It is the finding of this office that the Specialized Housing and Services for Victims of Human Trafficking for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 does not constitute a major Federal action having an individually or cumulatively significant effect on the human environment, and therefore, does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The purpose of this program is to address the needs of victims of human trafficking in the United States. Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et. seq.), which has been reauthorized several times. The TVPA seeks to combat "severe forms" of human trafficking by punishing traffickers, protecting victims, and mobilizing U.S. Government agencies to wage a global anti-trafficking campaign.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are partnering under this demonstration program NOFA to address the housing and service needs of victims of human trafficking, including both sex and labor trafficking. Trafficking victims include U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, foreign nationals, adults, and minors. This NOFA places priority on funding direct housing and trauma-informed, client-centered services by organizations with the capacity to implement a collaborative, coordinated, and comprehensive service model while engaging appropriate local resources, to address the housing and service needs of victims of human trafficking, as defined by TVPA. The funding provided under this program is intended to: identify victims of human trafficking and connect them to appropriate safe housing and trauma-informed, client-centered services:

- expand capacity to serve victims of human trafficking who need stable housing support;
- facilitate and strengthen connections to services and housing support for victims of human trafficking;
- identify performance measures and best practices to build an evidence-based process to provide strong service and housing models for victims of human trafficking;
- inform federal, state, and local frameworks and models for collaboration to meet the
needs of victims of human trafficking; and

- improve outcomes for victims of human trafficking by providing trauma-informed, client-centered services.

This program is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and related Federal environmental authorities and regulations at 24 CFR part 50. Some activities funded by this program for environmental purposes are categorically excluded from NEPA and not subject to the related laws listed in Section 50.4 pursuant to 50.19(b)(9) Technical assistance and training, 50.19(b)(1) Tenant-based rental assistance, 50.19(b)(12) Supportive services included, but not limited to, health care, housing services, permanent housing placement, day care, nutritional services, short-term payments for rent/mortgage/utility costs, and assistance in gaining access to local, state, and federal government benefits and services, and 50.19(b)(13) Operating costs.

For eligible activities not categorically excluded from NEPA, after grant award, HUD will complete an environmental review of properties selected for housing to the extent required under 24 CFR Part 50. In accordance with 24 CFR 50.3(h), the applicant’s submission of an application constitutes an assurance that the applicant agrees to assist HUD to comply with 24 CFR Part 50 and that the applicant shall: (1) Supply HUD with all available, relevant information necessary for HUD to perform for each property any environmental review required by 24 CFR Part 50; (2) Carry out mitigating measures required by HUD or select alternate eligible property; and (3) Not acquire, rehabilitate, convert, lease, repair or construct property, nor commit or expend HUD or local funds for these program activities with respect to any eligible property, until HUD approval of the property is received. The TVPA grantee or their environmental contractor will provide activity information and any documentation to the CPD Field Office. As soon as the project’s environmental review has been competed and approved by HUD, the grantee will be advised that it may proceed to commit and expand project funds.

This Office finds that issuance of this NOFA will not have a significant effect on the human environment because, prior to any grantee’s commitment of funds for any activities that would have an 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 local setting in which they will occur.

Concurrences:

Danielle Schopp
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Environment and Energy

Lauren McNamara
Program Environmental Clearance Officer
Community Planning and Development

6/24/19
Date

6/24/19
Date
Christopher Hartenau
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of General Counsel

Jemine Bryon
Deputy Assistance Secretary
for Special Needs

Date
6/24/19

Date
6/24/19