# PENDLETON, SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

This plan describes how the Town of Pendleton engages in public participation. This plan is developed to comply with Federal Non-Discrimination Laws: Collectively, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 13 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and EPA's implementing non-discrimination regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7.

The public participation process is available to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, limited-English proficiency, disability, age, sex or prior exercise of rights or opposition to actions protected under federal non-discrimination laws.

#### **Public Meeting Notice**

The Town of Pendleton will pursue efforts to schedule meetings and/or public hearings to make them accessible and user-friendly for all stakeholders. All notices of public hearings will be posted (10 days prior) and/or published in the <u>Anderson Independent</u> at least seven days prior to the public hearing. Such notices will be prominently advertised in an appropriate section of the newspaper, excluding the legal notice and classified sections. Meetings will also be posted through electronic means on the Town's website.

#### **Public Meetings**

The Town of Pendleton considers public meeting time frames that do not conflict with work schedules, rush hours, dinner hours and other community commitments that may decrease attendance. All public meetings will be held on weekdays after 6:00 PM or during business hours at a location convenient to citizens. Efforts will be made to conduct such meetings in a specific project area when applicable. The location of such meetings will be accessible and meets Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act Statements about equal access. Assistance for hearing-impaired individuals will be provided. Whenever practical and appropriate the Town will provide translators for limited-English speaking communities. Notices of public hearings will indicate that assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of handicapped persons. If special accommodations are needed, please contact Steve Miller, Town Administrator/Non Discrimination Coordinator at: 310 Greenville Street, Pendleton, SC 29670. 864-646-9409 or stevem@townofpendleton.org

## **Scope of Citizen Participation**

The Town of Pendleton encourages participation by all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, limited-English proficiency, disability, age, sex or prior exercise of rights or opposition to actions protected under federal non-discrimination laws. Community leaders in each project area will be asked to inform residents about proposed projects. Fliers will be distributed to potential project areas. Notices will be posted at post offices and neighborhood businesses. Radio announcements may be made as well.

### **Non-English-Speaking Residents**

Less than 1.56 percent of the population of the county is non-English speaking, and there are no significant concentrations of non-English speaking residents within the community, as determined by the 2020 Census of Population. If 10 percent or more of the potential or actual beneficiaries of the project, program or activity are determined to be non-English speaking, provisions will be made at the appropriate public hearings for

translation of comments and documents into the native language of the majority of the non-English speaking residents affected. The Town of Pendleton has 24-7 access to Language Line Services that can translate and provide language services to non-English speaking public stakeholders. If Language Line Services are needed call the Town of Pendleton at 1.864.646.9409, you will then be connected to an interpreter or you may appear in person at Pendleton Town Hall located at 310 Greenville, St Pendleton, SC 29670, staff will assist with connecting you to the interpreter.

# **Project Administration**

The public will be provided with reasonable access to public records. Upon written request submitted to the Town Administrator, 310 Greenville Street, Pendleton SC, 29670, such information may be reviewed at Town Hall from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Confidential information normally protected under the state and federal freedom of information laws may not be made available for public review.

#### **Complaints and Grievances**

Any citizen may file a complaint or grievance using the Town of Pendleton's grievance procedures.

Grievance Procedure and Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy.

#### **Contact information**

Steve Miller
Town Administrator/Nondiscrimination Coordinator
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Pendleton, SC 29670
864-646-9409
stevem@townofpendleton.org

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