

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

May 20, 2021
City of Saint Paul
1100 City Hall Annex
25 West Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102
(651) 266-6655

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Saint Paul.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about June 5, 2021, the City of Saint Paul will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, as authorized by Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended 42 U.S.C. § 5301 *et seq.*, to undertake the following projects:

Tier 1 Broad Level Review: Clearance Activities/\$311,000 (FY'21) \$1,500,000 (FY'22-FY'25)/ The citywide program to remove nuisance and blighted buildings in the community to spur economic development, improve neighborhoods, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The activities will include only demolition and there are no acquisitions involved. The Tier will support demolition of residential projects. Any project involving commercial or non-residential structures will be completed separately as an individual environmental review.

Location: Citywide

Level of Environment Review Determination: Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5: 58.35(a)(4)

Tier II Site Specific Review: *The following are the laws and authorities that will be assessed during the site-specific review.* Airport Hazards, Endangered Species, Historic Preservation, Wetlands Protection, and Environmental Justice.

Tier 1 Broad Level Review: NENDC Home Improvements Plus (HIP)/\$75,000 (FY'21)/ The HIP program provides a wide range of technical, financial, and counseling services to enable low- and very low-income homeowners to rehabilitate their homes. Services include property inspections, preparing work specifications, construction management, determining loan applicant's income eligibility, financial counseling, loan processing, and the provision of below market interest rate and deferred loans. HIP resources may also be used to carry out the activities necessary to comply with HUD's Lead Safe Housing regulations.

Location: The service area encompasses the northeast corner of the City of Saint Paul limits between Clarence St. to the city limit to the east, and Burns Ave and Suburban Ave to the city limit to the north.

Level of Environment Review Determination: Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5: 58.35(a)(2), 58.35(a)(3), 58.35(a)(6)

Tier II Site Specific Review: *The following are the laws and authorities that will be assessed during the site-specific review.* Airport Hazards, Flood Insurance, Contamination and Toxic Substances. Floodplain Management, Historic Preservation, Noise Abatement and Control, Wetlands Protection, and Environmental Justice.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Saint Paul has determined that the projects are either exempt pursuant to HUD regulation 24 CFR §58.34 or are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per the specific regulations cited above. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for these projects is on file at the City of Saint Paul and will be made available for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to Addison Vang, 1400 City Hall Annex, 25 West 4th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102 or by email to Addison.Vang@ci.stpaul.mn.us. The ERR can also be accessed online at the following websites: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/environmental-review-records/> and <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/consolidated-plan>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Saint Paul, Department of Planning and Economic Development, Grants Management. Please submit comments to the City of Saint Paul by U.S. Mail to Julie Hostak, Grants Specialist, 1100 City Hall Annex, 25 West 4th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102 or by email to Julie.Hostak@ci.stpaul.mn.us. All comments received **by June 4, 2021**, will be considered by the City of Saint Paul. If after the 15-day comment period ends, no comments are received or all comments received have been resolved, HUD may issue the Authority to Use Grant Funds authorizing the release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Saint Paul certifies to HUD that Melvin Carter III in his capacity as Mayor 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 City of Saint Paul to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Saint Paul's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or HUD's 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 City of Saint Paul; (b) the City of Saint Paul 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 via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Minnesota Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Planning and Development (CPD) via email at CPD_COVID-19OEE-MIN@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Melvin Carter III, Mayor
City of Saint Paul

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15 West Kellogg Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55102