



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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR: James Arthur Jemison II, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Community Planning and Development, D

THROUGH: Robin J. Keegan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Economic Development, DE

FROM: Jackie L. Williams, Ph.D., Director, Office of Rural Housing
and Economic Development, DED

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
(FONSI) under the National Environmental Policy Act - Notice of
Funding Opportunity for the Fiscal Year 2021 Veterans Housing
Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program (FR-6500-N-39)

It is the finding of the Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development that issuance of the Fiscal Year 2021 Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program (VHRMP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) 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 VHRMP awards grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of disabled and/or low-income veterans. The funds made available under this program will be awarded competitively through a selection process conducted by HUD in accordance with the HUD Reform Act. HUD's authority for making funding available under the NOFO is the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2021 (Public Law 116-260), enacted December 27, 2020 as well as the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) and Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-6).

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 will contain 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 alternative eligible property; and (3) not rehabilitate, 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 environmental review for the subject property is received.

The VHRMP grantee or their environmental contractor will provide activity information and any documentation to the Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development. As soon as the environmental review for each property has been completed and approved by HUD, the grantee will be advised that it may proceed to commit and expend project funds at that site. Some of the activities under the NOFO, such as the performance of energy audits and the provision of technical assistance and training, are excluded from environmental review requirements in accordance with 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1) and (9).

This Office finds that issuance of this NOFO 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 NEPA and related laws and authorities will be done. Thus, the environmental effects of activities assisted under this NOFO 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:

Liz Zepeda
Acting Departmental Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Environment and Energy

Date

Lauren Hayes Knutson
Program Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Community Planning and Development

Date

Christopher Hartenau
Program Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of General Counsel

Date

Approval:

James Arthur Jemison II
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Community Planning and Development

Date