

Draft repeal and proposed new 10 TAC Chapter 26, Texas Housing Trust Fund Rule

Disclaimer

Attached is a draft the repeal and proposed new 10 TAC Chapter 26, Texas Housing Trust Fund Rule, Subchapter B, Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Rule. The version herein is the version that will constitute the official version for purposes of public comment.

Public Comment

Public Comment Period: Starts: **8:00 a.m. Friday, March 29, 2024**
Ends: **5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 2, 2024**

Comments received after 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2024 will not be accepted.

Written comments may be submitted, in hard copy/fax or electronic formats to:

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Attn: Erin Mikulenska
P.O. Box 13941
Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Email: erin.mikulenska@tdhca.state.tx.us

Written comments may be submitted in hard copy or email formats within the designated public comment period. 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
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Borrador de derogación y propuesta del nuevo capítulo 26 [“Regla para el Fondo Fiduciario de Vivienda de Texas”] del título 10 del Código Administrativo de Texas (TAC)

Descargo de responsabilidad

Se adjunta la propuesta para revocar y reemplazar la regla en subcapítulo B [“El Programa de Amy Young para Eliminación de Obstáculos”], del capítulo 26 [“Regla para el Fondo Fideicomiso de Vivienda de Texas”], del título 10 del Código Administrativo de Texas (TAC). La versión contenida en este documento constituirá la versión oficial después de finalizar los comentarios del público.

Comentarios del público

Periodo de comentarios del público: **Inicio: 8:00 a. m., viernes 29 de marzo de 2024**
Finalización: 5:00 p. m., jueves 2 de mayo de 2024

No se aceptarán comentarios que se reciban después de las 5:00 p. m. del jueves 2 de mayo de 2024.

Los comentarios por escrito pueden presentarse en formatos impreso, fax o electrónico a:

DEPARTAMENTO DE VIVIENDA Y ASUNTOS COMUNITARIOS DE TEXAS
A la atención de: Erin Mikulenska
P.O. Box 13941
Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Correo electrónico: erin.mikulenska@tdhca.state.tx.us

Los comentarios por escrito pueden presentarse en formato impreso o por correo electrónico dentro del período designado de comentarios del público. 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
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Attachment A: Preamble, including required analysis, for proposed repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 26, Texas Housing Trust Fund Rule, Subchapter B, Amy Young Barrier Removal Program

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes the repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 26, Texas Housing Trust Fund Rule, Subchapter B, Amy Young Barrier Removal Program. The purpose of the proposed repeal is to eliminate an outdated rule while adopting a new updated rule under separate action.

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.

1. Mr. Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect, the proposed repeal does not create or eliminate a government program, but relates to the repeal, and simultaneous readoption making changes to an existing activity, administration of the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program.

2. The proposed repeal does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor is the proposed repeal significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that any existing employee positions are eliminated.

3. The proposed repeal does not require additional future legislative appropriations.

4. The proposed repeal does not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor a decrease in fees paid to the Department.

5. The proposed repeal is not creating a new regulation, except that it is being replaced by a new rule simultaneously to provide for revisions.

6. The proposed action will repeal an existing regulation, but is associated with a simultaneous readoption making changes to an existing activity, the administration the Texas Housing Trust Fund.

7. The proposed repeal will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.

8. The proposed 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 this proposed repeal and determined that the proposed 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 proposed repeal does not contemplate nor 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 proposed repeal as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the proposed 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 proposed repeal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the repealed chapter would be an updated and more germane rule. There will not be economic costs to individuals required to comply with the repealed chapter.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson has also determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed 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 March 29, 2024, to May 2, 2024, to receive input on the proposed repealed chapter. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Erin Mikulenska, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941 or email erin.mikulenska@tdhca.texas.gov. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Central time, May 2, 2024.

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

10 TAC Chapter 26, Texas Housing Trust Fund Rule

SUBCHAPTER B AMY YOUNG BARRIER REMOVAL PROGRAM

§26.20	Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Purpose
§26.21	Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Definitions
§26.22	Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Geographic Dispersion
§26.23	Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Administrative Requirements
§26.24	Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Reservation System Requirements
§26.25	Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Household Eligibility Requirements
§26.26	Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Property Eligibility Requirements

§26.27

Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Construction Requirements

§26.28

Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Project Completion Requirements

Attachment B: Preamble for proposed new 10 TAC Chapter 26, Texas Housing Trust Fund Rule, Subchapter B, Amy Young Barrier Removal Program

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes new 10 TAC Chapter 26, Texas Housing Trust Fund Rule, Subchapter B, Amy Young Barrier Removal Program. The purpose of the proposed new chapter is to implement a more germane rule and better align administration to state requirements.

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, Executive Director, has determined that, for the first five years the proposed new rule would be in effect:

1. The proposed rule does not create or eliminate a government program, but relates to the readoption of this rule which makes changes to administration of the Texas Housing Trust Fund.
2. The proposed new rule 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 proposed new rule changes do not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The proposed new rule changes will not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department nor a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The proposed new rule is not creating a new regulation, except that it is replacing a rule being repealed simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The proposed new rule will not expand or repeal an existing regulation.
7. The proposed new rule will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.
8. The proposed new rule 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, in

drafting this proposed new rule, has attempted to reduce any adverse economic effect on small or micro-business or rural communities while remaining consistent with the statutory requirements of Tex. Gov't Code, §2306.111.

1. The Department has evaluated this proposed new rule and determined that none of the adverse effect strategies outlined in Tex. Gov't Code §2006.002(b) are applicable.

2. There are approximately 20 rural communities currently participating in the Texas Housing Trust Fund that are subject to the proposed new rule for which no economic impact of the rule is projected during the first year the rule is in effect.

3. The Department has determined that because the proposed new rule serves to clarify and update existing requirements and does not establish new requirements for which there would be an associated cost, there will be no economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities.

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed new rule 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 rule as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the proposed new rule will be in effect the proposed rule has no economic effect on local employment because the rule serves to clarify and update existing requirements and does not establish new requirements or activities that may positively or negatively impact local economies.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.022(a) states that this "impact statement must describe in detail the probable effect of the rule on employment in each geographic region affected by this rule..." Considering that participation in the programs funded with the Texas Housing Trust Fund is at the discretion of the eligible subrecipients, there are no "probable" effects of the proposed new rule on particular geographic regions.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for each year of the first five years the proposed new rule is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the rule will be a more germane rule that better aligns administration to state requirements. There will not be any economic cost to any individuals required to comply with the proposed new rule because the processes described by the rule have already been in place through the rule found at this chapter being repealed.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson has also determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed new rule is in effect, enforcing

or administering the rule does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments because the rule updates and clarifies existing requirements and does not impose new requirements.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. The public comment period will be held March 29, 2024, to May 2, 2024, to receive input on the proposed new chapter. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Erin Mikulenska, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 8711-3941, by fax to (512) 475-0220, or email erin.mikulenska@tdhca.texas.gov. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Central time, May 2, 2024.

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

CHAPTER 26 TEXAS HOUSING TRUST FUND RULE

SUBCHAPTER B AMY YOUNG BARRIER REMOVAL PROGRAM

RULE §26.20 Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Purpose

The Amy Young Barrier Removal Program (the Program or AYBRP) provides one-time grants in combined Hard and Soft Costs to Persons with Disabilities in a Household qualified as Low-Income. Grant limits per household will be identified in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Grants are for home modifications that increase accessibility and eliminate substandard conditions.

§26.21 Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Definitions

The following words and terms used in this subchapter shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Other definitions are found in Tex. Gov't Code, Chapter 2306, Chapter 1 of this title (relating to Administration), Chapter 2 of this title (relating to Enforcement), Chapter 20 of this title (relating to Single Family Programs Umbrella Rule), Chapter 21 of this title (relating to Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Construction Activities), and Chapter 26, Subchapter A of this title (relating to Texas Housing Trust Fund Rule).

(1) Administrative Fee--Funds equal to 10% of the Project Costs (combined Hard and Soft Costs) paid to an Administrator upon completion of a project.

(2) Hard Costs--Site-specific costs incurred during construction, including, but not limited to: general requirements, building permits, jobsite toilet rental, dumpster fees, site preparation, demolition, construction materials, labor, installation equipment expenses, etc.

(3) [Household Assistance Contract--A written agreement between the Department and Administrator that memorializes the term of the commitment of funds for a specific activity.](#)

(4) Low-Income--Household income [calculated in accordance with the Program Manual that](#) does not exceed the greater of 80% of the Area Median Family Income or 80% of the State Median Family Income, adjusted for Household size, in accordance with the current HOME Investment Partnerships Program income limits, as defined by HUD.

(45) Project Costs--Program funds (combined Hard and Soft Costs) that directly assist a Household.

(56) Reservation System Participant (RSP)--Administrator who has executed a written Agreement with the Department that allows for participation in the Reservation System.

(67) Soft Costs--Costs related to and identified with a specific Single Family Housing Unit other than construction costs, ~~per §20.3 of this title (relating to Definitions).~~

§26.22 Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Geographic Dispersion

(a) The process to promote geographic dispersion of program funds is as described in this subsection:

(1) For a published period not less than 30 days and in accordance with the NOFA, each state region will be allocated funding amounts for its rural and urban subregions. During this initial period, these funds may be reserved only for Households located in these rural and urban subregions;

(2) After the initial release of funds under paragraph (1) of this subsection, each state region will combine any remaining funds from its rural and urban subregions into one regional balance for a second published period not to exceed 90 calendar days. During this second period, these funds may be reserved only for Households located in that state region; and

(3) After no more than 180 calendar days following the initial release date, any funds remaining across all state regions will collapse into one statewide pool. For as long as funds are available, these funds may be reserved for any Households anywhere in the state on a first-come, first-served basis.

(b) If any additional funds beyond the original program allocations that derive from Texas HTF loan repayments, interest earnings, deobligations, and/or other Texas HTF funds in excess of those funds required under Rider 8 or the Department's appropriation made under the General Appropriations Act may be reprogrammed at the discretion of the Department.

§26.23 Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Administrative Requirements

(a) To participate in the Program, an eligible participant must first be approved as an Administrator by the Department through the submission of a Reservation System Access Application. Eligible participants include, but are not limited to: Colonia Self-Help Centers established under Tex. Gov't Code, Chapter 2306, Subchapter Z; Councils of Government; Units of Local Government; Nonprofit Organizations; Local Mental Health Authorities; and Public Housing Authorities. An eligible participant may be further limited by NOFA.

~~(b) The Applicant must enter into an RSP Agreement with the Department in order to be eligible to reserve funds for the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program.~~

[\(b\) The Department will produce an Application to satisfy the requirements for an eligible participant to apply to become an AYBR Administrator. The application will be available on the Department's website.](#)

Applications to access the Reservation System will include, at a minimum, criteria listed in paragraphs (1)-(7) of this subsection.

(1) A Nonprofit Organization must submit a current letter of determination from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) under §501(c)(3), a charitable, nonprofit corporation, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as evidenced by a certificate from the IRS that is dated 1986 or later. The exemption ruling must be effective throughout the term of the RSP Agreement to access the Reservation System.

(2) A private Nonprofit Organization must be registered and in good standing with the Office of the Secretary of State and the State Comptroller's Office to do business in the State of Texas.

(3) The Applicant must demonstrate at least two years of capacity and experience in housing rehabilitation in Texas. The Applicant will be required to provide a summary of experience that must describe the capacity of key staff members and their skills and experience in client intake, records management, and managing housing rehabilitation. It must also describe organizational knowledge and experience in serving Persons with Disabilities.

(4) The Applicant must provide evidence of adherence to applicable financial accountability standards, demonstrated by an audited financial statement by a Certified Public Accountant for the most recent fiscal year. For a Nonprofit Organizations that does not yet have audited financial statements, the Department may accept a resolution from the Board of Directors that is signed and dated within the six months preceding the Application and that certifies that the procedures used by the organization conform to the requirements in 10 TAC §1.402, (relating to Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements), and that the accounting procedures used by the organization conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and/or the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), as applicable.

~~(5) An Applicant must submit a current roster of all Board Members, Council Members, Commissioners, or other Members of its legal governing body, including names and mailing addresses.~~

~~(5)~~ (5) The Applicant must submit a resolution from the Applicant's direct governing body that authorizes the submission of the Application and is signed and dated within the six months preceding the date of application submission. The resolution must include the name and title of the individual authorized to execute an RSP Agreement.

~~(7)~~ (6) The Applicant's history will be evaluated in accordance with 10 TAC Chapter 1, Subchapter A, §1.302 and §1.303, (relating to Previous Participation Reviews for Department Program Awards Not Covered by §1.301 of this Subchapter, and Executive Award and Review Advisory Committee (EARAC) Executive Director Review, respectively). Access to funds may be subject to terms and conditions.

~~(8)~~ (7) If applicable, the Applicant must submit copies of executed contracts with consultants or other organizations that are assisting in the implementation of the applicant's AYBR Program activities. The Applicant must provide a summary of the consultant or other organization's experience in housing rehabilitation and/or serving Persons with Disabilities.

(c) Administrators must follow the processes and procedures as required by the Department through its governing statute (Chapter 2306 of the Government Code), Administrative Rules (Texas Administrative Code, Title 10, Part 1), Reservation Agreement, Program Manual, forms, and NOFA.

§26.24 Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Reservation System Requirements

(a) Terms of Agreement. The term of an RSP Agreement will not exceed the lesser of 36 months, or the term limitation defined in the NOFA. Execution of an RSP Agreement does not guarantee the availability of funds under a reservation system. Reservations submitted under an RSP agreement will be subject to the provisions of this chapter in effect as of the date of submission by the Administrator.

(b) Limit on Number of Reservations. The limitation on the number of Reservations will be established in the NOFA.

(c) Administrator must remain in good standing with the Department and the state of Texas. If an Administrator is not in good standing, participation in the Reservation System will be suspended and may result in termination of the RSP Agreement.

(d) Reservations will be processed in the order submitted on the Reservation System. Submission of a Reservation consisting of support documentation on behalf of a Household does not guarantee funding.

(e) Reservations may be submitted in stages, and shall be processed through each stage as outlined in the Program Manual. All stages must be completed on or before the expiration of the Household Assistance Contract.

(f) Administrator must submit a substantially complete request for each stage of the Reservation as outlined in the Program Manual. Administrators must upload all required information and verification documentation in the Contract System. Requests determined to be substantially incomplete will not be reviewed and may be disapproved by the Department. If the Department identifies administrative deficiencies during review, the Department will allow a cure period of 14 calendar days beginning at the start of the first day following the date the Administrator is notified of the deficiency. If any administrative deficiencies remain after the cure period, the Department, in its sole discretion, may disapprove the request. Disapproved requests shall not constitute a Reservation of Funds.

(g) If a Household is determined to be eligible for assistance from the Department, the Department will ~~reserve up to~~ issue a Household Assistance Contract reflecting the maximum award amount permitted under the NOFA in Project Costs and an Administrative Fee equal to 10% of the combined Hard and Soft costs in the Contract System on behalf of the Household, funding permitting. The term of the Household Assistance Contract may not exceed 12 months unless amended in accordance with this Subchapter.

(h) Amendments to Household Assistance Contracts may be considered by the Department provided the approval does not conflict with the state regulations governing use of these funds, or impact obligation or expenditure deadlines.

(1) The Executive Director's authorized designee may approve an amendment that

(A) extends the term of a Household Assistance by not more than three months,

(B) extends the draw period by not more than three months after the expiration of the Household Assistance Contract; or

(C) increases Project funds within the limitations set forth in this Chapter.

(i) The Executive Director may approve amendments to a Household commitment contract, except amendments to extend the contract term of a Household Assistance contract by more than 12 months.

§26.25 Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Household Eligibility Requirements

(a) At least one Household member shall meet the definition of Persons with Disabilities.

(b) The assisted Household must be qualified as Low-Income.

(c) The assisted Household's liquid assets shall not exceed \$25,000. Liquid assets are considered to be cash deposited in checking or savings accounts, money markets, certificates of deposit, mutual funds, or brokerage accounts; the net value of stocks or bonds that may be easily converted to cash; and the net cash value calculated utilizing the appraisal district's market value for any real property that is not a principal residence. Funds in tax deferred accounts for retirement or education savings ~~(e.g., including~~ [but not limited to](#) Individual Retirement Accounts, 401(k)s, 529 plans), and whole life insurance policies are excluded from the liquid assets calculation.

(d) The Household may be ineligible for the program if there is debt owed to the State of Texas, including a tax delinquency; a child support delinquency; a student loan default; or any other delinquent debt owed to the State of Texas.

§26.26 Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Property Eligibility Requirements

(a) Owner-occupied homes are eligible for Program assistance. In owner-occupied homes, the owner of record must reside in the home as their permanent residence unless otherwise approved by the Department. If the property is family-owned and the owner of record is deceased or not a Household member, the Department may deem the property renter-occupied unless satisfactory documentation is provided to the Department that confirms otherwise.

(b) Certain rental units are eligible for Program assistance and must meet the following requirements:

(1) In rental units, all Household occupants, including the Person with Disability, must be named on the Program intake application and household income certification.

(2) The owner of record for the property shall provide a statement allowing accessibility modifications to be made to the property.

(c) The following rental properties are ineligible for Program assistance:

(1) Property that is or has been developed, owned, or managed by that Administrator or an Affiliate;

(2) Rental units in properties that are financed with any federal funds or that are subject to 10 TAC Chapter 1, Subchapter B, §1.206 (relating to Applicability of the Construction Standards for Compliance with §504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973);

(3) Rental units that have substandard and unsafe conditions identified in the initial inspection. Program funds may not be used to correct substandard or unsafe conditions in rental units, but may be used for accessibility modifications only after the substandard and unsafe conditions have been corrected at the property owner's expense; or

(4) Rental units owned by a property owner who is delinquent on property taxes associated with the property occupied by the Household.

§26.27 Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Construction Requirements

(a) Inspections.

(1) Initial inspection arranged by the Administrator is required and must identify the accessibility modifications needed by the Person with Disability; assess and document the condition of the property; and identify all deficiencies that constitute life-threatening hazards and unsafe conditions.

(2) Final inspection arranged by the Administrator is required and must verify, assess, and document that all construction activities have been repaired, replaced, and/or installed in a professional manner consistent with all applicable building codes and Program requirements, and as required in the Work Write-Up as described in subsection (e) of this section.

(b) A Manufactured Housing Unit may be eligible for Program assistance if it was constructed on or after January 1, 1995. The Department may allow Manufactured Housing Units older than January 1, 1995, to receive only exterior accessibility modifications (i.e., ramps, handrails, concrete flatwork) as long as the Administrator can verify that the unit itself will be free of hazardous and unsafe conditions.

(c) Construction standards.

(1) Administrator must follow all applicable sections of local building codes and ordinances, pursuant to Section 214.212 of the Local Government Code. Where local codes do not exist, the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC), including Appendix J for Existing Buildings and Structures, is the applicable code for the Program.

(2) Accessibility modifications shall be made with consideration to 2010 American Disability Act (ADA) Standards, but may vary from the ADA Standards in order to meet specific accessibility needs of the household as requested and agreed to by the assisted household.

(3) Administrators must adhere to Chapter 21 of this title, (relating to Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Construction Activities).

(4) Administrators and subcontractors must honor a twelve-month warranty on all completed items in their scope of work.

(d) Life-threatening hazards and unsafe conditions.

(1) Administrators may make repairs to eliminate life-threatening hazards and correct unsafe conditions in the Single-Family Housing as long as no more than 25% of the Project Hard Costs budget is utilized for this purpose, unless otherwise approved by the Department.

(2) Life-threatening hazards and unsafe conditions include, but are not limited to: faulty or damaged electrical systems; faulty or damaged gas-fueled systems; faulty, damaged or absent heating and cooling systems; faulty or damaged plumbing systems, including sanitary sewer systems; faulty, damaged or absent smoke, fire and carbon monoxide detection/alarm systems; structural systems on the verge of collapse or failure; environmental hazards such as mold, lead-based paint, asbestos or radon; serious pest infestation; absence of adequate emergency escape and rescue openings and fire egress; and the absence of ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCI) in applicable locations.

(3) If the work write-up addresses any of the following line items, the percentage of Project Hard Costs devoted to eliminating substandard, unsafe conditions may only exceed 25% by the amount of the following line item's cost: emergency escape, rescue openings and fire egress; ground fault circuit

interrupters (GFCI); arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCI); and smoke, fire, and carbon monoxide detection/alarm systems. The combination of these line items plus the correction of any other unsafe conditions cannot exceed 40% of Project Hard Costs budget.

(4) All areas and components of the Single-Family Housing Unit must be free of life-threatening hazards and unsafe conditions at project completion.

(e) Work-Write Ups. The Department shall review work-write ups (also referred to as "scope of work") and cost estimates prior to the Administrator soliciting bids.

(f) Bids. The Department shall review all line item bids Administrator selects for award prior to the commencement of construction. Lump sum bids will not be accepted.

(g) Change orders. An Administrator seeking a change order must obtain written Department approval prior to the commencement of any work related to the proposed change. Failure to get prior Departmental approval may result in disallowed costs.

§26.28 Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Project Completion Requirements

(a) The Administrator ~~has 90 calendar days from the date the Department approves the line item contract bid the Administrator selected for award to must~~ complete all construction activities prior to the expiration of the Household Assistance Contract and the Administrator must submit the Project and Administrative Draw Request, with required supporting documentation, in the Housing Contract System for reimbursement by the Department not more than 60 calendar days after expiration of the Household Assistance Contract. ~~The Department may grant a one-time, 30-calendar day extension to the Project completion deadline. The Department may grant additional extensions due to extenuating circumstances that are beyond the Administrator's control.~~

(b) The Administrator must submit evidence with the final Draw that the builder has provided a one-year warranty specifying at a minimum that materials and equipment used by the contractor will be new and of good quality unless otherwise required, the work will be free from defects other than those inherent in the work as specified, and the work will conform to the requirements of the contract documents.

(c) The Administrator must provide the Household all warranty information for work performed by the builder and any materials purchased for which a manufacturer or installer's warranty is included in the price.

(d) The Department will reimburse the Administrator in one, single payment after the Administrator's successful submission of the Project and Administrative Draw Request per Department instructions. Interim Draws may not be permitted. The Department reserves the right to delay Draw approval in the event that the Household expresses dissatisfaction with the work completed in order to resolve any outstanding conflicts between the Household and the Administrator and its subcontractors.