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Barney S. Heath
Director

August 18, 2017

RECEIVED
By City Clerk at 8:40 am, Aug 18, 2017

TO: Interested Individuals, Groups, and Agencies
FR: Rachel Powers, Community Development Programs Manager
RE: Notice of Intent to Request the Release of Funds



The City of Newton manages a Housing Rehabilitation and Development Program, which provides CDBG and HOME funds to low-and-moderate income households in Newton for minor to moderate repairs to their homes, and supports the acquisition, creation and preservation of affordable housing throughout the City. As the responsible entity, the City of Newton is required to perform an environmental review for each identified project. Due to the typical scope of work and nature of the program, the environmental review rarely requires consultation, except for lead paint, which often exists in older homes. The existence and removal of lead paint requires that the City notice all interested parties using a Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds (NOI-RROF).

The City of Newton is hereby providing notice to interested parties that projects under the Housing Rehabilitation and Development Program may require lead paint abatement. Lead paint abatement will follow federal and state guidelines. The City will continue to conduct an environmental review for each project and will keep environmental review records in its files at City Hall, which will be available to any member of the public. However, the City will not provide further notice of lead paint abatement for individual projects. The City will provide an annual program-level NOI-RROF at the beginning of the following fiscal year.

Written comments will be accepted by the City of Newton Planning and Development Department until 5 p.m. on August 31, 2017. The City of Newton will then submit the notice to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which will accept public comment for fifteen days following the submission date.

Questions, comments or concerns related to the environmental review process and record may be directed to this office by mail or fax or via e-mail at rpowers@newtonma.gov.

Enclosure

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 18, 2017

Newton Housing and Community Development Program
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459-1449
(617) 796-1120

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 18, 2017

Rachel Powers
Planning and Development Department
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459
617-796-1125

On or about September 1, 2017 the City of Newton will submit a request to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and/or HOME funds under the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, to undertake projects under its Housing Rehabilitation and Development Program. The Housing Rehabilitation and Development Program provides federal funding assistance to owners of one to four unit buildings in the City of Newton for minor to moderate repair, including but not limited to, repair or replacement of roofing, gutters, windows, siding and the safe removal of asbestos, mold and lead paint hazards; as well as support the acquisition, creation and preservation of affordable housing throughout the City. Under HUD regulations, the responsible entity is required to notice interested parties of projects that require the removal of lead paint. The City of Newton is hereby providing notice to interested parties that projects funded under this program for the period of July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018 may require the removal of lead paint, and that the removal of lead paint will follow state and federal guidelines for safe removal and disposal. No additional notice will be sent regarding lead paint removal for individual projects funded under this program. HUD funding for this program is estimated at \$568,399.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this overall project under the Housing Rehab Program is on file at City of Newton, Planning and Development Department,

1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton MA 02459, and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M. Individual environmental reviews will be conducted and available for review as addresses and projects are identified.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Newton Housing and Community Development Program. All comments received by August 31, 2017 will be considered by the Newton Housing and Community Development Program prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. Comments should be directed to:

Rachel Powers, Community Development Programs Manager
Newton Housing and Community Development Program
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459-1449
Email:rpowers@newtonma.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Newton certifies to HUD that Barney Heath in his capacity as Director of the Department of Planning and Development 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 the City of Newton to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Newton certification for a period of fifteen 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 the City of Newton; (b) the RE 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 or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities 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, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD at Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02222. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.