



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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR: John Gibbs, Acting Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, D

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact under the National Environmental Policy Act —Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Fiscal Year 2019 – Fiscal Year 2020: Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Grants (FR-6400-N-08)

It is the finding of the Office of Policy Development and Coordination (OPDC) that the attached funding notice (FR-6400-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 funding made available through this Rural Capacity Building Program NOFA is authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6, approved February 15, 2019) and the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-93, approved December 20, 2019). Eligible recipients are non-profit National Organizations that have experience within the past 10 years conducting capacity building activities with eligible beneficiaries (rural housing development organizations, Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), local governments, and Indian tribes), that serve rural areas, in at least seven 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 eligible beneficiaries. RCB grants can also be used for loans, grants, or other financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries to increase their capacity to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low- and moderate-income families and persons; and such other activities as may be determined by the recipient organizations in consultation with HUD.

OPDC finds that the RCB NOFA 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, technical support, and advice to beneficiaries and administrative 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)(3) and (9). Second, acquisition of real property may be funded by these grants but the location of the property may not be known at the time the HUD grants are awarded and also may not be known when the subgrants are awarded. Selection for funding does not constitute approval of individual project sites. After award, any properties proposed to be acquired with funds under the program described in this NOFA will undergo individual HUD environmental review in accordance with 24 CFR Part 50 and potential impacts from their acquisition and use will be addressed more accurately

and appropriately at the time they are considered. Therefore, in accordance with 24 CFR 50.3(h), the applicant's signature on the application constitutes an assurance to HUD that the applicant agrees to assist HUD in complying with 24 CFR Part 50, and will: 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 or lease property, nor commit or expend HUD or local funds for these program activities regarding any eligible property, until HUD approval of the property is received.

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:

Lauren McNamara
CPD Program Environmental Clearance Officer

Date

Marcel Tchaou
Departmental Environmental Clearance Officer

Date

Christopher Hartenau
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of General Counsel

Date

Approval:

John Gibbs
Acting Assistant Secretary
Community Planning and Development

Date

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Internal HUD Distribution:						
Identification Lines: FY 2019 – FY 2020 RCB NOFA FONSI						
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Correspondence Code	Originator	Concurrence	Concurrence	Concurrence	Concurrence	Concurrence
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Date	DMS: 4/15/2020					

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