



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-3000

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL
AND HEALTHY HOMES

June 16, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: Matthew E. Ammon, Director, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, L

FROM: Peter Ashley, Director, Policy and Standards Division, LP

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact under the National Environmental Policy Act – Notices of Funding Availability for Fiscal Year 2015: **Healthy Homes Technical Studies Program (FR-5900-N-15 and FR-5900-N-16)**

It is the finding of this office that the publication of the attached Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Healthy Homes Technical Studies Grant Program Pre- and Full-Application, described by the attached funding notices (FR-5900-N-15, and FR-5900-N-16, respectively), do not constitute a major federal action having an individual or cumulative significant effect on the human environment, and therefore do not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The notices set out the guidance to govern the Healthy Homes Technical Studies Grant Program. The Healthy Homes Technical Studies Grant Program is authorized under sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. §§ 1701z-1 and 1701z-2). Funds supporting this program were approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235). Prior-year funds for this program were authorized under the respective appropriation acts.

The Healthy Home Technical Studies Grant Program will involve solicitation of pre-applicants. Top-ranked submissions will then be invited to submit a full application for funding in response to a second announcement (Healthy Homes Technical Studies Grant Program FULL Application). Awards will be in the form of cooperative agreements with:

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Independent school districts
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

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- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education
- For profit organizations other than small businesses
- Small businesses
- Other applicants that submit applications to supplement existing projects and that meet the 2015 General Section threshold requirements

The purpose of the program is to fund technical studies to improve HUD's and the public's knowledge of housing-related health and safety hazards and to improve or develop new hazard assessment and control methods, with a focus on key residential health and safety hazards, especially those that advance knowledge on key healthy homes issues by addressing gaps in the science related to accurate and efficient identification of hazards and cost effective hazard mitigation. The overall goal of the Healthy Homes Technical Studies program is to advance the recognition and control of priority residential health and safety hazards and more closely examine the link between housing and health.

Specifically, the notice will provide funding for several categories of eligible activities that meet the overall objectives of the program. A limited amount of hazard control activities, which may involve construction rather than research, may be conducted as part of these programs. No more than 20% of the total award may be used for construction activities. The construction activities may support or supplement a new housing construction or substantial rehabilitation project. The majority of any funds dedicated to construction activities supported by a Healthy Homes Technical Studies grant shall be spent for interventions not intended for lead hazard control. The eligible grant program activities include:

- (1) Assessing or improving the efficacy of current methods for residential Integrated Pest Management.
- (2) Developing easily replicable, cost-effective methods for preventing and controlling mold and excess moisture in various types of residential buildings.
- (3) Improving indoor air quality, such as through cost-effective approaches to upgrading residential ventilation or improving control/management of combustion appliances.
- (4) Evaluating the effectiveness of education and outreach methods designed to provide at risk families, including minority families, especially those with young children, persons with a variety of disabilities, and those with Limited English Proficiency, with the knowledge to adopt self-protective behaviors with respect to residential health hazards.
- (5) Improving understanding of exposure to Third Hand Smoke (THS) residues (i.e., from tobacco smoke that collects on interior surfaces) and their potential health impact, and the efficacy of cleaning techniques in reducing THS residues from surfaces in homes.

- (6) Conducting cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness studies on the health benefits of specific healthy homes interventions in high risk populations.
- (7) Demonstrating the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of incorporating injury prevention measures into residential programs, including green renovation and rehabilitation programs.
- (8) Developing a cost effective, evidence-based radon testing protocol for multifamily housing that is sufficiently protective (i.e., able to identify units with elevated levels) without being overly burdensome to property owners.
- (9) Evaluating the longer term (beyond 12 months) health efficacy of indoor environmental elements of multifaceted home asthma interventions for children with poorly controlled asthma.
- (10) Conducting additional work related to ongoing HUD-funded technical studies (i.e., for work outside of the scope of the original agreement).
- (11) Studying topics in other focus areas that are consistent with the overall goals of this Program, provided the applicant describes in sufficient detail how the proposed study is consistent with the overall program goals and objectives.

Grant awards under these NOFAs do not constitute approval of specific sites or projects where activities that are subject to environmental review may be carried out. The provisions of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994, implemented by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58, “Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming HUD Environmental Responsibilities,” are applicable to properties assisted with Healthy Homes Technical Studies Grant Program funds. Upon award, each recipient will execute a cooperative agreement with HUD. The terms and conditions of the cooperative agreement for this program will incorporate the Environmental Review requirements including the provision that no commitment or expenditure for physical or choice-limiting activities may be made until HUD has either approved the Request for Release of Funds and Related Environmental Certification from the Responsible Entity under 24 CFR part 58, or completed its own environmental review under 24 CFR part 50, as applicable, and notified the grantee.

The Office has considered the potential environmental impacts of the (above) listed eligible activities of the notice and determines that they generally fall into one of two categories, either categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and subject to the related federal laws at 24 CFR 50.4, per § 50.20(a)(2), or categorically excluded and not subject to the related federal laws, per § 50.19(a), (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(5), and (b)(9). There is a possibility that the program could contribute toward new housing construction or substantial rehabilitation of existing housing, and thus be subject to an Environmental Assessment per § 50.31.

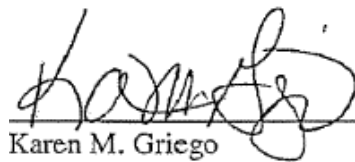
The Office included in its analysis the provision of exposure to and disposal of hazardous materials. Waste disposal must be carried out according to the requirements of EPA’s regulations at 40 CFR parts 260-268. Worker protection shall be accommodated through

adherence to applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) construction and worker protection requirements and guidelines.

Publication of the notice does not provide approval of a major Federal action having a significant impact on the human environment, sets forth the Environmental Requirements under applicable HUD environmental review regulations for individual projects, and provides particular methods and standards by which evaluation and hazard reduction work is to be performed. Accordingly, it is the determination of this Office that a Finding of No Significant Impact may be made.

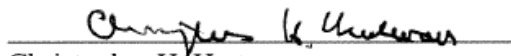
Attachments

Concurrences:



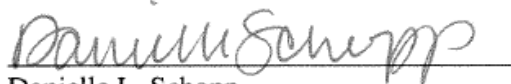
Karen M. Griego
Program Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

Date 6/11/2015



Christopher H. Hartenau
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of General Counsel

Date 6/16/15



Danielle L. Schopp
Director
Office of Environment and Energy

Date 6/15/15

Approval:



Matthew E. Ammon
Director, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

Date 6/16/2015

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