

NORTEX REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Nortex Regional Planning Commission is a political subdivision of the State of Texas. Employees, as public servants, will carry out their activities in a fair and legal manner avoiding actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

All staff members are expected to conduct the activities of the organization always in full compliance with the law and in an honest, fair, and courteous manner. Staff members must not ask or expect contractors or others with whom Nortex Regional Planning Commission does business to favor Nortex Regional Planning Commission or the individual staff member with special treatment.

Staff members should not permit personal preferences and dislikes to affect decisions related to their duties. To do so acts against Nortex Regional Planning Commission's policy which is to treat all individuals, members, potential members, contractors, and others fairly and equitably.

Staff members shall notify all agents of the organization regarding the Code of Ethical Conduct and its expectation of ethical behavior and compliance with the law from individuals and companies it does business with through distribution of written materials, electronic communication or verbal communication

ENFORCEABLE CODE OF CONDUCT

Nortex Regional Planning Commission governing body sets policy for the organization. Staff members will reflect these policies in their oral and written statements representing Nortex Regional Planning Commission with the public, local government members, potential members, contractors, grantee state agencies, and federal agencies.

Each officer or employee acknowledges that his or her conduct while serving as a member of the staff is governed by this Code of Conduct. An officer or employee may not:

1. Use his or her official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of an election or nomination for office; or
2. Directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command, or advise a local or state officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency, or person for a political purpose; or
3. Use funds provided by the State of Texas or the U.S. Congress to influence the passage or defeat of any legislative measure in the Texas Legislature or the U.S. Congress or the outcome of any election.

A representative of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (representative) is exempt from the above prohibition. If a representative, under the direction of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, identifies a need to speak with members of the media or legislature to comment on or recommend change in policy or legislation, the representative may do so in coordination with the

State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and must notify the NRPC Executive Director of comments or recommendations made to members of the media or the legislature. Permissible actions by a representative include:

- a. Reviewing and commenting on laws, regulations, and policies that pertain to the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents in long-term care facilities; and
- b. Facilitating the ability of the public to comment on laws, regulations, and actions.