



Sarasota County

HERO

Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office

Citizen Participation Plan

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Version History

Version	Date	Notes
1.0	4.22.2025	Original version (Public comment period from 12.12.24 to 1.11.25)

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Citizen Participation Plan

1.0 Introduction

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 91.105, Sarasota County's Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office (HERO) has prepared a Citizen Participation Plan to explain the opportunity all residents have to participate in the process of preparing the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, amendments, and reports. Sarasota County's HERO is responsible for administering the Citizen Participation Plan.

The Citizen Participation Plan sets forth the policies to be used for citizen participation and is designed to encourage participation by low- and moderate-income persons, particularly those living in slum and blighted areas and in areas where Community Development Block Grant funds are proposed to be used and by residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Sarasota County will encourage the participation of all its citizens, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities and will encourage the participation of local and regional institutions and other organizations (including businesses, developers, and community and faith-based organizations) in the process of developing and implementing the Consolidated Plan, substantial amendments, and performance reports. Finally, Sarasota County will encourage, in consultation with public housing agencies, the participation of residents of public and assisted housing development in the process of developing and implementing the Consolidated Plan along with other low-income residents of targeted revitalization areas in which the developments are located.

1.1 Purpose of the Citizen Participation Plan

Sarasota County recognizes that citizen participation is an important part of the planning process. To gain citizen input, Sarasota County has prepared the Citizen Participation Plan to provide for and encourage citizens to participate in the development of the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, the implementation of substantial amendments, and the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). These plans and documents are required to keep compliance with federal regulations related to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

1.2 Development of the Citizen Participation Plan

This Citizen Participation Plan replaces and updates the existing Plan as it pertains to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) now being administered by HERO. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the County to provide citizens a reasonable opportunity to comment on the original citizen participation plan and on substantial amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan and to make the citizen participation plan public.

The Citizen Participation Plan was published on the Sarasota County website: <https://www.scgov.net/HERO>. Citizens were given 30 calendar days to provide comment. The 30-day comment period began on December 12, 2024 and ended January 11, 2025. An email inbox was established to accept written comments, which could also be dropped off or mailed.

In addition, all neighborhood associations, the Continuum of Care and the local housing authorities (Sarasota Housing Authority and Venice Housing Authority) were sent an email providing them with the website location where the proposed Citizen Participation Plan could be reviewed.

1.3 Use of Citizen Participation Plan

Sarasota County will follow this Citizen Participation Plan in the development of the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, any substantial amendments, assessment of fair housing (AFH), and performance reports. Feedback can be provided, and these documents can be obtained by contacting County staff at:

Sarasota County, Office of Financial Management
Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office (HERO)
301 N. Cattlemen Road, Suite 200
Sarasota, Florida 34232
Telephone: 941.861.5341

2.0 Consolidated Plan

The Consolidated Plan is a strategic roadmap that guides how communities use federal funds to address housing, economic development, and community needs. It is required for state and local governments that receive funding from HUD programs such as the Community Development

Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and HUD-funded housing and community programs. The Consolidated Plan outlines community priorities, goals, and funding strategies over a five-year period, based on an assessment of housing needs, market conditions, and public input.

3.0 Annual Action Plan

Each program year, as a part of the consolidated planning process, Sarasota County must develop an Annual Action Plan that details how the County will spend its annual allocation of funds to meet community needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Plan identifies sources of funding, a statement of objectives, description of projects, graphic distribution, monitoring of subrecipients, and results of past efforts.

4.0 Substantial Amendments

If there are changes because of legislative authority or HUD causes changes in rules, regulations and guidelines which impact the CDBG, NSP, or ESG programs, said changes will supersede any/all the provisions contained in this Citizen Participation Plan. In addition, any general or substantial amendment to any portion of the Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan will follow HUD's prescribed notice and comment period requirements.

Prior to the submission of any substantial change in the proposed use of funds, citizens will have reasonable notice of, and the opportunity to comment on, the proposed amendment using the citizen participation methods outlined in the Citizen Participation Plan and/or other methods that result in effective notice and comment.

The following actions necessitate a substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Action Plan:

- A change in the use of CDBG, ESG or other HUD funds from one activity to another;
- The elimination or addition of an activity originally described in the Annual Action Plan and/or Consolidated Plan;
- A decision made to carry out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan including program income, not previously described in the Annual Action Plan;

- A change in the purpose, scope, and beneficiaries of an activity originally described in the Annual Action Plan and/or Consolidated Plan, such as a change in the type of activity or its ultimate objective;
- A meaningful change in the location of an activity originally described in the Annual Action Plan and/or Consolidated Plan;
- A change that increases or decreases funding or the cost of an activity, project or program by more than 20% of the funds that were originally allocated for that activity, project or program as originally described in the Annual Action Plan (does not include activities, projects or programs that are completed under budget by more than 20%);
- A change required by the Federal law or regulation.

A substantial amendment does not occur when the County is changing the use of CDBG funds from one activity to another when the change is being made solely because the activity was completed under budget or if additional funding is needed to complete a previously approved activity.

In the case of a disaster emergency declaration, uncommitted funds may be allocated to eligible activities needed to assist in disaster relief without triggering a substantial amendment with approval from the Board of County Commissioners.

5.0 Non-substantial Amendments

A non-substantial amendment is an amendment to the Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan that includes technical corrections and clarifications and budget changes that do not meet the monetary threshold for substantial amendments to the plan. The County will notify HUD of non-substantial amendments but is not required to post public comments. The non-substantial amendment will become effective within five (5) business days after notification is provided to HUD. All amendments will be numbered sequentially, posted to the website, and incorporated into the Action Plan.

6.0 Performance Reports

Each year the County will issue a Performance Report showing the progress it has made in carrying out the Strategic Plan and Action Plan. The Performance Report or Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) will include a description of the resources available,

the investment of those resources, where those resources were spent geographically, persons assisted (including racial and ethnic status of persons assisted), actions taken to further fair housing, and other actions indicated in the Strategic Plan and Action Plan. The County must send HUD a CAPER within 90 days of the close of the program year. Sarasota County's program year begins October 1 and ends on September 30.

The County will provide for and encourage citizens to participate in the development of the CAPER by giving them reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on the report prior to it being submitted to HUD. Sarasota County will afford citizens an opportunity to examine and comment on the proposed CAPER through the following actions:

At least 15 days prior to submitting the CAPER to HUD, the County will publish a notice of availability of the CAPER for public review in one or more local newspapers of general circulation and on the County's website. The date of publication will be the beginning of a 15 calendar day public comment period. The notice will also specify the deadline and location where comments should be submitted.

The CAPER will be placed on the Sarasota County website in a format for citizens to examine or download. The format will be compatible with web readers for the visually impaired as required by 24 CFR part 8. Upon request, the CAPER will be provided in a format to accommodate persons with disabilities (e.g. oral, Braille, electronic or large print copies for the visually impaired) and for minority populations and persons with limited English proficiency. Upon written request, large print copies of the draft CAPER will be sent to visually impaired residents and copies of the draft CAPER will be mailed to homebound residents.

During the 15 calendar day comment period, Sarasota County will obtain the views of citizens on the proposed CAPER by inviting citizens to comment via e-mail or other writing. Sarasota County will consider all comments or views of citizens received in preparing the final version of the CAPER. Sarasota County staff will transcribe all oral and electronic public comments, which will be made part of the record.

A summary of all comments or views received during the public comment period and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons the comments were not accepted will be attached to the final CAPER and published on the County website prior to submitting to HUD.

7.0 Citizen Participation Process

Citizen participation is key to shaping HUD-funded housing and community programs. This process gives residents, especially low- and moderate-income individuals, a voice in decisions that affect their communities.

Public input meetings, public hearings, public notices, and comment periods provide opportunities for input, ensuring transparency and collaboration. This section explains how residents can get involved, share feedback, and stay informed. To make participation accessible to everyone, language assistance and accommodations are available.

7.1 Community Outreach

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.105(a)(2), effective public outreach is essential to the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, amendments, and reports. Sarasota County will conduct outreach to the following organizations and groups:

- Local governments including City of North Port, City of Sarasota, City of Venice, and Town of Longboat Key
- The School Board of Sarasota County
- Nonprofit, social services, and other organizations that advocate on behalf of vulnerable populations and underserved communities
- The local chambers of commerce
- Public housing authorities
- Local or regional emergency management agencies that have primary responsibility for the administration of FEMA funds, if applicable
- Sarasota County residents
- Key stakeholders and Community Representatives, to include any locally established recovery focused groups

Additional community outreach may include but is not limited to email, social media, or direct mail to inform community organizations and groups about the availability of the proposed Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan and public engagement opportunities on the County's website.

7.2 Public Notice

To ensure transparency and encourage community participation, Sarasota County will provide timely and accessible public notices, a minimum of 15 calendar days before, for HUD-funded programs, planning efforts, and opportunities for input. Public notices will inform residents about upcoming public meetings and/or hearings, public comment periods, and the proposed Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, substantial amendments, and reports.

Sarasota County will publish the proposed Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and substantial amendments for public comment in a manner that affords citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine its contents at least 30 calendar days prior to the County adopting the proposed plan. At or as soon as feasible after the start of the citizen participation process, the County will make the HUD-provided data and other supplemental information which may include FEMA, SBA, American Community Survey (ACS) and additional Census data that the County plans to incorporate into its consolidated plan available to its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties. During the publication of the proposed Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and substantial amendments, the County will make available to residents, public agencies, and other interested parties information that includes the amount of assistance that Sarasota County anticipates to receive, including grant funds and estimated program income, and the range of activities that are proposed to be undertaken, including the estimated amount that will benefit persons of low and moderate income persons.

A public notice will be published to announce upcoming public input meetings, HUD and BCC public hearings, the availability of the proposed Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, amendments, and reports for public review at least 15 calendar days before the upcoming event or publication. The notice will appear in one or more local newspapers of general circulation and on the County's website. It will include the date, time, and location of the HUD and BCC public hearings where the Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan will be presented for approval before submission to HUD. The publication date of the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, & substantial amendments will mark the beginning of a 30-day public comment period, concluding with a BCC public hearing. Additionally, the notice will provide information on the deadline and designated location for submitting comments.

Summaries of the proposed Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan may be provided at the following locations:

- Sarasota County Public libraries.
- Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources
- UF/IFAS Extension
- Community Centers.
- Other municipal government buildings.

To promote inclusive participation, public notices and outreach materials will be available on the Sarasota County website in a format accessible for public review and download. In compliance with 24 CFR Part 8, the documents will be compatible with web readers for individuals with visual impairments. Upon request, the public notices and outreach materials can be provided in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities, including oral, Braille, electronic, or large-print versions. Additionally, accommodations will be available for minority populations and individuals with limited English proficiency. Citizens will have the opportunity to submit written comments through an email address, physical address, or an online comment forum, which will be provided in the notice.

To streamline communication, notices regarding the publication of the proposed Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and all opportunities for public comment may be consolidated.

Hard copies of the proposed Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, amendments, and reports are available upon request. Additionally, upon written request, large print versions will be provided for visually impaired residents, and copies will be mailed to homebound individuals.

7.2.1 Public Notice of a Substantial Amendment

All substantial amendments will be published on Sarasota County's website to give citizens, public agencies and other interested parties reasonable notice and the opportunity to comment on the substantial amendment. Citizens will be given at least 30 calendar days to comment on the substantial amendment. The 30 calendar day period will begin after the proposed substantial amendment is published on the Sarasota County website.

Email notices will be sent to the organizations listed in the publication of the development of the Consolidated Plan, above, that are directly impacted by the substantial amendment.

Upon request, large print copies of the proposed substantial amendment will be sent to the visually impaired residents and copies of the proposed substantial amendment will be mailed to homebound residents.

7.3 Public Input Meeting

Sarasota County HERO will conduct a minimum of two public input meetings at two different stages of the program year as part of the community unmet needs assessment, prior to the development of the draft Consolidated Plan and draft Annual Action Plan. Together, the input meetings will address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, proposed strategies and actions for affirmatively furthering fair housing, and a review of program performance. At least one of these meetings will be held before the proposed consolidated plan is published for comment. Public input meetings must be conducted in compliance with the following requirements as outlined in section 8.4 Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and section 8.3 Limited English Proficiency (LEP):

- Meetings are held in ADA-compliant facilities to ensure physical accessibility, and virtual options are provided with accessibility features such as closed captioning in accordance with 24 CFR 91.105(f)
- Meetings will be scheduled at times and locations convenient for community members, including evenings and weekends when feasible.
- Appropriate auxiliary aids and services may be provided to ensure effective communication
- Language assistance will be provided for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), including document translation and interpretation services as needed
- Meeting materials and comments will be made available in multiple languages based on community needs
- Questions and answers from meetings will be posted on the HERO website within a reasonable timeframe
- All meetings will be open to the public with opportunities for public comment

In addition to the public input meetings, an unmet needs survey will be available on the HERO website (<https://www.scgov.net/HERO>) for a minimum of 30 calendar day public input period unless otherwise specified by the federal government. Public input may also be provided by email at HEROComments@scgov.net or by mail to the Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office at 301 N. Cattlemen Rd, Suite 200, Sarasota, FL 34232.

At the end of the public input period, all comments received during the community unmet needs assessment will be available on our website (<https://www.scgov.net/HERO>) as soon as feasible to residents, public agencies, and other interested parties.

7.4 Public Hearing

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 91.105, Sarasota County will host two HUD public hearings during the development of the draft Consolidated Plan and draft Annual Action Plan prior to its proposed adoption by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for submission to HUD. A HUD public hearing is not conducted before the BCC and the BCC will not be in attendance at these HUD public hearings. The purpose of these HUD public hearings is to obtain the views of citizens on the housing and community development needs. One HUD public hearing will be located in north Sarasota County and the other will be located in south Sarasota County, defined as being south of Blackburn Point Road. The process that Sarasota County will use to advertise the public hearings are detailed below in section 7.2 Public Notice.

Sarasota County will host, at minimum, one BCC public hearing, which will be held before the BCC. During this public hearing, the BCC will review the proposed Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan, and authorize its submission to HUD. Citizens will be given the opportunity to comment on the proposed Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan at this BCC public hearing during the open to the public section of the BCC agenda. Sarasota County staff will transcribe all oral public comments made during this public hearing and will transcribe them together with written public comments, which will be made part of the record. Public comments will be published on the HERO website (<https://www.scgov.net/HERO>).

HUD public hearings must also be conducted in compliance with the following requirements as outlined in section 8.4 Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and section 8.3 Limited English Proficiency (LEP):

- Meetings will be held in facilities that are physically accessible to persons with disabilities and to ensure effective communication in accordance with 24 CFR 91.105(f)
- Meetings must be scheduled at times and locations convenient to potential and actual beneficiaries
- Appropriate auxiliary aids and services must be provided to ensure effective communication
- Language assistance will be provided for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), including document translation and interpretation services as needed
- Meeting materials and comments will be made available in multiple languages based on community needs
- Questions and answers from meetings will be posted on the HERO website within a reasonable timeframe
- All meetings will be open to the public with opportunities for public comment

In addition to the HUD public hearings, a public comment survey on the draft Consolidated Plan or draft Annual Action Plan will be available on the HERO website (<https://www.scgov.net/HERO>) for a minimum of 30 calendar day public comment period unless otherwise specified by the federal government. Public comments on the draft Consolidated Plan or draft Annual Action Plan may also be provided by email at HEROComments@scgov.net or by mail to the Housing Enhancement and Redevelopment Office at 301 N. Cattlemen Rd, Suite 200, Sarasota, FL 34232.

At the end of the public comment period, all comments received during the comment period will be available on our website (<https://www.scgov.net/HERO>) as soon as feasible to residents, public agencies, and other interested parties.

7.5 Comment Period

The public comment period will be not less than 30 calendar days, unless the federal government specifies an alternative public comment period or waives the required public comment period. The period will begin on the date that the proposed Consolidated Plan is published in a newspaper of general circulation and will end on the date shown on that notice.

During the 30 calendar day comment period, Sarasota County will obtain the views of citizens on the proposed Consolidated plan by inviting citizens to comment via e-mail or in writing.

Sarasota County will consider all comments or views of citizens received in writing or orally at the public input meetings and HUD public hearings in preparing the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, amendments, and reports. Sarasota County staff will transcribe all oral and electronic public comments and will transcribe them together with written public comments, which will be made part of the record.

A summary of all comments or views received during the public comment period and a summary of any comments or view not accepted and the reasons the comments were not accepted will be attached to the final Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan and published on the County's website along with responses to public comments received.

7.5.1 Public Comments for a Substantial Amendment

The County will allow public comment period as described above and will consider any comments or view of citizens received in writing, or orally at a HUD or BCC public hearing that may be conducted during the public comment period when preparing the substantial amendment for the approval of the BCC. Summaries of all comments will be provided to the BCC prior to their formal adoption of the substantial amendment and published on the County's website.

A summary of all comments or views received during the public comment period and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons the comments were not accepted will be attached to the substantial amendment.

In the event of a disaster or a declaration of emergency, public notice will be altered to follow HUD issued waivers or notices. Sarasota County will, at minimum, provide notice of proposed citizen participation plan and amendments on the County's website and allow a 5 calendar day period for public comments prior to adoption, to the extent permitted by law.

7.6 Submission of Plan

Public comments shall be reviewed and taken into consideration by the BCC prior to approval of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. The BCC authorizes the submission of the adopted Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to HUD. Following approval by the BCC, the

Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan will be submitted to HUD no later than 45 days prior to the start of the program year. Upon submission, all certifications of compliance will be included.

7.6.1 Adopted Substantial Amendments

All adopted substantial amendments will be posted on the County's website. The format will be compatible with web readers for the visually impaired as required by 24 CFR Part 8.

8.0 Access to Information

Citizens, public agencies and other interested parties, including those most affected, will have the opportunity to receive information, and review and submit comments on proposed submission concerning any of the following documents:

- The proposed Annual Action Plan
- The proposed Five – Year Consolidated Plan
- Proposed Substantial Amendments to either an Annual Action Plan of the Five – Year Consolidated Plan
- CAPER (Annual Performance Reports)
- The Citizen Participation Plan
- Other plans requiring submission to HUD

Copies of the previously identified documents will be made available to the public via the Sarasota County's website and upon request.

Sarasota County will provide citizens, public agencies and other interested parties with reasonable and timely access to information and records related to the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, amendments, and reports, including the Sarasota County's use of assistance under the programs covered by the Consolidated Plan during the preceding five years in accordance with requirements of the Florida Public Records Act.

8.1 Public Website

Information related to CDBG, ESG, and NSP programs will be posted on the County's website. The website will allow individuals and entities awaiting assistance to see how all grant funds are used and administered.

Copies of the relevant documents will include at a minimum this Citizen Participation Plan, the Annual Action Plans including all substantial amendments, performance reports, relevant policies and procedures, information on each program, and any relevant notices or outreach information.

8.2 Technical Assistance

Sarasota County is committed to offering technical assistance to organizations representing low- and moderate-income individuals seeking support in preparing proposals for funding under programs outlined in the Consolidated Plan. This assistance will be limited to providing information on funding availability and guidance on the application process. However, Sarasota County will not draft or submit applications on behalf of any organization. It is important to note that technical assistance does not involve the provision of financial support to the requesting groups.

8.3 Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Under the five-year estimates for 2019 of the American Community Survey (ACS), Sarasota County is 3.1 percent Spanish speaking. Based upon this assessment, program notices, outreach materials, and other vital documents will be made available in both English and Spanish. Additional language assistance to LEP persons, to include in Spanish and other languages, may include, but is not limited to:

- Oral interpretation services
- Bilingual staff
- Telephone service lines interpreter
- Written translation services
- Notices to staff and recipients of the availability of LEP services
- Referrals to community liaisons proficient in the language of LEP persons

Request for any of the above language assistance outside of translation of notices, outreach materials, and vital documents into Spanish, may be submitted to the contact information on the County's website and reasonable steps shall be taken by Sarasota County to ensure meaningful access to LEP persons. Requests may also be made to Sarasota County's ADA/Title VI Coordinator via email at adacoordinator@scgov.net or phone by calling 3-1-1.

Any persons who would like information available in an alternative format or a language other than English can contact Sarasota County's ADA/Title VI Coordinator via email at adacoordinator@scgov.net or phone by calling 3-1-1.

Comments received during the public comment period in a language other than English will be translated into English and incorporated into the Annual Action Plan or Substantial Amendments.

8.4 Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

Sarasota County will, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in Sarasota County services, programs, or activities. Possible aids and services include qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Sarasota County is committed to continuously improving access to all services, including the County's website. If an individual is unable to use any aspect of the County's website, PDF files, or other attachments, he or she should contact adacoordinator@scgov.net, or call 941.861.5000 (TTY voice: 711 or 1.800.955.8771); and the county will provide the individual or group with assistance within a timeline both parties deem reasonable.

Sarasota County will make all reasonable modifications to policies and services, programs, or activities to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to utilize services.

9.0 Anti-Displacement

Sarasota County has not, nor does not anticipate, funding any activities that will displace any residents or businesses. If displacement does occur, the residents or businesses displaced would be entitled to compensation and/or assistance under applicable Federal laws, including the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA) and Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act if applicable. Should the need for displacement ever arise, the County will officially notify the residents or businesses expected to be displaced as soon as practicable following approval of the activity. The notice will include a description of the proposed action, a discussion of how the resident or business owner might be affected, and information concerning their rights and benefits.

The County will ensure that all displaced persons receive timely and appropriate assistance, which will be outlined in the proposed Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan on the program level. Sarasota County is committed to minimizing displacement and mitigating adverse impacts by exploring all feasible alternatives before proceeding with activities that may result in displacement.

10.0 Citizen Complaints

Citizens may submit a complaint by reaching out to the contact information on the County's website or calling 3-1-1. All complaints received shall be reviewed by Sarasota County HERO program staff for:

1. Conducting investigations, as necessary;
2. Finding a resolution; or
3. Conducting follow-up actions.

Sarasota County will provide a written response to every citizen's complaint within 15 business days following the receipt of the written complaint. If additional time is needed, Sarasota County will document the reason for needing additional time. Any complaints regarding fraud, waste, or abuse of government funds will be handled in accordance with Sarasota County's policies on fraud, waste, or abuse and substantiated complaints will be forwarded to the HUD OIG Fraud Hotline (phone: 1-800-347-3735 or email: hotline@hudoig.gov).

Complaints and related comments on the programs may also be offered at the public hearings. Written complaints may also be made to the Jacksonville Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at the following address:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Community Planning and Development Division Charles Bennett Federal Building
400 West Bay Street, Suite 1015
Jacksonville, Fl. 32202
Telephone: 904.208.6008