

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

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City of Saint Paul
1300 City Hall Annex
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Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
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On or about July 3rd, 2026, the City of Saint Paul will submit a request to HUD for the release of \$350,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds under 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq., of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended, to undertake the following project, for a total project cost of \$350,000:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Vacant & Hazardous Building Demolition Program
FY '26 - '27.

Purpose: The Clearance Activities is a citywide enforcement program to remove nuisance and blighted building in the community to spur economic development and improve neighborhoods.

Location: The City of Saint Paul, generally. Specific addresses will be assessed in the site specific reviews.

Project/Program Description: The City of Saint Paul can enact municipal code Chapter 45 Nuisance Abatement to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, Under this chapter the city is authorized to abate nuisances in accordance with the procedures set forth in sections 45.10, 45.11 and 45.12. The activities will include only demolition and there are no acquisitions involved. For grant year 2026 the total HUD funds will be \$175,000, and for grant year 2027 the total HUD funds will be \$175,000.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: *24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i).*

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Airport Hazards, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Endangered Species Act, Floodplain Management, Historic Preservation, Wetlands Protection.

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):

Airport Hazards: To determine compliance with HUD's Airport Hazards requirements, which states that HUD-assisted projects must be at least 2,500ft from civilian airports and 15,000ft from military airports, the EO will utilize our City's GIS Environmental Review web-app. If the proposed project site is within 2,500ft of a civilian airport or within 15,000ft of a military airport, the EO will consult with our local HUD Field Environmental Officer to discuss mitigation. If after this consultation the site-specific project remains non-compliant with this regulation, the project will not move forward under this Tier I.

Contamination and Toxic Substances: To determine compliance with HUD's Contamination and Toxic Substances requirements, the proposed project site will be evaluated with the NEPAssist GIS web app, and a 1/2-mile buffer will be employed to survey the surrounding area for contamination. Specifically, Superfund, Brownfield, on-site, and/or nearby sites of contamination will be analyzed. The EO will examine the data on NEPAssist and the data on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's "What's in My Neighborhood" GIS web app to ensure they have the most complete and up-to-date information in making their compliance determination. If contaminated sites are found to pose a threat to the health of those involved with the project, the EO will consult with the local HUD Field Environmental Officer for mitigation steps. If there are no feasible ways to mitigate contamination, the project will not move forward due to non-compliance.

Floodplain Management: To determine whether or not the site-specific project is compliant with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), The EO must prove that the proposed project site is not on a floodplain, as defined in Title 44 CFR Part 9.4. The EO will make their determination using a FEMA FIRMette map. The EO will contact our local HUD Field Environmental Officer if they find that the proposed project will be on a floodplain. The project will not move forward if there are no feasible ways to mitigate the potentially damaging effects of developing on a wetland.

Historic Preservation: A site will be reviewed using the county tax data and/or City Historic Permit Index card data to determine its age and whether it is 50 years or older to be eligible for historic designation. Research will also go into determining if the site is located in a designated historic site and/or district. If the project site does not fall into either of these, then it is in compliance and no further determination is needed. If the site is 50 years or older, or in a historic site and/or district, then the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be requested to make a determination on the site's eligibility as a historic site. If SHPO concludes the site is not eligible for historic designation or will not adversely affect nearby historic sites, the site will be in compliance. If SHPO determines the site is eligible, and/or requires additional measures, conditions, or design standards, we will work with SHPO, the developer, and other relevant agencies to comply with SHPO to be compliant. If the project is still not in compliance after consultation, the project will not move forward.

Wetlands Protection: To determine whether or not the site-specific project is compliant with Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5, the EO will visit the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's "National Wetlands Inventory" (NWI) web app. This web app will allow the EO to determine whether the site-specific project site is on or near a federally protected Wetland. The EO will contact our local HUD Field Environmental Officer if the site-specific project is on or near a federally protected wetland. The project will not move forward if compliance with the executive order is unachieved.

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the

environmental determinations for this project is on file at the City of Saint Paul, 1400 City Hall Annex, 25 West 4th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102 and will be made available for in-person viewing or copying from 8 AM through 12 PM and 1 PM and 4 PM on Wednesdays and Thursdays and electronically upon request to stefan.duarte-breen@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

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, Attn: Stefan Duarte Breen, 1400 City Hall Annex, 25 West Fourth Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102 or to stefan.duarte-breen@ci.stpaul.mn.us. All comments received by July 3rd, 2026 will be considered by the City of Saint Paul prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Saint Paul certifies to HUD that Yasmine Robinson in her capacity as Planning Director and in her official capacity as Certifying Officer 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.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Saint Paul'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 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 in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD via email at CPDRROFMIN@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Certifying Officer:
Yasmine Robinson,
Planning Director
yasmine.robinson@ci.stpaul.mn.us