

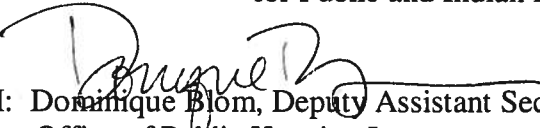


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

JUL 29 2016

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

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 FY2016 Notice of Funding
Availability for Project ROSS for Education (also known as Project SOAR)
(FR-6000-N-27)

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.

This NOFA announces the availability of FY2016 funds and provides program information and application instructions for ROSS for Education (also known as Project SOAR (Students + Opportunities + Achievements = Results)). The funds will be used to provide grants to public housing authorities (PHAs) to deploy education navigators to provide individualized assistance to randomly selected public housing youth between the ages of 15-20 and their families in FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, postsecondary program applications and post-acceptance assistance.

ROSS for Education is authorized under Section 34 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.1437z-6). ROSS for Education is governed by 24 CFR Part 964. Funding for this program is authorized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113, approved December 18, 2015).


This NOFA does not direct or provide for assistance or loans or mortgage insurance for real property acquisition, disposition, rehabilitation, alteration, demolition, or new construction, or establish, revise or provide for standards for construction or construction materials, manufactured housing, or occupancy. Renting or leasing office space is an eligible use of ROSS for Education funds but only under the following conditions: (1) The lease must be for existing facilities not requiring rehabilitation or construction except for minimal alterations to make the facilities accessible for a person with disabilities; (2) No repairs or renovations of the property may be undertaken with SOAR funds; and (3) Properties in the Coastal Barrier Resources System designated


under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501) cannot be leased or rented with federal funds.

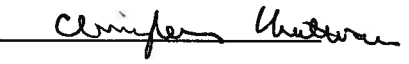
In accordance with 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1), (3), (4), (9), (12), and (13) of HUD regulations, activities assisted under this program are categorically excluded from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act due to their lack of potential for significant environmental impact, and are not subject to environmental review under related laws and authorities.

Accordingly, the Office of Public Housing Investments finds the issuance of this NOFA will not create any significant environmental impacts and will not result in significant impacts on the physical/human environment. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is hereby made.

Concurrences:

Candace Simms
Acting PIH Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Public and Indian Housing,
Office of Field Operations
Date: 7/27/16 Sign: 

Danielle Schopp
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Community Planning
and Development
Date: 7/28/16 Sign: 

Christopher H. Hartenau
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of General Counsel
Date: 7/28/16 Sign: 

Approval:

Lourdes Castro Ramírez
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Public and Indian Housing
Date: 7/29/16 Sign: 