MEMORANDUM FOR: Todd Richardson, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, P
FROM: Marge A. Martin, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary Office of Policy Development
SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the FY2019 Notice of Funding Availability for Distressed Cities Technical Assistance (FR-6200-N-54)

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.

This NOFA announces the availability of up to $3 million in FY 2018 funding and up to $3 million in FY 2019 funding, both of which will be awarded to one awardee to provide technical assistance (TA) to distressed cities or regions, with no less than half of the total funds targeted to cities with populations under 40,000 that were impacted by a natural disaster. The objectives of this NOFA are to:

- Provide communities facing long-term economic challenges with accessible and comprehensive technical assistance
- Build capacity in distressed communities by building partnerships between public agencies, community members, and private organizations
- Improve communities’ working knowledge of federal development programs
- Develop a set of best practices and recommendations regarding financial management and disaster resilience


This NOFA does not direct or provide loans or mortgage insurance for real property acquisition, disposition, rehabilitation, alteration, demolition, or new construction, or establish,
revise or provide for standards for construction or construction materials, manufactured housing, or occupancy. Lease or rental of space for any activities supported through this NOFA is an eligible use of administrative funds, but only under the following conditions:

1. The lease must be for existing facilities not requiring rehabilitation or construction except for minimal alterations to make the facilities accessible for a person with disabilities;
2. No repairs or renovations of the property may be undertaken with the Distressed Cities TA funds; and
3. Properties in the Coastal Barrier Resources System designated under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501) cannot be leased or rented with federal funds.

All activities assisted under this NOFA are categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(8), (b)(9), or (b)(13), because they lack the potential for any significant effect on the environment.

Accordingly, the Office of Policy Development and Research finds the issuance of this NOFA will not create any significant environmental impacts and will not result in significant impacts on the physical/human environment. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is hereby made.

Concurrences:

Danielle Schopp
Departmental Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Environment and Energy, CPD

Christopher H. Hartnett
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of General Counsel

Approval:

Todd Richardson
General Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Policy Development and Research
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