

**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 funded in the Forty-Sixth Community Development Year (CD 46/Calendar Year 2020/Federal Fiscal Year 2020). On May 27, 2020 the City will submit to HUD its Request for Release of Funds for these projects. In accordance with 24 CFR Part 58.35 of the HUD Environmental Review Procedures for Title I CDBG Programs, the City has determined the activities conducted under these programs to be categorically excluded from the Environmental Assessment requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The programs do not involve new construction or the expansion of a building's footprint. This notice is not related to the CDBG - Disaster Recovery Program.

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

**ALTERNATIVE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (AEP)**

AEP is an additional HPD enforcement mechanism that is 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 HPD do so in a more comprehensive fashion so that emergency conditions are alleviated and the underlying physical conditions are addressed. As described in the law, HPD will notify an owner that based upon criteria in the law, his or her multiple dwelling has been chosen for participation in AEP. An owner will have four months to repair the violations, pay all outstanding HPD emergency repair charges and liens, submit a current and valid property registration statement and request a re-inspection. If the owner fails to meet all of the requirements for discharge within the first four months, HPD will perform a building-wide inspection and issue an order outlining the necessary actions to address the emergency conditions and the underlying causes of those conditions (to minimize reoccurrence of those conditions). HPD will prepare a scope of work that will address the conditions cited in the order. Should an owner fail to comply with the order, HPD will perform the work. Work may include: Roof upgrade and replacement; brick repointing and masonry upgrades, electrical upgrades; joist, window, door, water supply lines, waste lines, water heater, and boiler replacement; lead-based paint remediation; and integrated pest management. CD 46 Allocation: \$8,627,000.

**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. CD 46 Allocation: \$198,000.

**LANDMARKS HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM**

The Landmarks Preservation Commission provides façade improvement grants to homeowners and nonprofits that own a property that is a designated landmark, is located within a designated historic district, or is listed in or is eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, nonprofits may be awarded grants for interior improvements provided the building has a designated interior. CD 46 Allocation: \$114,000.

**DFTA SENIOR CENTER IMPROVEMENTS**

CD funds will be used for the renovation of the physical plant and the 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. CD 46 Allocation: \$1,933,000.

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

## MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF TAX-FORECLOSED HOUSING

Through foreclosure for tax delinquency (in rem), the City assumed ownership and management responsibility of formerly privately-owned residential buildings. HPD conducts necessary repairs and rehabilitation either through in-house staff or through private contractors. Rehabilitation will involve more extensive work than routine maintenance for plumbing and electrical work, seal-ups, boilers, and roofs. Funds are also used to renovate common building areas such as hallways. CD 46 Allocation: \$1,500,000. Please note that this amount is for only the rehabilitation component of the Maintenance and Operation of Tax-Foreclosed Housing program. The total program allocation is \$19,295,000.

## CODE VIOLATION REMOVAL IN SCHOOLS

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. CD 46 Allocation: \$7,545,000.

## PARKS CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION PROGRAM

The Department of Parks and Recreation will use CD funds to create new or renovate existing City parks and playgrounds. Renovations will be undertaken at the Lewis Playground located at 773 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn and the Vale of Cashmere Path located in the northeast section of Prospect Park, also in Brooklyn.

The Lewis Playground project will add new playground equipment that offers accessible recreational opportunities, more seating such as benches, and game tables and picnic tables. New pavement and additional planting areas will make the playground more engaging for neighborhood residents. The Vale of Cashmere Path reconstruction involves resurfacing the existing pedestrian path, removing and replacing existing benches, and installing Central Park style settees and new light poles with LED lamps. CD 45 Allocation: \$3,900,000.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Environmental Review Records (ERR) that document the environmental review of the projects have been made by the City of New York. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, these ERRs may be obtained by sending your request to the following email: [leonardj@omb.nyc.gov](mailto:leonardj@omb.nyc.gov). Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERRs for the programs identified above. All comments received by May 26, 2020 will be considered prior to the submission of a request for release of funds.

## OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of New York will undertake the projects described above with CD funds from HUD, under Title I. The City of New York is certifying to HUD that the City and Assistant Director John Leonard, in his official capacity as a Certifying Officer for the CD Program, consent 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 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities and allows the City of New York to use CD program funds. HUD will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases: a) That the certification was not in fact executed by the City of New York's Certifying Officer, 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 procedure (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to HUD, Office of Community Planning and Development, at the following email address: [CPD\\_COVID-19OEE-NY@hud.gov](mailto: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. No objection received after June 11, 2020 will be considered by HUD.

City of New York: Bill de Blasio, Mayor.  
Melanie Hartzog, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Date: May 19, 2020