



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

FEB 23 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Public and Indian Housing, P

FROM:

  
Dominique Blom, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of Public Housing Investments, PI

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact  
Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the  
FY2016 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant NOFA  
(FR-6000-N-34)

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 FY2016 funds and to provide program information and application instructions for the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant program.

The purpose of Choice Neighborhoods grants is to enable eligible applicants to employ a comprehensive approach to community development centered on housing transformation. The program aims to transform neighborhoods of poverty into viable mixed-income neighborhoods with access to economic opportunities by revitalizing severely distressed public and assisted housing and investing and leveraging investments in well-functioning services, effective schools and education programs, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs.

The authority for the Choice Neighborhoods Program is Section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (FY2016 Appropriations) (Public Law 114-113, approved December 18, 2015).

The NOFA provides for environmental review of Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant projects and activities by the state or unit of general local government (Responsible Entity) under 24 CFR part 58 for all grantees, unless HUD determines to perform the environmental review under 24 CFR Part 50 in a particular case. Under this NOFA and applicable law, an applicant is prohibited from undertaking any actions that are choice-limiting or could have environmentally adverse effects, including demolishing, acquiring, rehabilitating, converting, leasing, repairing, or constructing property proposed to be assisted or committing or expending

HUD or non-HUD funds for such activities, until HUD has approved a Responsible Entity's Request for Release of Funds after an environmental review has been completed in accordance with 24 CFR part 58 or HUD has completed an environmental review and given approval for the action under 24 CFR Part 50. The environmental review may result in requirements for mitigation or remedial measures, or a change in the project site.

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:

Linda Bronsdon  
PIH Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of Policy, Programs and  
Legislative Initiatives

Date: 2-17-16 Sign: Linda Bronsdon

Danielle Schopp  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of Community Planning  
and Development

Date: 2/23/16 Sign: Danielle Schopp

Christopher H. Hartenau  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of General Counsel

Date: 2/22/16 Sign: Christopher H. Hartenau

Approval:

Lourdes Castro Ramírez  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Public and Indian Housing

Date: 2/26/16 Sign: Lourdes Castro Ramirez