



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

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

AUG 17 2017

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

FROM: Susan A. 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 Notice of Funding Availability for the Resident
Opportunity & Self-Sufficiency Program (FR-6100-N-05)

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 FY 2017 funds and provides program information and application instructions for the Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency Service Coordinators program (ROSS). ROSS provides grants to Public Housing Agencies, tribes/THDEs, resident associations, and nonprofit organizations to pay for the salary of a service coordinator to coordinate supportive services and other activities designed to help public and Indian housing residents attain economic and housing self-sufficiency. ROSS funding also covers administrative and training expenses to support the work of the service coordinator.

The ROSS program is authorized by Section 34 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437z-6).

This NOFA does not direct or provide 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. Lease or rental of space for ROSS activities is an eligible use of administrative funds, but only under the following conditions:

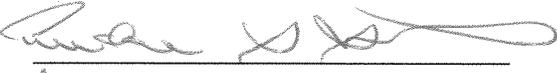
- (1) The lease must be for existing facilities not requiring rehabilitation or construction except for minimal alterations to make the facilities accessible for a person with disabilities;
- (2) No repairs or renovations of the property may be undertaken with ROSS funds; and
- (3) Properties in the Coastal Barrier Resources System designated under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501) cannot be leased or rented with federal funds.

All activities assisted under this NOFA are categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with 24 CFR 58.34 (a)(3) or (a)(9), 58.35(b)(2),

50.19(b)(3), (b)(9), or (b)(12), because they lack the potential for any significant effect on the environment.

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:



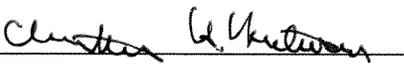
Susanne Sotirchos
PIH Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Field Operations

Date: 8/9/17



Danielle Schopp
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Environment and Energy, CPD

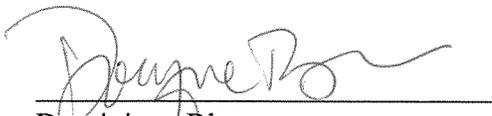
Date: 8/11/17



Christopher H. Hartenau
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of General Counsel

Date: 8/15/17

Approval:



Dominique Blom
General Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Public and Indian Housing

Date: 8/24/17

Internal HUD Distribution:		

Identification Lines:
 J:APIH-OSDTH\OSDTH\URD\FY17\ROSS

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form HUD-713.1 (02/03)

Resident Opportunity & Self-Sufficiency Program (ROSS)

Program Overview: The Resident Opportunity & Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Service Coordinator (SC) program is designed to assist residents of public and Indian housing make progress towards economic and housing self-sufficiency. To accomplish this goal, ROSS provides grant funding to eligible applicants to hire Service Coordinators to assess the needs of public and Indian housing residents and link them to supportive services that enable participants to increase earned income, reduce or eliminate the need for welfare assistance, and make progress toward achieving economic independence and housing self-sufficiency. In the case of elderly/disabled residents, the Service Coordinator links participants to supportive services which enable them to age/remain in-place thereby avoiding costlier forms of care.

This program works to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under the Public Housing program with public and private resources, for supportive services and resident empowerment activities. ROSS-SC funds may be used for coordinator's salary and fringe benefits, traveling and training expenses, and administrative costs.

Eligible Applicants are:

- Public Housing Authorities
- Tribes/tribally designated housing entities
- Resident Associations such as resident management corporations, resident councils, and intermediary resident with either 501 (c)(3) nonprofit or locally incorporated nonprofit status
- Nonprofit organizations supported by any of the above organizations (PHAs, tribes/TDHEs, resident associations).

Eligible Use of Funds:

- **Salary and Fringe Benefits:** Funds awarded to grantees under this NOFA will be used to pay the salary and fringe benefits of ROSS Service Coordinators (ROSS-SC).
- **Training and Travel Related to Professional and/or Program Development:** Funds may also be used to pay for training and travel cost only if related to professional and/or program development of the FY17 ROSS program and service coordinator(s). All training and associated travel for the ROSS-SC staff person must be approved by the HUD Field Office or Area ONAP prior to incurring expenses.
- **Administrative Costs.** The funds HUD awards to ROSS-SC grantees to cover administrative costs may only be used to support the ROSS program. These funds may not be used by grantees' Central Office Cost Centers to cover other grantee costs.

Current Status:

- Each year, HUD makes approximately 110 grant awards.
- The grant period is 36 months for each grantee.
- In FY17, ROSS-SC received \$35 million in congressional appropriations.
- The NOFA is currently at the last step for clearance, the signature package. Once it is approved, we will publish September 2017.