

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

September 20, 2013

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
101 South Broad Street
PO Box 800
Trenton, NJ 08625-0800
609-292-3647

On June 25, 2013, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released Federal funds to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) under the Community Development Block Grant Program pursuant to the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013), to undertake two projects known as the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation Program (RREM) and the Landlord Rental Repair Program (formerly Small Rental Properties Program) (1 to 4 residential units within a building), to assist homeowners and owners of small rental properties in achieving safe and compliant housing that meets minimum property standards through reconstruction, rehabilitation, elevation and mitigation within the nine most impacted counties in New Jersey (Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union).

HUD granted the Release of Funds for these programs upon DCA's formal Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the human environment as documented in tier 1 of a 2 tiered Environmental Assessment dated May 21, 2013.

The first phase of the tiered approach was a broad-level review that evaluated the environmental impacts of similar activities (rehabilitation, reconstruction, elevation and mitigation) in a specific geographic area (the nine most impacted counties in New Jersey). The broad review identified and evaluated those environmental issues that could be reviewed without having sites identified.

The second phase of the environmental analysis is a site-specific review of those environmental issues that could not be evaluated without having a site identified. The Tier 2 site-specific evaluation is conducted as sites are identified.

Subsequent to the Release of Funds, on July 30, 2013, HUD issued CPD-13-038 Notice which provides for DCA, as a Grantee to charge to RREM and LRRP grants the pre-award and pre-application costs incurred by homeowners and small rental property owners for eligible costs they have incurred in response to a Presidentially-declared disaster. Eligible activity costs are limited to rehabilitation, demolition, and reconstruction of primary residences or rental properties prior to their application for CDBG-DR funding.

The allowance for pre-award and pre-application costs for these activities of rehabilitation, demolition and reconstruction (including elevation) of homes and small rental properties is limited under the CPD to rehabilitation and reconstruction within the pre-storm building footprint.

The project scope of the RREM and LRRP projects will be expanded to include the reimbursement of pre-award and pre-application costs to eligible homeowners and owners of small rental properties. The Tier 1 EA analysis performed for the RREM and LRRP programs did not limit activities to the pre-storm building footprint. A re-evaluation of the RREM and LRRP Tier 1 EA to incorporate pre-award and pre-application costs for the activities of rehabilitation, demolition and reconstruction (including elevation) within the pre-storm building footprint has been completed.

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Pursuant to 24 CFR 58.47 (Re-evaluation of environmental assessments and other environmental findings) DCA has determined that these projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required.

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. or may be viewed online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyassistance.html>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on these projects may submit written comments to Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800. All comments received by October 5, 2013 will be considered by DCA.

Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs