

COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS AND NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

OCEAN COUNTY

September 12, 2014

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
101 South Broad Street
PO Box 800
Trenton, NJ 08625-0800
609-292-3647

This notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Per 24 CFR 58.33, and 24 CFR 55.20(b)(1), the Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI-RROF) and the Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain will be published simultaneously with the submission of the 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 NOI-RROF, 100-Year Floodplain and RROF have been combined.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCA 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 Landlord Rental Repair Program (LRRP). DCA expects to fund the project using approximately \$200,000 of LRRP funds.

The following information pertains to this project:

Project Title: 1108 Barnegat Avenue, Seaside Heights, NJ
Location: 1108 Barnegat Avenue, Seaside Heights, NJ
Estimated Cost: \$306,469
Project Description: This proposed project involves the rehabilitation and elevation of the two structures located at 1108 Barnegat Avenue, Seaside Heights, Ocean County, New Jersey (Block 51, Lot 81.02). The two structures, built in 1946 according to Ocean County property tax records, comprise five total units, four of which were damaged as a result of Superstorm Sandy. Two of the damaged units (#1 and #2) are in the structure on the west side of the property and the other two damaged units (#3 and #4) are in the

structure on the east side. The four damaged units would be rehabilitated and both structures would be elevated.

The LRRP will restore or create a variety of rentals from “1 to 4 unit” buildings to large multi-family housing developments. More than 70% of rental properties in the most impacted areas have less than 20 units. Often, this rental type is provided by a homeowner that has an extra unit that contributes rental income to the owner, or by landlords with fewer than 25 properties. The rental repair program will provide zero interest forgivable loans to existing and new owners of rental properties with 1 to 25 units requiring significant rehabilitation.

The Responsible Entity, DCA, has determined that the proposed project is Categorically Excluded SUBJECT to §58.5 authorities per 24 CFR 58.35(a)(4)(i). As such, a Statutory Checklist has been completed in order to determine whether the project is in compliance with the authorities cited at 24 CFR§50.4 and 58.5.

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record on file at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Sandy Recovery Division, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. or can be viewed online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

This is to give notice that the DCA has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the **LRRP** program under (B-13-DS-34-001). The proposed project is the elevation of the two structures located at 1108 Barnegat Avenue, Seaside Heights, Ocean County, and the rehabilitation of four of the five units which the two structures comprise. The entire 0.12-acre parcel in which the project is located is within Special Flood Hazard Area “A” Zone, 100- year floodplain, as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 329 of 611, Map Number 34029C0329F, revised September 29, 2006.

DCA has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. Alternatives to relocate the project outside of the floodplain are not available and would be contrary to the purpose and function of the proposed improvement. Additionally, the entire project location of 1108 Barnegat Avenue is located within the 100-year floodplain. Therefore, there is no alternative where the project could be relocated outside of the 100-year floodplain. A No Action alternative was considered and rejected because taking no action would not address the housing needs of the area, would not aid in community and economic recovery in Seaside Heights, and would not address the needed reduction of future flood risk and associated human health, safety and welfare impacts. Implementation of the proposed action will require local and state permits, which may place additional mitigation requirements on the project.

DCA has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

DCA has determined that construction and operation of the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts to flood levels, flood risk, or the flow of floodwaters on the project site or surrounding areas. The project would reduce flood level, flood risk, and the flow of floodwaters onto the project area. Therefore, the proposed project would be compliant with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (44 CFR § 59) and EO 11988 on Floodplain Management (42 FR 26951).]

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on these projects 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 September 27, 2014 will be considered by DCA. Comments should specify which Notice (Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI-RROF) or Notice of Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain) they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCA certifies 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 seven (7) 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.