

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

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City of Columbia
1225 Lady Street, Columbia, SC 29201
803-545-3383

On or after **April 3, 2017**, the City of Columbia will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery funds under Title II/Section 420 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Columbia CDBG Disaster Recovery (DR) Program

Purpose: The City of Columbia has developed five (5) housing programs to assist homeowners and rental property owners of single family (1-4 units) residences damaged by the South Carolina Flood of 2015 in rehabilitating, elevating, remediating, and repairing primary residences: Columbia Housing Assistance Program, Buyout Program, Small Rental Repair Program, Elevation Reimbursement Program, and Minor Repair Program.

Location: The City has conducted a broad review of scattered sites within the city limits (Latitude: 34.009905, Longitude: 81.037131) addressing Historic Properties, Coastal Zone Management, Sole Source Aquifers, Endangered Species, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Air Quality, Farmland Protection, Airport Hazards and Environmental Justice. *Site-specific environmental reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the broad review for each eligible property when addresses become known.*

Project/Program Description: Rehabilitation activities will primarily assist low to moderate income, flood-damaged households in the most heavily impacted areas of Columbia along the banks of Lake Katherine, Central and Lower Gills Creek, Wildcat Creek, and Penn Branch. All improvements, products, and fixtures will promote energy efficiency, water conservation, and green building practices to the extent applicable including: repair or replacement of roofing, flooring, electrical and plumbing fixtures, HVAC equipment, windows, sheetrock, and unsafe water and sewer supplies; lead based paint, asbestos and mold remediation; foundation repair, replacement, or elevation; and drainage improvements. The program also funds the acquisition and clearance of residential properties in the floodplain that sustained *major* or *severe* damages as assessed by FEMA.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: Categorical Exclusion Subject to 58.5 per 24 CFR 58.35 (a)(3)(i)(ii), rehabilitation of buildings and improvements for residential use (one to four units) and 58.35(a)(5), acquisition or disposition of an existing structure.

Site Specific Review: The following laws and authorities will be addressed in the site specific review: 24 CFR 58.5(a) Historic Properties; 58.5(b)(1) Floodplain Management; 58.5(b)(2) Wetland Protection;

58.5(i)(1) Noise Control and Abatement, Explosive and Flammable Operations; and 58.5(i)(2)(i-iv) Contamination and Toxic Substances.

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits:

The City will implement Best Management Practices to identify and prevent storm water pollution and effectively handle storm water runoff from construction activities. Where practicable, the City will modify any proposed action to minimize adverse effects on wetlands. All properties in the floodplain or floodway must obtain flood insurance, to be maintained in perpetuity. Rehabilitation will include flood-proofing adjustments. Toxic substances will be removed, stabilized or encapsulated and a remediation plan developed. Any permits required will be obtained before work begins.

Estimated Project Cost: Total CDBG DR funding is \$19,989,000 of which \$17,790,100 is allocated to housing rehabilitation, repair, elevation, acquisition and disposition; \$1,998,900 to administration and project delivery; and \$200,000 to small business economic development activities; total program cost is \$20,989,000 including \$1 million in CDBG Program Income funding.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this program can be viewed on the Columbia CDBG Disaster Recovery website (<http://dr.columbiasc.gov>) or from 8:30 A.M to 5 P.M Monday through Friday at the City of Columbia Community Development Department, 1225 Lady Street, Suite 102, Columbia, SC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Columbia Community Development Department. All comments received by April 1, 2017 will be considered by the City of Columbia prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Columbia certifies to HUD/South Carolina (SC) that Teresa Wilson in her capacity as City Manager 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. HUD/SC approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Columbia CDBG Disaster Recovery Program to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD/SC will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Columbia certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or 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 the City of Columbia; (b) the City of Columbia 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 development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/SC; 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, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD/SC Office of Field Policy and Management at 1835 Assembly Street, 13th Floor, Columbia, SC. Potential objectors should contact HUD/SC to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Teresa Wilson, City Manager, Columbia, SC