

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CD / CDBG)
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, COMMUNITY BOARDS, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

This document constitutes the Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds for the programs identified below, which are proposed to receive federal funding that was or will be received between Calendar Years 2021 and 2024 (Community Development Years 47-50).

On or about May 25, 2022, the City of New York will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) to undertake the projects described below. This notice is not related to the CDBG-Disaster Recovery Program.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements. The programs do not involve new construction or the expansion of a building's footprint.

Because sites to be funded under the following five programs are identified throughout the program year, these environmental reviews are prepared on a tiered or programmatic basis. As sites are identified for CD funding, specific reviews will be conducted.

1. Alternative Enforcement Program (AEP)

AEP is an enforcement mechanism intended to alleviate the serious physical deterioration of the City's most distressed multiple dwellings. The program forces owners to make effective repairs or have the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) do so in a more comprehensive fashion so that emergency conditions are alleviated and underlying physical conditions are addressed. HPD will notify owners that, based upon criteria in the law, their multiple dwellings have been chosen for participation in AEP. Owner will have four months to repair the violations, pay all outstanding emergency repair charges and liens, submit current and valid property registration statements, and request re-inspection. If an owner fails to meet all of the requirements for discharge within four months, HPD will issue an Order to Correct identifying the building systems that need to be replaced. Should an owner fail to comply with the order, HPD will perform the work. Proposed CD 47-50 funding: \$41,213,000.

2. Senior Center Improvements

The Department for the Aging will use CD funds for the renovation of and rectification of code violations in senior centers. Activities may include plumbing upgrades; installation of lighting and emergency lighting systems, security systems, air conditioning/heating/ventilation systems, kitchen fire extinguishing systems, hot water heaters, fire doors, and ramps; window upgrade/replacement; ceiling and roof rehabilitation; kitchen upgrade; bathroom renovation; re-wiring; floor replacement; handicapped access; and security and elevator improvements. Proposed CD 47-50 funding: \$7,738,000.

3. Landmarks Historic Preservation Grant Program

The Landmarks Preservation Commission provides façade improvement grants to homeowners and nonprofits that own properties that are designated landmarks, located within designated historic districts, or listed in or are eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, sites may receive grants for interior improvements provided the building has a designated interior. Proposed CD 47-50 funding: \$456,000.

4. Maintenance, Operation, and Rehabilitation of Tax-Foreclosed Housing

This program uses CD funds to pay for the following activities in City-owned, tax-foreclosed housing: fuel and utilities; janitorial services; maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation efforts including responding to emergency complaints and sealing vacant properties; performing field inspections and holding technical interviews with potential contractors; inspecting, monitoring, and surveying projects; and procuring, monitoring, and issuing payment to contractors. CD funds also provide training and technical assistance to tenants and Tenant Associations of City-owned buildings in the process of becoming independent housing cooperatives. Proposed CD 47-50 funding: \$77,523,000.

5. Project Open House

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities uses CD funds to remove architectural barriers from the homes of low- and moderate-income City residents who have mobility impairments. Work may include grab bar installations; main entry components (ramp, chair lift, and door); and kitchen and bathroom modifications. Proposed CD 47-50 funding: \$793,000.

Sites under the following two programs are known; reviews have been completed where noted in the environmental review.

1. City Educational Facilities: Health & Safety Improvements

The Department of Education (DOE) uses CD funds to prevent or remove code violations in New York City schools. The activities may include the installation, repair, or replacement of emergency lighting; elevator guards; doors and hardware; panic hardware; fire alarm, suppression, and extinguishing systems; radiator shields; potable water systems; sewage systems; kitchen ventilation/exhaust systems; heating/cooling/refrigeration systems; flame-proof curtains; building and sidewalk elevators; bleachers; retaining walls; interior masonry; damaged flooring and ceilings; electrical fixtures; mandated signage; and lead testing and remediation. To avoid archaeological concerns, playground resurfacing may be performed provided there is no increase in the playground area and no excavation is proposed. Proposed CD 47-50 funding: \$27,632,000.

2. GreenThumb Gardens

GreenThumb assists neighborhood groups in the creation, maintenance, and enhancement of gardens aimed at increasing civic participation and neighborhood revitalization through collective stewardship. GreenThumb provides materials, education, programming, and technical support and manages community garden license agreements and registrations. The program also organizes three large events and hosts hundreds of workshops per year. Gardens are managed by local volunteers. CD funds support community gardens in low- and moderate-income census tracts; City tax levy funds are used for gardens in non-CD-eligible neighborhoods. Proposed CD 47-50 funding: \$5,114,000.

Environmental Review Records (ERR) that document the environmental determinations for each project are on file at the NYC Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, 255 Greenwich Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10007. The ERRs are available to the public for review either electronically or may be examined or copied in person weekdays 10:00AM to 6:00PM. If you wish to view the ERRs, please contact Julie Freeman, Director of Community Development, New York City Office of Management and Budget, at freemanj@omb.nyc.gov or (212) 788-6130.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERRs to the New York City Office of Management and Budget, Community Development Unit, 255 Greenwich Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10007 or via email at CDBGComments@omb.nyc.gov. All comments received by May 24, 2022 will be considered by the City of New York prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of New York certifies to HUD that Julie Freeman, in her official capacity as a Certifying Officer for the CD Program, 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. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of New York to use CD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of New York's 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 Certifying Officer of the City of New York; b) the City of New York has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; c) the City of New York 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 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 § 58.76), and shall be addressed to HUD, Office of Community Planning and Development, at the following email address: CPD_COVID-19OEE-NY@hud.gov. Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

City of New York: Eric Adams, Mayor.
Jacques Jiha, Ph.D., Director, Mayor's Office of Management and Budget

Date: May 17, 2022