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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Fort Worth Regional Office, Region VI
Office of Community Planning and Development
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Fort Worth, TX 76102
www.hud.gov

Ms. Shirley Jaster, City Manager
City of Texarkana
220 Texas Blvd
Texarkana, TX 75501

Dear Ms. Jaster,

Subject: **Annual Community Assessment 2018 Program Year**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is required to conduct an annual review of performance by grant recipients according to the provisions of the Title 1 National Affordable Housing Act and Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Office of Community Planning and Development, Fort Worth Regional Office, Region VI, must determine that each recipient follows statues and has the continuing capacity to implement and administer the programs for which assistance is received. This letter is to report the results of the Fort Worth Regional Office's review of the City's performance.

-REPORT-

HUD's review is based on an evaluation of your consolidated planning process and progress in carrying out the programs, the management of funds of by the City and your subrecipients, information provided in the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and the Integrated Disbursement Information System (IDIS), the results on site monitoring, your achievement of program objectives.

This office congratulates you on the City's accomplishments during the 2018 program year and your performance in the following areas:

-Community Development Block Grant Program -

Affordable Housing – The City of Texarkana reported and is commended for meeting their goal for program year 2018 in providing 50 homeless households affordable housing units.

Affordable Housing -The City reported that they have assisted 4 owner occupied housing rehabilitation units notably during the program year 2018.

Affordable Housing – The City reported their implementation of providing education and awareness for health and safety concerns surrounding lead-based paint and its impact to their housing stock and citizens.

Non-Housing Community Development – The City of Texarkana is recognized in reporting 3,555 service activities for public facility or infrastructure activities other than low moderate-income housing benefit well above their stated goal by reporting that they have enhanced their sidewalks and improved public accessibility for those with disabilities.

Timeliness – According to information provided by the City in the HUD required Integrated Disbursement & Information System (IDIS); Texarkana has implemented its programs in a timely manner. The timeliness standards are that 60 days before the end of the current program year, a grantee cannot have more than 1.5 program years of grand funds in its line of credit. As of August 2, 2019, the City’s unadjusted draw ratio was .82 and adjusted 1.25 grants years. The rate of progress assures that the benefits of the program intended beneficiaries within a reasonable period after grant approval.

Program Caps -The City obligated 8.51% of their funds for planning and administration, which is under the 20% maximum cap. For public service activities, the City obligated 2.52% which is also under the maximum cap of 15%.

Overall Public Benefit – The City opted for a three-year performance period according to their Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. According to the 2018 CDBG PR26 Report (Financial Summary Report) the City expended 100% of its funds for activities which principally benefit low and moderate incomes persons which is above the not less than 70% requirement.

-Recommendations-

The City of Texarkana is encouraged to take advantage of arising opportunities within U.S. Housing & Urban Development in order to continue to serve their community and citizens and are encouraged to explore these listed resources.

- Lead-Based Paint and Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grants follow this link: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/lbp/lhc
- Federal policy notifications and open comment period relative to Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally Assistance Programs follow this link: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-12-18/pdf/2019-25558.pdf>
- Guidance on Balance of State Continuum of Care by following this link <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/>

-Conclusion-

As a result of its evaluation, the Fort Worth Regional Office has determined that City of Texarkana has carried out programs successfully as described in its Consolidated Plan; the Consolidated Plan as implemented complies with the requirements of the U.S. Housing & Community Development Act and other applicable programs and regulations; and the City has the continuing capacity to carry out its approved programs in a timely manner.

The Fort Worth Regional Office is providing the City with 30 days from the date of this letter to comment on this report. Should the City wish to comment or require changes to this report, HUD will take them into consideration and provide a written response. Once it is in final form, it will be made available to the public upon request.

-Public Access-

This report is intended to be shared with the public. You may provide copies to citizens, public committees, media outlets and interested stakeholders. HUD requests that you provide a copy of this letter to your individual public accountant who performs the Single Audit of the City in accordance with 2 *CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Chad R. Forsyth, Community Planning & Development Representative at 817-978-5958 or chad.r.forsyth@hud.gov.

Sincerely,


Shirley J. Henley
CPD Director

cc: David Lee, Planning and Community Dev. Director
Betsy Freeman, Grant Developer