BURKE COUNTY CDBG CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

This plan describes how **Burke County** will involve citizens in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The funds must be used for projects which benefit low and moderate-income persons, aids in the elimination and prevention of slums and blight. The program is intended to assist governments in understanding neighborhood improvement programs. The regulations give ultimate responsibility for the design and implementation of the program to local elected officials and require that citizens be given an opportunity to serve in a key advisory role to these elected officials.

SCOPE OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Citizens will be involved in all stages of the CDBG program, including program implementation, assessment of performance, and design of changes in the CDBG Citizen Participation Plan. There will be three (3) general mechanisms for their involvement:

1. To provide input during public hearings or community meetings; and
2. To provide individual citizen efforts in the form of comments, complaints, or inquiries submitted directly to the Program Administrators or designated County official; and
3. To serve as an advisory committee to potential projects impacting a particular area.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Citizen participation in program implementation will occur primarily through consultation with the County. The County will be asked to review and comment on specific guidelines for approved projects. They will also meet to review any program amendments, budget revisions, and program modifications. All such changes will be discussed with the County and their comments considered prior to acting. If program amendments require approval from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, a public hearing shall be held, specifically on the amendment. Citizens may also be involved in implementation of projects specifically requiring citizen participation, such as self-help projects. Their roles will be defined as the project develops. Technical assistance will be available as needed.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Program assessment activities by citizens will occur in a variety of ways. A performance hearing will be held twenty- five (25) to sixty (60) days prior to the start of planning for the next program year. The Program Amendment will be asked to provide citizen commentary for the Grantee Performance Report.

As a part of the orientation to the program offered at the public hearing, citizens will be invited to submit comments on all aspects of program performance through the program year. Comments should be submitted in writing to **Burke County**, 200 Avery Ave, Morganton, NC 28655. They will respond in writing within ten (10) days. If the response is unsatisfactory, the complainant should

write directly to the Chairman c/o the Clerk to the Board, 200 Avery Ave, Morganton, NC 28655. They shall respond within ten (10) days.

If the citizen is still dissatisfied, the citizen should write to the NC Department of Commerce, Division of Community Revitalization (DCR)/State CDBG Program, 4301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4346, Attention: Citizen Participation Matter. Program staff will also be available during normal business hours to respond to any citizen inquiries or complaints at (919) 707-1560.

The Citizen Participation Plan will be subject to annual review and proposed revision, to occur in the period between the performance hearing and the public hearing on the subsequent year's application.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical Assistance will be provided to citizen organizations and groups of low/moderate income persons or target area residents upon request to Burke County. Such assistance will support citizen efforts to develop proposals, define policy, and organize for the implementation of the program. It is expected that such assistance will be provided by **Burke County** in response to their request. Assistance could be provided in the form of local presentations, informational handouts, research of a specific issue, or other short-term efforts.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Burke County will also undertake public information efforts to promote citizen participation. These efforts will include the following:

1. Public Notice of all Public Hearings will be published in the non-legal section of the local newspaper at least ten (10) days before the scheduled hearing. These notices will indicate the date, time, location, and topics to be considered. These notices will also be made available in the form of a press release, posted on the Burke County website and posted at publicly accessible Burke County facilities as appropriate.
2. Orientation Information will be provided at the first public hearing. The Program Administrator(s) will make a presentation which covers: (a) the total amount of CDBG funds available and the competitive basis for award; (b) the range of eligible activities; (c) the planning process and the schedule of meetings and hearings; (d) the role of citizens in the program; and (e) a summary of other program requirements, such as the environmental policies, fair housing provisions, and contracting procedures.
3. A Public File containing program documentation will be available for review at the Burke County Office, 200 Avery Ave, Morganton, NC 28655 during normal business hours. Included will be copies of the Application, Environmental Review Record, the Citizen Participation Plan, and the Annual Performance Report.
4. Public Hearings an interpreter will be provided for all non-English speaking individuals and/or hearing impaired individuals.

ADOPTED, this 19th day of October, 2026.

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Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners
Burke County