphs (1) - (12) of this subsection will be implemented. The terminology of a "terminated" Subrecipient below is intended to include a Subrecipient that is voluntarily terminating the Contract.

(1) The Department will issue a termination letter to the Subrecipient no less than 30 days prior to terminating the Contract; in the case of a Subrecipient that has notified the Department in writing of voluntarily relinquishment, the Department will acknowledge that termination in writing. If the entity is an Eligible Entity the Department, following the CSBG Act, will simultaneously initiate proceedings to terminate the Eligible Entity status and the effectiveness of the contractual termination will be stayed automatically pending the outcome of those proceedings. The Department may determine to take one or more of the following actions:

(A) suspend funds immediately; ~~or~~

(B) allow the Subrecipient to pursue a temporary transfer to another Department-approved provider;

(C) require Cost Reimbursement for closeout proceedings; and/or

(D) provide instructions to the Subrecipient to prepare a proposed budget and written plan of action that supports the closeout of the Contract. The plan must identify the name and current job titles of Subrecipient staff that will perform the closeout and an estimated dollar amount to be incurred. The plan must identify the Certified Public Accountant CPA or firm which will perform the Single Audit. The Department will issue an official termination date to allow all parties to calculate deadlines which are based on such date.

~~(2) If the Department determines that Cost Reimbursement is appropriate to accomplish closeout, the provisions in §2.201 of this subchapter will be utilized. the Subrecipient will submit backup documentation for all current Expenditures associated with the closeout. The required documentation will include, but not be limited to, the chart of accounts, detailed general ledger, revenue and expenditure statements, time sheets, payment vouchers and/or receipts, and bank reconciliations.~~

(3) No later than 30 calendar days after the Contract is terminated, the Subrecipient will perform~~take~~ a physical inventory of client files, including case management files.

(4) The terminated Subrecipient will have 30 calendar days from the date of the physical inventory to make available to the Department all current client files, which must be boxed by the county in which a household received assistance of origin. Current and active case management files also must be inventoried, and boxed by county ~~of origin~~.

(5) Within 60 calendar days following the Subrecipient due date for preparing and boxing client files, Department staff will retrieve the client files.

(6) The terminated Subrecipient will prepare and submit no later than 30 calendar days from the date the Department retrieves the client files, a final report containing a full accounting of all funds expended under the eContract.

(7) A final monthly expenditure report and a final monthly performance report for all remaining expenditures incurred during the ~~Contract~~closeout period must be received by the Department no later than 45 calendar days from the date the Department determines that the closeout of the program and the period of transition are complete.

(8) The Subrecipient will submit to the Department no later than 45 calendar days after the termination of the Contract, an inventory of the non-expendable personal property acquired in whole or in part with funds received under the Contract as further described in §1.407 of this Title.

(9) The Department may require transfer of title to Equipment to the Department or may direct that a Subrecipient transfer such title to Equipment to any another entity receiving funds from the Department. ~~under the program in question.~~ The Department will make arrangements to remove Equipment covered by this paragraph within 90 calendar days following termination of the Contract.

(10) Upon selection of a new service provider, the Department will transfer to the new provider client files and, as appropriate, Equipment.

(11) A current year Single Audit must be performed for all entities that have exceeded the federal expenditure threshold under 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F or the State expenditure threshold under Texas Grant Management StandardsUGMS, as applicable. The Department will allow a proportionate share of program funds to pay for accrued audit costs, when an audit is required, for a Single Audit that covers the date up to the closeout of the eContract. The terminated Subrecipient must have a binding contract with a Certified Public AccountingCPA firm on or before the termination date of the eContract. The actual costs of the Single Audit and accrued audit costs including support documentation must be submitted to the Department no later than 45 calendar days from the date the Department determines the closeout is complete.

(12) Subrecipients shall submit within 45 calendar days after the date of the closeout process all financial, performance, and other applicable reports to the Department. The Department may approve extensions when requested by the Subrecipient. However, unless the Department authorizes an extension, the Subrecipient must abide by the 45 calendar day requirement of submitting all referenced reports and documentation to the Department.