



PUBLIC NOTICE

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

**CANDLEWOOD COURT I AND II PROJECT, TOWN OF RICHMONDVILLE,
SCHOHARIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

August 30, 2017

Name of Responsible Entity and Recipient: New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207, in cooperation with the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), of the same address. Contact: Lori A. Shirley (518) 474-0755.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 58.43, this combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (FONSI/NOIRROF) satisfies two separate procedural requirements for project activities proposed to be undertaken by HCR.

Project Description: The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of HCR's HTFC, is responsible for the direct administration of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program in New York State. GOSR proposes to provide CDBG-DR funding through the Small Project Affordable Rental Construction (SPARC) program to Housing Visions Consultants, Inc. to construct a new two-building 40-unit affordable housing development on vacant land located at on Davis Lane and East Main Street in the Village of Richmondville, Schoharie County, New York.

Housing Visions Consultants intends to construct two new two-story residential buildings that will each have 20 units (12 one-bedroom units, 5 two-bedroom units, and 3 three-bedroom units). The units will be targeted to individuals and families earning 80 percent of area median income (AMI) or lower. There will be parking for 80 vehicles, including four handicap spaces.

Schoharie County had more than 1,000 owner-occupied homes damaged or destroyed from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Reported housing damage accounted for approximately 3.7 percent, and approximately 0.2 percent respectively, of housing damage reported in the State of New York. As many as 32,749 persons in Schoharie County were impacted by the storms. In the wake of such devastation, the importance of building more resilient structures in less vulnerable locations is vital for the community. Creation of new affordable housing in Schoharie County is a vital component of the county's goal to build resilient and sustainable communities. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to contribute to this resiliency by providing much-needed multifamily rental housing.

The estimated total cost for the Proposed Project is \$10,060,042 (\$5,030,021 for Candlewood Court Phase I and \$5,030,021 for Candlewood Court Phase II), funded with up to \$7,500,000 from the CDBG-DR program (\$3,750,000 for Candlewood Court Phase I and \$3,750,000 for Candlewood Court Phase II).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Project has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. The EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI. Subject to public comments, no further review of the Proposed Project is anticipated. HCR has determined that the EA for the project identified herein complies with the requirements of HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. HCR has determined that the Proposed Project will have no significant impact on the human environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement under NEPA.

Public Review: Public viewing of the EA is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs> and is also available in person Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the following address: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12260. Contact: Lori A. Shirley (518) 474-0755.

Further information may be requested by writing to the above address, emailing NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshr.org or by calling (518) 474-0755. This combined notice is being sent to individuals and groups known to be interested in these activities, local news media, appropriate local, state and federal agencies, the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency having jurisdiction, and to the HUD Field Office, and is being published in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected community.

Public Comments on FONSI and/or NOIRROF: Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the Project. The public is hereby advised to specify in their comments which “notice” their comments address. Comments should be submitted via email, in the proper format, on or before September 14, 2017 at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshr.org. Written comments may also be submitted at the following address, or by mail, in the proper format, to be received on or before September 14, 2017: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12260. Comments may be received by telephone by contacting Lori A. Shirley at (518) 474-0755. All comments must be received on or before 5 pm on September 14, 2017 or they will not be considered. If modifications result from public comment, these will be made prior to proceeding with the expenditure of funds.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS AND CERTIFICATION

On or about September 15, 2017, the HCR certifying officer will submit a request and certification to HUD for the release of CDBG-DR funds as authorized by related laws and policies for the purpose of implementing this part of the New York CDBG-DR program.

HCR certifies to HUD that Lori A. Shirley, in her capacity as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the U.S. federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows GOSR to use CDBG-DR program funds.

Objection to Release of Funds: HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and GOSR’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later). Potential objectors may contact HUD or the GOSR Certifying Officer to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

The only permissible grounds for objections claiming a responsible entity’s non-compliance with 24 CFR Part 58 are: (a) Certification was not executed by HCR’s Certifying Officer; (b) the responsible entity has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the responsible

entity has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before release of funds and approval of environmental certification; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, Director, Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, Phone: (202) 402-4649.

Lori A. Shirley
Certifying Officer
August 30, 2017