



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

MEMORANDUM FOR: R. Hunter Kurtz, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Public and Indian Housing, P

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FROM: Heidi Frechette, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American
Programs, PN

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the FY
2018-2019 Indian Housing Block Grant-Competitive Grants
NOFA (FR-6300-N-48)

It is the finding of this Office that the subject Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) does not constitute a major Federal action having an individually or cumulatively significant effect on the physical/human environment and, therefore, does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The purpose of the NOFA is to announce the availability of funds and to provide program information and application instructions for a new grant program, the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG)-Competitive Grants NOFA. The NOFA will fund applications for two funding years: fiscal years (FY) 2018 and 2019.

The IHBG program is authorized under Title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, as amended, (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.) (NAHASDA). Under the program, eligible Indian tribes and tribally-designated housing entities (TDHEs) receive grants to carry out a range of affordable housing activities. Grant funds may be used to develop, maintain, and operate affordable housing in safe and healthy environments on Indian reservations and in other Indian areas, and carry out other affordable housing activities. Grant funds must be used to primarily benefit low-income Indian families.

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141, approved March 23, 2018) and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6, approved February 15, 2019), Congress provided an additional \$200 million for competitive grants to eligible IHBG recipients authorized under NAHASDA. In accordance with the Appropriations Acts, in awarding grants, HUD will consider need and administrative capacity, and will give priority to projects that spur construction and rehabilitation. While HUD will award priority points for construction and rehabilitation projects, applicants may also apply for funding to carry out other eligible activities under NAHASDA. As permitted by the Appropriation Acts, HUD has allocated \$2 million for the administration and oversight of grants awarded under the NOFA.

The NOFA provides for environmental review of IHBG Competitive Grants NOFA projects and activities by an Indian Tribe as a responsible entity under 24 CFR Part 58, or by HUD under 24 CFR Part 50, in accordance with 24 CFR § 1000.20(a). Under this NOFA and applicable law, a grantee is prohibited from undertaking any actions that are choice-limiting or


could have adverse environmental effects, including demolishing, acquiring, rehabilitating, converting, leasing, repairing or constructing property, or committing HUD or non-HUD funds for such activities, until an environmental review, all required notifications, and approval of the Request for Release of Funds and Certification when applicable under 24 CFR part 58, or until an environmental review and HUD's approval of the project or activity under 24 CFR part 50, are completed. The NOFA also specifies that all grant awards are conditioned on the successful completion of an environmental review, that an environmental review must be completed before funds are released, and that any mitigating/remedial measures required by the responsible entity tribe or HUD must be carried out.

This Office finds that issuance of this NOFA will not have a significant effect on the human environment because prior to any grantee's activities or commitments of funds for any activities that would have a potential environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives, an environmental review of these activities under the NEPA and related laws and authorities will be done. Thus, the environmental effects of activities assisted under this NOFA will be taken into account at the appropriate time, and environmental impacts will be assessed in the setting in which they will occur.

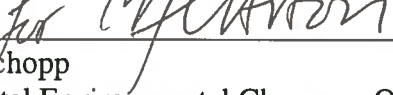
Attachment:

FY 2018-2019 Indian Housing Block Grant-Competitive Grants NOFA (FR-6300-N-48)


Concurrences:

Signature: 
 Hilary Atkin
 Environmental Clearance Officer
 PIH Office of Native American Programs

Date: 4/15/19

Signature: 
 Danielle Schopp
 Departmental Environmental Clearance Officer
 Office of Community Planning and Development

Date: 4/15/19

Signature: 
 Christopher H. Hartenau
 Environmental Clearance Officer
 Office of General Counsel

Date: 4/16/19

Approval:

Signature: 
 R. Hunter Kurtz
 Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
 for Public and Indian Housing

Date: 4/22/19