



The City of Pascagoula Asks Residents (Homeowners and Renters) to Complete a Fair Housing Survey for Potential Community Development Funds

September 24, 2018

The City of Pascagoula is collaborating with other entities in Mississippi that receive funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to prepare an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI).

The City requests citizens who are homeowners or renters to complete the fair housing survey using the links below. The fair housing survey is an important part of the AI which is required by HUD as a condition for receiving federal community development funds. Your input will help shape housing and community resources in Pascagoula.

Survey responses are confidential and will only be reported in combination with other responses and in summary format to protect your privacy. Completed surveys must be submitted by **October 15, 2018** to be considered in the study.

If you have questions about the survey please contact Aleta Raley at araley@cityofpascagoula.com.

English version:

<https://www.research.net/r/2018MSFairHousingSurvey>

Spanish version:

<https://es.research.net/r/2018MSEquidaddeVivienda>





The Analysis of Impediments is a requirement by the **Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** for grant funds received in our **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**.

Pascagoula is an entitlement city under the rules of HUD's CDBG Program and receives an annual allocation of CDBG funding which is approximately \$180,000 - \$200,000 each year. It is a HUD requirement that the study be updated at least every five years for all cities receiving CDBG funds.

The purpose of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) is to document what efforts are being taken to affirmatively further fair housing in Mississippi. When it is determined that a citizen's rights under the Fair Housing Act are obstructed, HUD wants to see that a local government and/or housing authority has identified in the A.I. what steps will be taken to address the problem. The studies are paid for with a portion of our Community Development Block Grant funds that are designated for administrative costs.

National Objectives of Community Development Block Grant Program

The CDBG Program has three national objectives and CDBG-funded projects or activities must meet at least one of the objectives for use of these federal funds:

1. Principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons;
2. Prevent or eliminate slums or blight; and
3. Meet a need having a particular urgency.

Examples of Basic Eligible Activities for the CDBG Program

1. Acquisition of property for a public purpose
2. Public facilities and improvements including streets, curbs, sidewalks, water and wastewater improvements
3. Urgent needs and emergency grants to address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.
4. Interim assistance requiring immediate action such as street improvements and to alleviate emergency conditions
5. Relocation payment and assistance for permanently or temporarily displaced individuals, families, businesses and organizations, and reimbursement for loss of rental income incurred in holding housing units to be utilized by relocation of individuals and families displaced by program activities
6. Public services including employment services, fair housing counseling, healthcare and substance abuse services, services for victims of domestic violence, the homeless and

- qualified elderly residents (this activity is capped by HUD at 15% of the annual allocation plus 15% of program income received during the prior program year)
7. Special economic development activities
 8. Planning and administration (this activity is capped at 20% of the sum of the annual allocation plus the program income received during that program year)

Our CDBG funds are awarded to public services such as Salvation Army, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, and Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence. Funds are used to bring city parks and other public areas up to code with ADA requirements. All CDBG activities are listed in our Action Plan, which is another name for our application for these funds every year. There are public notices announcing Notice of Availability of Information when the draft plan is available for view and comment before being submitted. In recent years, the draft for each Action Plan has been posted on our website. Any major changes in our Action Plan require public notices with a 30 day comment period. These notices are posted on our website and social media page.

HUD carefully reviews our progress in a detailed end of the year report, called Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) which is submitted to HUD in December. The CAPER contains details of exactly how and when the CDBG funds were spent during that program year. There are public notices stating that this report will be available for public review and comment before submission to HUD. The draft will be posted on our city website for public viewing and copies will be made available at the public library and community development office.

Housing survey for Analysis of Impediments Input:

English version:

<https://www.research.net/r/2018MSFairHousingSurvey>

Spanish version:

<https://es.research.net/r/2018MSEquidaddeVivienda>