



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dominique Blom, General Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Public and Indian Housing, P

FROM: Robert Mulderig, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Public Housing Investments, PI

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the
FY 2022 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant NOFO
(FR-6600-N-38)

It is the finding of this Office that the subject Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) does not constitute a major Federal action having an individually or cumulatively significant effect on the physical/human environment and, therefore, does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The purpose of this NOFO is to announce the availability of FY 2022 funds and to provide program information and application instructions for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant program.

The Choice Neighborhoods Program is designed to address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public housing and/or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Planning Grants enable a community to undertake a comprehensive planning process and implement limited neighborhood improvements, such as beautification projects, façade improvement programs, and fresh food initiatives. Eligible applicants are public housing authorities, local governments, tribal entities, and nonprofit organizations.

The authority for the Choice Neighborhoods Program is Section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), as amended by provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. 117-103, enacted March 15, 2022).

The NOFO provides for environmental review of Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant projects and activities by the state or unit of general local government (Responsible Entity) under 24 CFR Part 58 for all grantees unless HUD determines to perform the environmental review under 24 CFR Part 50 in a particular case. Under this NOFO and applicable law, an applicant is prohibited from undertaking any actions that are choice-limiting or could have environmentally adverse effects, including demolishing, acquiring, rehabilitating, converting, leasing, repairing, or constructing property proposed to be assisted under this NOFO or committing or expending HUD or non-HUD funds for such activities, until HUD has approved a Responsible Entity's Request for Release of Funds/Certification after an environmental review has been completed in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58 or HUD has completed an environmental review and given

approval for the action under 24 CFR Part 50. The environmental review may result in requirements for mitigation or remedial measures, or a change in the project site. While some planning activities assisted under the NOFO are exempt or categorically excluded from NEPA and other environmental review requirements pursuant to 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1) and 58.34(a)(1), many activities, including some Early Action Activities, will require environmental review prior to implementation.

This Office finds that issuance of this NOFO will not have a significant effect on the human environment because before actions that could have a physical impact or limit the choice of alternatives may be taken, there will be an environmental review done under 24 CFR Part 50 (by HUD) or 24 CFR Part 58 (by a responsible entity) that will assess the potential environmental impacts in the local setting before the impacts or any choice limiting activities may take place.

Concurrences:

Susanne Sotirchos
PIH Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Public Housing Investments

Date: _____ Sign: _____

Lauren B. McNamara
Acting Departmental Environmental
Clearance Officer

Date: 3/30/22 Sign: _____

Christopher H. Hartenau
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of General Counsel

Date: _____ Sign: _____

Approval:

Dominique Blom
General Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Public and Indian Housing

Date: _____ Sign: _____