



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

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

AUG - 7 2017

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Dominique Blom, General Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Public and Indian Housing, P

**FROM:** *Susan A. Wilson*  
Susan Wilson, Acting 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  
FY2017 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant NOFA  
(FR-6100-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 FY2017 funds and to provide program information and application instructions for the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant program.

The purpose of Choice Neighborhoods grants is to support locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood 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 catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood, including vacant property, housing, businesses, services, and schools.

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, 2017 (Public Law 115-31).

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 under this NOFA 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/Certification 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:

Susanne Sotirchos  
PIH Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of Field Operations

Date: 7/31/17 Sign: Susanne A. Sotirchos

Danielle Schopp  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of Community Planning  
and Development

Date: 7/25/17 Sign: Danielle Schopp

Christopher H. Hartenau  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of General Counsel

Date: 7/19/17 Sign: Christopher H. Hartenau

Approval:

~~Jemine Bryon~~ Dominique Blom  
General Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Public and Indian Housing

Date: 8/14/17 Sign: Dominique Blom