

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

PUBLICATION DATE: June 14, 2019

GRANTEE NAME: County of Orange

ADDRESS: Office of Community Development
40 Matthews Street, Suite 307A
Goshen, NY 10924

TELEPHONE: (845) 615-3820

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

On or about July 1, 2019, the County of Orange will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to release federal Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds under Section 228 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (NAHA) to be used for the following projects in the county:

Countywide Residential Rehabilitation Program Non Site-Specific Multi Year (2017-2021)
(includes the CDBG home rehabilitation program and the HOME home rehabilitation program)

Rehabilitation will include but not be limited to window/door removal and replacement, replacement of flooring, removal/replacement of roof components and gutters, improvements to HVAC systems, improvements to electrical and plumbing systems, improvements to kitchen areas including removal/replacement of cabinets and appliances, improvements to bathrooms including removal/replacement of tubs, sinks, vanities and toilets as well as ADA improvements, improvements to interior walls including new sheetrock and painting, exterior improvements including the installation of vinyl siding and painting, porch improvements and sidewalk/walkway improvement, as well as any other general housing improvement work. The improvements will not increase the structure's capacity and will not involve additions or expansion of the structure.

1. CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program and HOME Home Rehabilitation activities undertaken under these programs will be as described above. Funding will be provided via the HOME and CDBG Programs. Estimated FY 2017 CDBG Funding: \$262,422 Est. FY 2017 HOME funding: \$161,154. Est total CDBG program costs for FY2017 -2021: \$2,081,280. Est total HOME program costs for FY2017-2021: \$943,272
Actual funding amounts will be described in the County's annual action plan.

HOME Homebuyer Assistance Program Non Site-Specific Multi Year (2017-2021)

First-time homebuyers will receive down payment assistance to purchase a house to be occupied as a primary residence. Funding will be provided via the HOME Program. Est. FY 2017 funding: \$60,000. Est. total program costs for FY 2017 – FY 2021: \$300,000. Actual funding amounts will be described in the County's annual action plan.

CHDO Homebuyer Assistance Program Non Site-Specific Multi Year (2017-2021)

A Community Housing Development Organization will acquire and rehabilitate vacant houses or construct new houses for sale to low/mod income households. Program may include down payment assistance. The rehabilitation activities undertaken under this program are of the same type and scope undertaken under the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program and the HOME Home Rehabilitation Program described above. Funding will be provided via the HOME Program. Est. FY 2017 funding: \$131,000. Est. total program costs for FY 2017 – FY 2021: \$655,000. Actual funding amounts will be described in the County's annual action plan.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CCFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for these projects is on file at the Orange County Office of Community Development; 40 Matthews Street, Suite 307A; Goshen, NY 10924, and is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 A.M to 5:00 P.M.

Environmental review strategies for the above activities have been prepared, and it has been determined that the only applicable site-specific 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6 requirements for the housing rehabilitation programs are historic preservation, explosive/flammable operations, toxic substances, coastal zone management, sole source aquifers, airport clear zones, noise, endangered species and floodplain status/insurance. Each site shall be reviewed against these factors, with compliance fully documented, before approving any specific loans or grants. Site specific projects determined to exceed one or more of the environmental constraints established for the program will require a separate environmental review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Director of the Orange County Office of Community Development; 40 Matthews Street, Suite 307A; Goshen, NY 10924 All comments received by June 30, 2019 will be considered by the County of Orange prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The County of Orange certifies to HUD that Steven M. Neuhaus, in his capacity as County Executive of the County of Orange, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the County of Washington to use CDBG and HOME Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the County of Orange's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the

request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the County of Orange; (b) the County of Orange has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76), and shall be addressed to the Department of Housing and Urban Development; Jacob J. Javits Federal Building; 26 Federal Plaza, Rm 3513; New York, NY 10278. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Steven M. Neuhaus, County Executive
County of Orange, NY