



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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harriet Tregoning, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Community Planning and Development, D

FROM: *William Rudy*  
William Rudy, Acting Director, Office of HIV/AIDS  
Housing, DNH

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact  
Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Notice  
of Funding Availability for Violence Against Women Act  
(VAWA) and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS  
(HOPWA) Demonstration Grants (FR-5853-N-01)

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.

The purpose of this NOFA is to announce the availability of competitively awarded funds and to provide program information and application instructions for the VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration.

The purpose of VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration is to provide transitional and other temporary housing assistance and supportive services to low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence; sexual assault, or stalking. Grantees of the VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration will be required to partner with local domestic violence and sexual assault service providers for client outreach and engagement and for comprehensive supportive services to ensure client success in the program. The VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration will explore the effectiveness of coordinating the expertise and resources of HIV/AIDS housing providers with domestic violence service providers in addressing the needs of this vulnerable population.

To fund this demonstration project, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing (OHH) executed an Interagency Agreement assigning HUD to administer funds from the Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program. OHH also identified available carryover HOPWA competitive grant funding that HUD can award for Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 12903(c)(3).

All HOPWA assistance is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and applicable related federal environmental authorities. Eligible activities under this NOFA, such as tenant-based rental assistance, supportive services, operating costs, and administrative costs, are exempt from environmental review under 24 CFR 58.35(b) because of the lack of environmental impact. Other activities require environmental review under 24 CFR 58.35(a) or an Environmental Assessment. In accordance with Section 856(h) of the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act and the HOPWA regulations at 24 CFR 574.510, environmental reviews for HOPWA activities are to be completed by responsible entities in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58. Applicants or grantees that are not a responsible entity must request the unit of general local government to perform the environmental review.

HOPWA grantees and project sponsors may not undertake any actions that are choice-limiting or could have environmentally adverse effects, or commit or expend any grant or non-federal funds on project activities (other than those listed in 24 CFR 58.22(f), 58.34 or 58.35(b)) for which the responsible entity documents its findings of exemption or exclusion for the environmental review record (24 CFR 58.34(b) or 24 CFR 58.35(d)) until HUD has approved a "Request for Release of Funds and Certification" (RROF), form HUD-7015.15, in compliance with NEPA and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. The recipient, its project sponsors, and their contractors may not commit or expend HUD or local funds for this eligible activity, or undertake any actions that are choice-limiting or could have environmentally adverse effects, until the responsible entity (as defined in 24 CFR 58.2) has completed the environmental review procedures required by 24 CFR part 58, and the environmental certification and the RROF have been approved. Such activities include, but are not limited to, project-based assistance proposed to be assisted with any HOPWA program funds. HUD will not release grant funds if the recipient or any other party commits grant funds (i.e., incurs any costs or expenditures to be paid or reimbursed with such funds) or undertake choice-limiting actions, before the recipient submits and HUD approves its RROF (where such submission is required). The recipient shall supply all available, relevant information necessary for the responsible entity to perform, for each property, any environmental review required.

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:

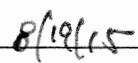


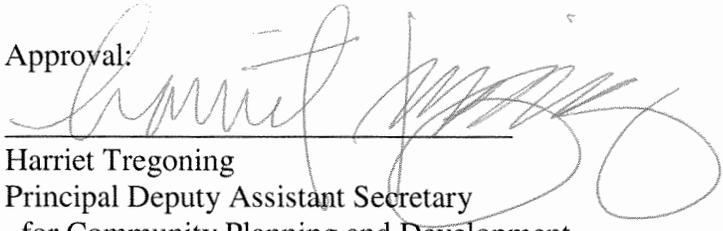
Danielle Schopp  
Environmental Clearance Officer

Office of Environment and Energy

8-19-15  
Date

  
Chris Hartenau  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of General Counsel

  
Date

Approval:  
  
Harriet Tregoning  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Community Planning and Development

Date AUG 20 2015