



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

RECEIVED
By City Clerk at 10:03 am, Jun 23, 2021

POSTED
City Clerk

Telephone
(617) 796-1120
Telefax
(617) 796-1142
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
www.newtonma.gov

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Department of Planning and Development
1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Barney S. Heath
Director

June 23, 2021

TO: Interested Individuals, Groups, and Agencies
FR: Eamon Bencivengo, Housing Development Planner
RE: Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds

The City of Newton has completed an environmental review record for the following project that is proposed for funding with Newton Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and Newton HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds.

Project Title: West Newton Armory Affordable Housing Development

For the Purpose Of: The City of Newton's acquisition of the West Newton Armory for nominal consideration from the State of Massachusetts for the purposes of converting the site into permanent affordable housing. The City will conduct an Environmental Assessment once a subgrantee and scope of work has been identified

Location: 1135-1137 Washington Street, Newton MA 02465

Estimated CDBG Funding:	\$	To Be Determined once a subgrantee and scope of work is identified
Estimated HOME Funding:	\$	To Be Determined once a subgrantee and scope of work is identified
Estimated Total HUD Funding:	\$	To Be Determined once a subgrantee and scope of work is identified
Estimated non-HUD Funding:	\$	To Be Determined once a subgrantee and scope of work is identified

The City of Newton has drafted a Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds for this project. Enclosed is a copy of the notice. Please post this notice in a public location. Written comments postmarked by June 30, 2021 will be accepted by the City of Newton Planning and Development Department. 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 or comments related to the environmental review process and record may be directed to this office by mail or fax or via e-mail at ebencivengo@newtonma.gov.

Enclosure

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

June 23, 2021

City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459-1449
617-796-1120

On or about July 1, 2021 the City of Newton will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Funds under Title II of the Cranston Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, to undertake a project known as

Project Title: West Newton Armory Affordable Housing Development

For the Purpose Of: The City of Newton's acquisition of the West Newton Armory for nominal consideration from the State of Massachusetts for the purposes of converting the site into permanent affordable housing. The City will conduct an Environmental Assessment once a subgrantee and scope of work has been identified.

Project Location: 1135-1137 Washington Street, Newton, MA, 02465

Estimated CDBG Funding: \$ To Be Determined once a subgrantee and scope of work is identified
Estimated HOME Funding: \$ To Be Determined once a subgrantee and scope of work is identified
Estimated Total HUD Funding: \$ To Be Determined once a subgrantee and scope of work is identified
Estimated non-HUD Funding: \$ To Be Determined once a subgrantee and scope of work is identified

The activities proposed have been determined by the City of Newton to be categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements or alternative.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the City of Newton, Planning and Development Department, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459-1449 and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Newton, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459-1449. All comments postmarked by June 30 will be considered by the City of Newton prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should be directed to:

Eamon Bencivengo
Housing Development Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459-1449
Email: ebencivengo@newtonma.gov
Phone: 617-796-1145

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Newton certifies to HUD that Barney Heath in his capacity as Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Newton 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's 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 sent to HUD via email to CPD_COVID-19OEE-BOS@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

For the City of Newton:
Barney Heath, Director of the Planning and Development Department