



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING EXTENDS APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR CRUMBLING FOUNDATIONS TESTING PROGRAM

Municipalities encouraged to apply for CDBG-Small Cities program

(Hartford, CT) – In accordance with state legislative approval of the Community Development Block Grant—Small Cities (CDBG-SC) Allocation Plan, the Department of Housing (DOH) is extending the application deadline for municipalities that are interested in applying to establish their own crumbling foundations testing program using CDBG-SC funding. The purpose of this extension is to solicit applications for funding to assist residents in obtaining financial support to test their foundations for the presence of pyrrhotite. These funds are subject to availability. Any eligible municipality that would like to apply must submit a letter of intent to DOH by June 15, 2018. Only municipalities with a population below 50,000 residents are eligible for this program.

Last year, Governor Malloy [announced](#) that the state would begin offering testing reimbursements to homeowners in northeastern Connecticut who are impacted or potentially impacted by the ongoing crumbling foundations issue. In that announcement, the Governor and DOH explained that CDBG-SC funding would be set-aside so that municipalities could submit applications to establish their own testing programs. DOH received one multi-jurisdictional application in 2017 and awarded \$250,000. Any resident who lives in Ashford, Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Tolland, Union, or Willington may apply directly to their town for that funding. A municipality that establishes a crumbling foundations testing program with CDBG-SC funding may cover 100% of the costs to test a foundation for pyrrhotite, up to \$5,000.

“To address this natural disaster, we need stakeholders at every level of government and in the private sector to come to the table,” **said DOH Commissioner Evonne M. Klein.** “We encourage all municipalities who believe they may be impacted to submit their letters of intent by June 15th. Testing foundations for the presence of pyrrhotite is the first step towards remediation. When the Captive Insurance Company is up and running, which was established through state legislation, it will offer real relief to residents of northeastern Connecticut. It is our hope that in the coming months and years we will be able to secure a long-term federal solution to address this problem, which could affect thousands of households.”

A number of homes in the region have suffered damage due to what appears to be a slow moving natural disaster—specifically the reaction of a mineral, pyrrhotite, to oxygen and water. Pyrrhotite is an iron sulfide mineral, and its exposure to oxygen and water leads to a

chemical reaction that results in the deterioration of home foundations. The presence of pyrrhotite indicates the potential for concrete deterioration, but its existence alone does not necessarily cause it. Homes and structures in approximately 36 towns may be impacted. As a structure continues to deteriorate, it often becomes unsound.

In addition to the funding made available within the CDBG-SC program, affected residents are also eligible to apply to the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) for crumbling foundations testing reimbursements. A total of \$5 million has been made available to fund this program.

To be eligible for a reimbursement of foundation testing costs through CRCOG, the following criteria apply:

- The home must have been built during or after 1983.
- If the home was built before 1983, but there is an addition that was built after 1983, only the addition is eligible for testing reimbursement. The homeowner must supply proof that the addition was built after 1983 (such as a building permit, certificate of occupancy, or other similar documentation).
- The home is located within a 20 miles radius of the former J.J. Mottes Concrete Company in Stafford Springs—though the Commissioner of the Department of Housing may now grant a waiver for homes located outside this radius.
- Visual Inspections must be performed by a licensed, professional engineer.

Under the CRCOG program, homeowners are eligible for a 50% reimbursement of their testing costs, up to \$2,000 for petrographic analysis—core testing. Visual inspections will be reimbursed at 100% of value, up to \$400.

For additional information on CRCOG's program, or to apply for a reimbursement, please visit www.foundationtesting.org to submit an application.

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