

## Conflict of Interest

### 24 Code of Federal Regulations Part 570.489(h)

The following text is from the federal rules for the state Community Development Block Grant program at 24 Code of Federal Regulations Part 570.489(h).

Conflict of interest.

(1) *Applicability.*

- (i) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by the States, units of local general governments, and sub recipients, the conflict of interest provisions in paragraph (g)\*of this section shall apply.
- (ii) In all cases not governed by paragraph (g)\*of this section, this paragraph (h) shall apply. Such cases include the acquisition and disposition of real property and the provision of assistance with CDBG funds by the unit of general local government or its sub recipients, to individuals, businesses and other private entities.

(2) *Conflicts prohibited.*

Except for eligible administrative or personnel costs, the general rule is that no persons described in paragraph (h)(3) of this section who exercise or have exercised any functions or responsibilities with respect to CDBG activities assisted under this subpart or who are in a position to participate in a decision-making process or gain inside information with regard to such activities, may obtain a financial interest or benefit from the activity, or have an interest or benefit from the activity, or have an interest in any contract, subcontract or agreement with respect thereto, or the proceeds there under, either for themselves or those with whom they have family or business ties, during their tenure or for one year thereafter.

(3) *Persons covered.*

The conflict of interest provisions for paragraph (h)(2) of this section apply to any person who is an employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected official or appointed official of the state, or of a unit of general local government, or of any designated public agencies, or sub recipients which are receiving CDBG funds.

(4) *Exceptions: Thresholds requirements.*

Upon written request by the State, an exception to the provisions of paragraph (h)(2) of this section involving an employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected official or appointed official of the state may be granted by HUD on a case-by-case basis. In all other cases, the state may grant such an exception upon written request of the unit of general local government provided the state shall fully document its determination in compliance with all requirements of paragraph (h)(4) of this section including the state's position with respect to each factor at paragraph (h)(5) of this section and such documentation shall be available for review by the public and by HUD. An exception may be granted after it is determined that such an exception will serve to further the purpose of the Act and the effective and efficient administration of the program or project of the state or unit of general local government as appropriate. An exception may be considered only after the state or unit of general local government, as appropriate, has provided the following:

- (i) A disclosure of the nature of the conflict, accompanied by an assurance that there has been public disclosure of the conflict and a description of how the public disclosure was made; and
- (ii) An opinion of the attorney for the state or the unit of general local government, as appropriate, that the interest for which the exception is sought would not violate state or local law.

(5) *Factors to be considered for exceptions.*

In determining whether to grant a requested exception after the requirements of paragraph (h)(4) of this section have been satisfactorily met, the cumulative effect of the following factors, where applicable, shall be considered:

- (i) Whether the exception would provide a significant cost benefit or an essential degree of expertise to the program or project, which would otherwise not be available;
- (ii) Whether an opportunity was provided for open competitive bidding or negotiation;
- (iii) Whether the person affected is a member of a group or class of low or moderate income persons intended to be the beneficiaries of the assisted activity, and the exception will permit such person to receive generally the same interests or benefits as are being made available or provided to the group or class;
- (iv) Whether the affected person has withdrawn from his or her functions or responsibilities, or the decision-making process with respect to the specific assisted activity in question;
- (v) Whether the interest or benefit was present before the affected person was in a position as described in paragraph (h)(3) of this section;
- (vi) Whether undue hardship will result either to the State or the unit of general local government or the person affected when weighed against the public interest served by avoiding the prohibited conflict; and
- (vii) Any other relevant considerations.