

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

City of Portage, Kalamazoo County, Michigan
7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI 49002
(269) 329-4477

On or about June 3, 2014, the City of Portage will request that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) release Federal Funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) for the following projects:

- Housing Assistance Programs - \$159,225
 - Housing Rehabilitation Program: Loans for Upgrades of Owner Occupied Residences.
 - Emergency Repair Grant Program: Grants for Urgent Home Repair Needs.
- Homebuyer Downpayment Assistance Program - \$6,000
 - Deferred Loans to First Time Homebuyers in Low/Moderate Income Target Neighborhoods
- Neighborhood Improvement - \$53,661
 - Administration and Code Enforcement: Code enforcement efforts in low and moderate-income neighborhoods to deter blight and promote neighborhood quality.
- Human/Public Services - \$37,972
 - Portage Community Center: Emergency Assistance, Food Distribution, Clothing Bar, Transportation Assistance, and Youth Recreation Scholarship Program.
- Administration - \$21,814
 - General grant administration and fair housing activities.

Environmental Review Record

It has been determined that this request will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the environment. Accordingly, the city will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190) for the following reasons:

- All programs identified have been determined, in accordance with HUD criteria, to be either categorically excluded or exempt from requirements of preparing an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.
- The project benefits far outweigh the minor environmental impacts associated with these projects. Therefore, a finding of no significant impact has been determined.
- An Environmental Review Record for the above projects has been prepared by the city which documents the environmental review of the projects and more fully sets forth the reasons why such Environmental Impact Statement is not required. These Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, at the Department of Community Development, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. No further environmental review of the projects is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of Federal Funds.

Public Comments

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with these decisions may submit written comments to the city (address above) on or before June 3, 2014. All comments received will be considered and the city will not request the release of Federal Funds or take administrative action on the projects prior to this date.

Release of Funds

The City of Portage will undertake the projects described above with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The City of Portage is certifying to HUD that the City of Portage and Maurice S. Evans, in his official capacity as City Manager, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the City of Portage may use the CDBG funds and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to Federal Release of Funds

HUD will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and/or acceptance of the certification only if it is based on one of the following: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer of applicant approved by HUD; or (b) that applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to HUD at: Environmental Review Officer, HUD Detroit Area Office - Region V, McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226.

Objections to the release of funds on a basis other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD. No objection received after June 18, 2014 will be considered by HUD.

Rob Boulis, Acting Deputy City Manager, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI 49002