

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain and Wetland

May 13, 2025

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), as the Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58, has determined that the following proposed actions under the Homeowner Assistance and Recovery Program (HARP) and Small Rental Repair Program (SRRP): New Housing Development Program part of the *Tropical Storm Ida Action Plan For the State of New Jersey* (Action Plan) [CDBG-DR, grant number B-21-DF-34-0001] is located in the floodplain and wetland, and DCA will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain/wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The State of New Jersey will receive Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to support long-term recovery and mitigation efforts following Hurricane Ida. Hurricane Ida passed through New Jersey from September 1st through September 3rd, 2021, bringing lashing winds and torrential rains leading to catastrophic flash flooding over portions of central and northern New Jersey. In response, the State of New Jersey's Action Plan has allocated \$68,928,700 to HARP and \$20,000,000 to SRRP in the 12 affected counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset, Union, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, and Warren. The HARP and SRRP will provide grants for activities necessary to restore storm-damaged homes, including rehabilitation, reconstruction, elevation, and/or other mitigation activities such as structural and utility retrofits, grading and slope stabilization, and drainage improvements.

The seven (7) proposed project locations are as follows:

- HARP010401- 556 McBride Ave, Woodland Park Borough, Passaic County, NJ 07424
- HARP012877- 4 Lynwood Dr., Lebanon Borough, Hunterdon County, NJ 08833
- SRRP013230- 104 Millburn Ave, Millburn Township, Essex County, NJ 07041
- HARP011698- 171 Normandy Dr., Piscataway Township, Middlesex County, NJ 08854
- HARP010741- 376 Pennington Ave, Passaic City, Passaic County, NJ 07055
- HARP010978- 93 Old York Rd, Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, NJ 08807
- HARP014904- 54 Blauvelt Ave, Bergenfield, Bergen County, NJ 07621

The parcels of all the proposed project locations listed above are partially located within the floodway. All applicant structures are located outside of the floodway and no funded activities will occur within the floodway. Additionally, all of the proposed project locations are within 150 feet of a wetland. Based on the proposed action of rehabilitation at all project locations, no impacts to wetlands are anticipated. Best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control will be used to minimize potential impacts.

DCA has determined on a site-specific basis as to whether the structures at each of the seven (7) project locations are located within the floodplain by using the best available mapping data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands

Inventory, and NJDEP. The structures at the following five (5) project locations are located within the floodplain:

- HARP010401- 556 McBride Ave, Woodland Park Borough, Passaic County, NJ 07424
 - The structure is located within the 100-year floodplain.
- SRRP013230- 104 Millburn Ave, Millburn Township, Essex County, NJ 07041
 - The structure is located within the 500-year floodplain.
- HARP011698- 171 Normandy Dr., Piscataway Township, Middlesex County, NJ 08854
 - The structure is partially located within the 500-year floodplain.
- HARP010741- 376 Pennington Ave, Passaic City, Passaic County, NJ 07055
 - The structure is located within the 500-year floodplain.
 - While the structure appears to be located within the 100-year floodplain on the FIRM (including a small portion within the floodway), a Letter of Map Amendment dated 7/29/2019 removed the structure from the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). FEMA has determined that the structure is located within Zone X (Shaded), or the 500-year floodplain, and DCA has determined that the application is eligible to participate in HARP.
- HARP010978- 93 Old York Rd, Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, NJ 08807
 - The structure is partially located within the 500-year floodplain.

The proposed projects will be limited to rehabilitation activities within the footprint of the existing structures and will maintain all natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain and wetland including floodwater storage and conveyance, groundwater discharge or recharge, erosion control, water quality maintenance, and habitat for flora and fauna. No funded activities will occur within the floodway.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and wetland and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain/wetland. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by DCA at the following address on or before May 29, 2025: Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 823, Trenton, NJ 08625 and 609-633-7308, Attention: Samuel Viavattine, Deputy Commissioner. Additional project information, including floodplains and wetlands maps for each affected county, can be viewed from 9 AM to 5 PM at the above address. Comments may also be submitted via email at DDRM.EHPComments@dca.nj.gov.