

## **NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

February 11, 2016

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING (DOH)

505 HUDSON STREET

HARTFORD, CT 06106

(860) 270-8261

On or about **February 29, 2016** DOH will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended and the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2), for the following programs located in communities most impacted by Superstorm Sandy (i.e. Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex and New London Counties; and the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Reservation [geographically located within New London County]):

### **Owner Occupied Programs \$36,092,050**

- **Rehabilitation and Rebuilding - \$14,892,050**

Funding to meet unmet needs for structural repair or replacement of 1-4 unit owner-occupied primary residences damaged by Superstorm Sandy located in any of the designated disaster areas.

- **Reimbursement - \$11,200,000**

Funding to reimburse program-eligible applicants who used personal funds to repair Superstorm Sandy damages to their homes or to rebuild their destroyed homes located in any of the designated disaster areas.

- **Mitigation – \$10,000,000**

Funding to assist program eligible applicants in elevating their homes above the flood plain thus making these homes more resilient to withstand future storm damages in any of the designated disaster areas.

### **Evidence Based Strategies - \$300,000**

Funding for a project that will attempt to address homeless prevention with the intention to reduce or eliminate recidivism or chronic homelessness located in any of the designated disaster areas.

The proposed categories of actions identified in the above programs were found to be categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. In accordance with §58.15, a tiered review process has been completed, whereby a broad analysis of the applicable environmental laws and authorities has been conducted for the target areas to ascertain the likelihood of impacts to those laws and authorities, and the level of assessment required for compliance when individual projects are ripe for review. For each site specific activity, DOH or its agent will complete a Statutory Worksheet, in accordance with Sec. 58.35.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for these projects and more fully describes the tiered review process cited above, is on file at DOH, Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program 505 Hudson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hartford, CT 06106 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Hermia Delaire, Program Manager, Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program, Department of Housing, 505 Hudson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hartford, CT 06106. DOH encourages electronic submittal of comments to [CT.Housing.Plans@ct.gov](mailto:CT.Housing.Plans@ct.gov) . All comments received by February 26, 2016 will be considered by DOH prior to authorizing submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Certification to HUD.

### **RELEASE OF FUNDS**

DOH certifies to HUD that Evonne M. Klein in her official capacity as Commissioner 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 DOH to utilize federal funds and implement the Programs.

Under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-2), also known and referred to as the Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Appropriation (H.R. 152), the Secretary may immediately release funds without holding the Request Release of Funds (Form 7015.15) for the 15 days required by Section 104(g) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304(g)) and 24 CFR 58.73 if the project is Categorically Excluded under NEPA. HUD may immediately accept the Request Release of Funds and issue an Authority to Use Grant Funds (AUGF) (Form 7015.16) or equivalent letter. This provision is limited to the Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Appropriations Notice.

Evonne M. Klein, Commissioner, DOH