

**PROGRAM YEAR 2014
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT
AND**

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF INTENT TO REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 26, 2014
Essex County Division of Housing & Community Development
20 Crestmont Road
Verona, NJ 07044
(973) 655-0200

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Division of Housing & Community Development.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

To all interested agencies, groups and persons: On or about September 11, 2014 the County of Essex proposes to request from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development the release of \$2,799,758 in federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended (P.L. 98-181) to be used for the following projects:

TOWNS/ACTIVITIES	AMOUNT
<u>Belleville</u>	
Roadway Reconstruction Lawrence Street (Entire Length)	\$206,000
Roadway Reconstruction Newark Place (Entire Length)	\$126,000
<u>Cedar Grove</u>	
Barrier Free Improvements to North End Firehouse Restroom	\$62,100
<u>Fairfield</u>	
ADA Curb Ramps to Municipal Complex	\$53,540
<u>Glen Ridge</u>	
ADA Street Ramp Improvements	\$39,500
<u>Livingston</u>	
ADA Improvements to Monmouth Court & Haines Pool	\$42,265
<u>Maplewood</u>	
ADA Improvements to Hilton Branch Library Restrooms	\$102,589
<u>Millburn</u>	
ADA Street Ramp Improvements	\$42,475
<u>Montclair</u>	
ARC Generator for Group Home	\$8,800

<u>Nutley</u>	
ADA Improvements to Parks Walkway	\$16,000
Roadway Reconstruction Hancox Ave. (Union Ave. to Morris Pl.)	\$160,908
<u>Orange</u>	
Central Park Spray & Play Facility	\$266,915
<u>Roseland</u>	
ADA Improvements to Municipal Building	\$40,250
<u>Verona</u>	
Reconstruction of Gould & Reid Place	\$108,738
<u>West Orange</u>	
Roadway Reconstruction High Street (Washington St. to Chestnut St.)	\$276,000
<u>Countywide</u>	
Home Improvement Program-Homeowner Rehab (Countywide)	\$772,782
ARC of Essex – Emergency Generator (123 Naylor Ave., Livingston)	\$30,000
Family Connections – Renovations & Expansion of Agency (395 S. Center Street, Orange)	\$15,000
Focus – Replacement HVAC System (441-443 Broad St., Newark)	\$38,500
NorthWest Essex Healthcare Network – Building Renovations (570 Belleville Ave., Belleville)	\$15,800

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Under the regulations pursuant to this act, the County has conducted environmental reviews of these activities, and has determined that a request of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of human environment. Therefore, the County of Essex will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190). The reason for applicant's decision is essentially that the projects will provide vitally needed facilities and supportive services without significantly affecting in any adverse way the quality of the environment and impacts will be almost entirely beneficial to the human environment.

An Environmental Review Record, with respect to the above Countywide rehabilitation projects has been documented and sets forth reasons why such statement is not required. The environmental review records are on file at the Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development, 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, New Jersey 07044 and are available for public examination and copying upon request during regular business hours between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

All projects designated as Countywide by the County of Essex will undertake a “two tiered environmental review process” per section 58.15 of HUD’s 24 CFR Part 58 regulations. The first review will be a non-site specific, area-wide review. The second review will be supplemental to the area-wide review and will be site specific once project location is determined. If SHPO or other agencies have conditions for the County to satisfy, funds cannot be expended until these conditions are satisfied and if cannot be satisfied, the site must be abandoned and a new site location explored.

No further environmental review of such projects is proposed prior to the request for release of federal funds. The Request for Release of Funds will be submitted to HUD Newark Office by September 11, 2014.

Essex County will undertake the projects described above with the Community Development Block Grant Funds from the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983. Essex County is certifying to HUD that Essex County and Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. in his official capacity of County Executive, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if any action is brought to enforce responsibility in relation to environmental reviews, decision making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal affect of the certification is that upon his approval, Essex County may use the 2013 Consolidated Annual Grant Funds, and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please be advised the combination of these notices is intended to meet two separate procedural requirements. Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to Division of Housing & Community Development. All comments received by September 10, 2014 will be considered by the Division of Housing & Community Development prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

All interested persons wishing to submit written comment on the Finding of No Significant Impact are invited to submit written comment for consideration by the County of Essex, Division of Housing and Community Development, 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, New Jersey 07044 on or before September 10, 2014.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept an objection to its approval of the 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 it is on one of the following bases (a) that the certification was not, in fact, executed by the chief executive officer or other office 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 required by HUD regulations at 24CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; 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) and shall be addressed to the HUD grant administration office at One Newark Center, Newark, New Jersey 07102. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period. Objections to the release of funds on the basis other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD.

JOSEPH N. DI VINCENZO, JR.
County Executive
Hall of Records
465 M.L. King, Jr., Blvd.
Newark, New Jersey 07102

George F. Serio, Jr.
Director
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Verona, New Jersey 07044