

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOIRROF)

May 23, 2023

City of Rensselaer
62 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144
518-462-4839 ext. 1527

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about May 31, 2023 the City of Rensselaer will submit a request to the New York State Homes & Community Renewal (HCR) through the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), for the release of \$548,000 in HOME funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (NAHA) of 1990, in accordance with section 288 (42 U.S.C. 12838), to authorize the City of Rensselaer to undertake a project known as Housing Improvement Program for purposes to rehabilitate 10 deteriorated single family homes occupied by elderly, frail elderly, and disabled residents. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funding and energy audits for homeowners with very low income will also be offered, and the City will work with CEO, Inc. to provide WAP funding (\$6,500 per house) for up to 4 homes that are also eligible for HOME assistance. The estimated total project cost is \$576,000.

The activities proposed are Categorically Excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

This is the first tier of review in a 2-tiered process. The specific addresses of homes are not known at this time because the participating property owner identification process is ongoing. Therefore, under 24 CFR Part 58.15 (Tiering) and 24 CFR Part 58.32 (Project Aggregation), City of Rensselaer will use a tiered approach and Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known. No physical work will begin on properties until all levels of environmental review are complete and found to be in compliance. Tier 1 review addresses specific environmental factors for which compliance has been documented, regardless of specific site locations. It prevents repeating the same compliance factors on a Tier 2 site-specific basis, once all participating homeowners are known.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project may be obtained by emailing ketura.vics@rensselaerny.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to

Ketura Ivcs, MRP
City of Rensselaer
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518-462-4839 ext. 1527
ketura.vics@rensselaerny.gov

All comments received by May 30, 2023 will be considered by the City of Rensselaer prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

City of Rensselaer certifies to HTFC that Michael Stammel in his capacity as Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HTFC's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows City of Rensselaer to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HTFC will accept objections to its release of funds and City of Rensselaer's certification received by June 15, 2023 or for a period of fifteen days following its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of City of Rensselaer; (b) City of Rensselaer has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HTFC; 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, Section 58.76) and shall be addressed to

John Leahy
Environmental Analysis Unit
New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation
Hampton Plaza
38-40 State Street
Albany, New York 12207
John.leahy@hcr.ny.gov

Potential objectors should contact HTFC to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Michael Stammel
Certifying Officer
May 23, 2023