

COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE

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

ESSEX COUNTY

March 20, 2015

New Jersey Economic Development Authority
36 West State Street
PO Box 990
Trenton, NJ 08625-0990
609-858-6700

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Per 24 CFR 58.33, the combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (FONSI/NOI-RROF) will be published simultaneously with the submission of the Request of Release of Funds (RROF). The funds are needed on an emergency basis due to a declared disaster from the impacts of Superstorm Sandy, which made landfall on October 29, 2012. As a result, the comment periods for the FONSI/NOI-RROF and RROF have been combined.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about April 6, 2015, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on behalf of EDA will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Federal funds under the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) pursuant to the Disaster Relief (DR) Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) for the Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) program. EDA expects to fund the project using approximately \$4,400,000 of NCR funds.

The following information pertains to this project:

Project Title: Newark Housing Authority
Location: 39 – 121 Ludlow Street, Newark, Essex County, New Jersey
Estimated Cost: \$4,400,000
Project Description: The proposed project involves the construction of a 25,000-square foot Training, Recreation, and Education Center at 71 Ludlow Street (on a parcel with the street address of 39 – 121 Ludlow Street) in the Dayton Street Neighborhood of the City of Newark’s South Ward. The proposed facility would be operated by the Newark Housing Authority (NHA) and provide job training resources including career development and job skills training, health and wellness programs, as well as space for exercise and recreational activities. The Training, Recreation, and Education Center includes a gymnasium, dance studio, fitness center,

classrooms, meeting rooms, drop-off child care, and common areas. The proposed center would be new construction consisting of steel frame finished stucco and glass exterior measuring approximately 120 feet by 247 feet and would be a maximum of 32 feet high and one story tall. The proposed project improvements also include a 53-car parking lot, utility upgrades, stormwater retention system, site lighting, and landscaping. The proposed project would be served by city water and sewer as well as Public Service Enterprise Group (PSE&G) for power and gas services. It is anticipated that the center will provide up to 60 staff members, potentially including NHA tenants.

The NCR Program supports the long-term recovery of small businesses and communities by funding projects that contribute to the economic revitalization throughout New Jersey, but focusing on the nine most impacted counties. The NCR Program supports projects that retain or hire new employees, contribute to the State's economy, serve low or moderate income (LMI) areas, create or maintain LMI jobs, remove slum or blight, or address an urgent need related to Superstorm Sandy. These projects are commercial or mixed use projects, typically development and public improvement or streetscape revitalization.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

An Environmental Assessment has been prepared and EDA has determined that this project will have no significant impact on the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. The reason for the decision not to prepare an EIS is that no significant impacts or hazards were identified in the course of the environmental review. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, 36 West State Street, PO Box 990, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. by contacting Erin B. Gold at 609-858-6718 or may be viewed online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on this project may submit written comments to Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800 or online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/> and to Tennille Smith Parker, DRS, Acting Division Director, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20410. All comments received by April 6, 2015 will be considered by DCA and EDA. Comments should specify which Notice (Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact [FONSI] or notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds [NOI-RROF]) they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCA certifies (on or about April 6, 2015) to HUD that Richard E. Constable, III, in his capacity as Commissioner of DCA 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 the National Environmental Policy Act and related laws and authorities, and allows DCA to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and DCA's certification for a period of fifteen (15) 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 DCA; (b) DCA 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 has committed funds or incurred costs 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) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, DRS, Acting Division Director, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20410. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs