



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

JUL 27 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: Cliff Taffet, General Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Community Planning and Development, D  
*Cliff Taffet*

FROM: Lori Michalski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Operations, DO

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact under the National Environmental  
Policy Act —Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Fiscal  
Year 2017: Rural Capacity Building for Community  
Development and Affordable Housing Grants (FR-6100-N-08)

It is the finding of this office that the attached funding notice (FR-6100-N-08) 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 Rural Capacity Building (RCB) Program is authorized by the Consolidated and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-55). The funding made available through this NOFA is authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31). Eligible recipients are national non-profit entities that have ongoing experience in rural housing, including experience working with rural housing organizations, local governments, and Indian Tribes, as evidenced by past and continuing work in one or more states in seven or more of the federal regions described on the HUD website.

Grants will be available for training, education, support, and advice to enhance the technical and administrative capabilities of rural community development corporations (CDCs), rural community housing development organizations (CHDOs), rural housing development organizations, local governments and tribes. RCB grants can also be used for loans, grants, and other financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low- and moderate- income families and to implement community and economic development activities that create jobs for low-income persons. Other activities may be allowed under an RCB grant as may be determined by the recipient organizations in consultation with HUD.

This office finds that the notice does not have a significant impact on the human environment for two reasons. First, most of the activities funded by the program consist of training, education, advice, technical support, financial assistance to carry out economic development activities and operating expenses and therefore have no significant physical impact on the environment and are categorically excluded from review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related authorities under 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1), (2), (9), (13) and (14).

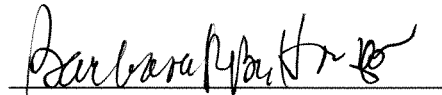
Second, individual projects to be funded by these grants may not be known at the time the HUD grants are awarded, and also may not be known when subgrants are awarded. Selection for funding does not constitute approval of individual project sites. After award, any physical activities funded by the program described in this NOFA will undergo individual HUD environmental review in accordance with 24 CFR Part 50 and their potential impacts will be addressed more accurately and appropriately at the time they are considered. Therefore, in accordance with 24 CFR 50.3(h), the applications and grant agreements for this program must provide that no commitment or

expenditure for physical activities or property acquisition may be made until HUD has completed an environmental review to the extent required under applicable regulations and has given notification of its approval under 24 CFR 50.3(h).

Accordingly, the publication of this notice is deemed not to be a major Federal action having a significant impact on the human environment.

Attachment

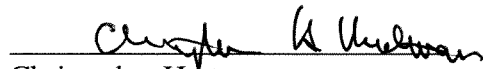
Concurrences:



Danielle Schopp  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of Environment and Energy

6/30/17

Date




Christopher Hartenau  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of General Counsel

7/18/17

Date

Approval:

FOR: 

Cliff Taffet  
General Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Community Planning and Development

7-27-17

Date