

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date: October 5, 2020

Name of Responsible Entity [RE]: Mercer County

Address: c/o Mercer County Regional Planning Commission
2491 Highland Rd., Hermitage, PA 16148

Telephone Number of RE: 724-981-2412 x 3204

On or about October 26, 2020 the above-named grantee will submit a request to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (PA DCED) to release CDBG Funds for the following project:

Title: Housing Rehabilitation

Location: Mercer County (Non-Entitlement CDBG Communities)

Total Project Cost and HUD Funded Amount (FY 2019 Mercer County CDBG Funds) = \$244,895

Additional funding may be received (if certain criteria are met) through the Pennsylvania Regional Lead Hazard Control Grant administered by Lawrence County Social Services.

Description:

Mercer County will use 2019 Community Development Block Grant funds to rehabilitate owner-occupied housing units. These units are to be located in the CDBG non-entitlement municipalities of Mercer County. (CDBG non-entitlement municipalities of Mercer County are all jurisdictions with the exception of the Cities of Sharon, Farrell and Hermitage, the Town of Greenville and the Boroughs of Sharpsville and Grove City and Pine Township). Additional funding may be received (if certain criteria are met) through the Pennsylvania Regional Lead Hazard Control Grant administered by Lawrence County Social Services. The county has agreed to bring the rehabilitated single family homes up to minimum housing standards, using Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code standards as a guideline.

Income eligibility is required for participation in the program. Therefore, very low and low to moderate income persons will be the only beneficiaries of this program. The program will offer a deferred loan to all very low and low to moderate applicants who qualify. The loan will be forgiven by 20% each year that the participant retains ownership of the home following rehab completion. If the owner-occupant decides to sell the home prior to the fifth year following rehab, the individual will be responsible for paying the remaining principal. No interest will be charged. After the fifth year, the loan will be completely forgiven with no repayment required.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded from the NEPA requirements (24 CFR Part 58.35) and there is no requirement for an environmental assessment. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) which documents the Environmental Review of the project has been made by the Grantee and more fully sets forth the reasons why a full Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This ERR is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying, upon request between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Mercer County, c/o the Mercer County Regional Planning Commission, cconti@merpc.com. All comments received by October 26, 2020 will be considered by Mercer County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Mercer County certifies to the Commonwealth that Matthew McConnell in his capacity as Chairman of the Mercer County Board of Commissioners 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. DCED's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Mercer County to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCED will accept objections to its release of funds and acceptance of the 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 grantee's Certifying Officer; (b) the grantee 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 DCED; 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 the Department of Community and Economic Development at: chrhowe@pa.gov. Potential objectors should contact DCED to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Matthew McConnell
Chairman
Mercer County Board of Commissioners