

Heather Lagrone



Profile:

Recognized expert in disaster recovery, community and economic development, and housing programs funded from multiple U S Department Housing and Urban Development programs. Executive level management skills in staffing issues and reporting. Leader of the State of Texas' disaster recovery efforts for the past 20 years. Experience in presenting program information to elected officials, state and federal legislature, HUD program staff, and the public in person and through public hearings. Proven talent in designing programs, ensuring program compliance, and responding to HUD audits.

Professional Experience:

State of Texas General Land Office (GLO) Senior Deputy Director

01/2011 - Present

Program director for the State of Texas CDBG-DR and CDBG-Mit \$14 billion portfolio managing in excess of 200 professional employees. Nationally recognized HUD, CDBG, and disaster recovery subject matter expert and COSCDA Board member and DR Committee Chair. Provide program and regulatory training for staff and subrecipients. Represent the GLO with elected officials, community staff, advocates, and other agencies. Troubleshoot problem programs for resolution. Lead program audits by HUD CPD, HUD OIG, State Auditors, internal audits, and special audits. Draft program guidance, policies, and procedures. Interpret regulations to provide technical assistance to staff and subrecipients. Review new HUD guidance, policy issuances, regulations, bills, and Federal Registers for programmatic impacts. Coordinate with other CDBG-DR program participants and other State and Federal agencies.

State of Texas - Department of Housing & Community Affairs Director

01/2011 - 08/2011

Asked to join the program to get it on track. Manage the day to day operations of the State's disaster recovery housing programs. Staff up to appropriately manage the program timely. Advice subrecipients on program eligibility. Create and monitor housing programs. Ensure program compliance. Monitor subrecipients locally. Review and approve monitoring reports. Provide training to State staff, elected officials, and vendors. Represent the program in all external audits, including OIG, HUD CPD, and State audits. Evaluate program goals against accomplishments and improve program procedures and efficiencies. Draft Action Plan documents, program policies, and guidance. Program moved to the Texas General Land Office by the Governor.

State of Texas - Texas Department of Rural Affairs

Director

02/2005 - 12/2010

Create a Disaster Recovery Program with a staff of over 40. Draft Action Plan and Action Plan Amendments for the State's Hurricane Rita and Ike and Dolly disaster grants. Manage the day to day operations of the State's nonhousing /infrastructure programs to include application review, awards, payment processing, amendment requests, and eligibility determinations. Participate in local methods of distribution and grant allocation process using various distress factors and prioritization. Represent the agency in all public meetings, training, legislative inquiries, monitoring visits, and Board meetings. Monitor subrecipients files in the field. Act as Responsible Entity for Requests for Release of Funds and Authority to Use Grant Funds. Work with housing advocates to negotiate a conciliation agreement to resolve fair housing complaints filed with HUD. Represent the program in all external audits, including OIG, HUD CPD, and State audits.

City of Austin, Texas

Program Specialist

01/2001 - 01/2005

Manage the City of Austin's CDBG funded economic development programs. Programs included: a Revolving Loan Fund totaling approximately \$9 million including all underwriting, contracting, negotiations, and collections, multiple small business and microenterprise technical assistance programs including contracting, environmental fund releases, and payment processing, and a Section 108 Program including application and negotiation for additional funds for the City's RLF and for the construction of the Downtown Homeless Shelter. Responsible for ongoing reporting, payment, and compliance for all the City's Section 108 loans.

Education:

Texas A&M University College Station, Texas

Bachelor's Degree 05/1998