

**EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW  
OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR/500-YEAR FLOODPLAIN**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Columbia, located in Richland and Lexington Counties, South Carolina, has determined that the following proposed action under the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program and B-16-MH-45-0001 is located in the 100-year/500-year floodplain, and the City will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The Columbia Homeowner Assistance, Small Rental Repair, Elevation Reimbursement, and Minor Repair Programs will provide \$15,790,100 in CDBG Disaster Recovery grants to eligible property owners of single family (1-4 units) residences damaged by the October 2015 Flood for the rehabilitation, elevation, remediation, and repair of their homes. Improvements will promote energy efficiency, water conservation, and green building practices in the repair or replacement of roofing; flooring; electrical, HVAC and plumbing systems; unsafe water and sewer supplies; lead-based paint, asbestos and mold remediation; insulation, sheetrock; foundations; as well as building elevation, drainage improvements and ADA accessibility. All program activities will be completed on existing residential structures within the incorporated Columbia city limits with no increase in density or change in land use. No adverse effects are anticipated on the natural environment or the related natural and beneficial functions and values of Columbia's approximately 8453.84 acres of floodplain.

According to the latest Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), 141 properties located within Floodplain Zones A, AE, and X along the banks of Lake Katherine, Central and Lower Gills Creek, Wildcat Creek, and Penn Branch sustained major or severe damages; another 56 properties in the floodplain sustained minor damage; 197 total flood damaged parcels equal 514.05 acres. (See FIRM Panels 45079C0091, C0092, C0242, C0263, C0264, C0376 and C0377.) Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) are locations that will be inundated by the flood event having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, referred to as the base flood or 100-year flood. SFHAs are labeled as Zone A and Zone AE. Moderate flood hazard areas, labeled Zone X, are the areas between the limits of the base flood and the 0.2-percent-annual-chance or 500-year flood.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Columbia at the following address on or before June 22, 2017: City of Columbia, 1225 Lady Street, Suite 102, Columbia, SC 29201; 803-545-4668 Attention: Gloria Saeed, Director of Community Development. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:30 am to 5 pm at the address above and at <http://dr.columbia.gov>. Comments may also be submitted via email to [magorman@columbiasc.net](mailto:magorman@columbiasc.net).

Date: June 5, 2017