

**HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL**

Procedure: T6NDP.0  
Page: 37 of 40  
Date Authorized: 08/22/2023  
Supersedes: 04/16/2019  
01/29/2019

**GLOSSARY**

**Adverse Effects** – The totality of significant individual or cumulative human health or environmental effects including interrelated social and economic effects, which may include, but are not limited to:

- Bodily impairment, infirmity, illness or death,
- Air, noise and water pollution and soil contamination,
- Destruction or disruption of man-made or natural resources,
- Destruction or diminution of aesthetic values,
- Destruction or disruption of community cohesion or community's economic vitality,
- Destruction or disruption of the availability of public and private facilities and services,
- Adverse employment effects,
- Displacement of person's businesses, farms or non-profit organizations,
- Increased traffic congestion, isolation, exclusion or separation of minority or low-income individuals within a given community or from the broader community,
- Denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits of the County programs, policies and activities.

1. Significant Adverse Effects In Minority and Low-Income Populations – An adverse effect that:

- a. is predominantly borne by a minority population and/or a low- income population, or
- b. Will be suffered by the minority population and/or low-income population and is shown to be appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect that will be suffered by the non-minority population and/or non-low-income population.

**Elderly** – Any persons over the age of 65.

**Federal financial assistance** – includes grants and loans of federal funds, the grant or donation of Federal property and interests in property, the use or rent of Federal land or property at below market value, Federal training, a loan of Federal personnel, subsidies, and any other federal arrangement, agreement, or contract which purpose is to provide federal assistance. Federal financial assistance does not encompass contracts of guarantee or insurance, regulated programs, licenses, procurement contracts by the Federal government at market value, or programs that provide direct benefits. Federal financial assistance may be received directly or indirectly.

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Page: 38 of 40  
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**Limited English Proficiency** – Individuals with a primary or home language other than English who must, due to limited fluency in English, communicate in that primary or home language if the individuals are to have an equal opportunity to participate effectively in or benefit from any aid, service or benefit provided by the County.

**Low Income** – A person whose household income (or in the case of a community or group, whose median household income) is at or below the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.

The national poverty guidelines are issued annually by the Department of Health and Human Services and are available at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/15poverty.cfm>.

**Low-Income Population** – Any readily identifiable group of low-income persons who live in geographic proximity, and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons (such as migrant workers or Native Americans) who will be similarly affected by a proposed program, policy or activity.

**Minority** – Persons considered minorities are identified by the Census as people of African, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, or Alaskan Native origin. Executive Order 12898 and the DOT and FHWA Orders on Environmental Justice consider minority persons as persons belonging to any of the following groups:

- a. Black - a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- b. Hispanic - a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- c. Asian - a person having origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent.
- d. American Indian and Alaskan Native - a person having origins in North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

**Minority Population** – Any readily identifiable groups of minority persons who live in geographic proximity, and if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons (such as migrant workers or Native Americans) who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy or activity.

**Person with Disabilities** – Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, a qualified individual with a disability is a person that

- a. has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;

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Procedure:	T6NDP.0
Page:	39 of 40
Date Authorized:	08/22/2023
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- b. has a record of such impairment; or
- c. is regarded as having such impairment.

**Sub-Recipient** – Any agency such as a council or government, regional planning agency, education institution, for example, that received Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds through the State Department of Transportation and not directly from the FHWA. Other agencies, local governments, contractors, consultants that receive these funds are all considered sub-recipients.