



PUBLIC NOTICE

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTER REHABILITATION PROJECT

October 19, 2016

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.

Per 24 CFR Section 58.33, 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 to carry out the Rochester Community Center Rehabilitation Project (the "Proposed Project") located at 15 GLF Road, Hamlet of Accord, Town of Rochester, Ulster County, New York.

Both Hurricane Irene (August 28, 2011), and Tropical Storm Lee (September 8, 2011) caused widespread flooding and wind damage throughout the Town of Rochester. Flooding of Rondout and Rochester Creeks forced evacuations in the Hamlet of Accord. The Town was forced to utilize its community center as an emergency shelter during this period, which persisted for several days following the storms.

While evacuees were safe from flooding during this period, the community center facility was not equipped to fully serve the needs of the evacuees. The facility lost primary power in the early hours of both storm events, due to old generator equipment. The center also lacked Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) compliant restrooms and shower facilities. The Town was forced during this period to expand its emergency response tasks to include transport of evacuees to other facilities in the Hudson Valley, some of which were struggling to accommodate their own region's evacuees, taking away from its primary emergency response mission.

The Rochester Food Pantry is a not-for-profit organization that provides support to those in need throughout the Town of Rochester. The pantry is currently housed in a 350-square foot room within the Accord Fire House Station at 22 Main Street. Much of this space is reserved for the organization's refrigeration and freezer units, which are not dependable due to the excessive demand the units place on

the fire station's outdated electrical systems. The pantry provides emergency food supplies to residents in need. During Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, services provided by the organization were suspended due to close-proximity flooding, which made the pantry inaccessible to its clients, and due to a prolonged loss of electrical power. The Rochester Food Pantry is being displaced from the Accord Fire House Station.

The Town of Rochester is proposing to improve the capacity of its community center in the Hamlet of Accord to provide critical emergency services to the Town's residents. The proposed improvements include improvements to restroom and shower facilities that would be compliant with Title II of the ADA, replacement of the emergency backup generator, repair of existing forced air furnace, and supplemental blown-in insulation would be added to the community center's exterior walls to enhance its energy efficiency.

A 1,128-square foot roofed addition would be constructed on the southeast side of the existing community center building, within the current facility's property line, to serve as the new location for the Rochester Food Pantry. The new pantry would be able to better serve the community in normal and emergency conditions. A new permeable gravel pad for delivery trucks would be added to the rear (northeast) entrance of the new addition.

The community center is owned by the Town of Rochester; therefore, no land acquisition is required for this Proposed Project. The estimated cost for the improvements and addition is \$349,000, funded with up to \$349,000 from the CDBG-DR program.

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 would have no significant impact on the natural or 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: NYS Homes & Community Renewal, Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, 38-40 State Street, Albany, New York 12207. Contact: Lori A. Shirley (518) 474-0755.

Further information may be requested by writing to the above address, emailing NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.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 the HUD Field Office and is being published in "*The Daily Freeman*," 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 Proposed 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 Thursday, November 3, 2016 at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nysocr.org. Written comments may also be submitted at the following address, or by mail, in the proper format, to be received on or before Thursday, November 3, 2016: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 38-40 State, Albany, New York 12207, Attention: Lori A. Shirley. Comments may be received by telephone by contacting Lori A. Shirley at (518) 474-0755. All comments must be received on or before 5pm on Thursday, November 3, 2016 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 Friday, November 4, 2106, 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
 October 19, 2016