

COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

ESSEX COUNTY

November 13, 2015

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

This Notice is related to Federal assistance provided in response to the Presidentially-declared disaster, Superstorm Sandy. This notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Per 24 CFR 58.33, the combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI-RROF) will be published simultaneously with the submission of the RROF. The funds are needed on an emergency basis due to a declared disaster from the impacts of Superstorm Sandy, which made landfall on October 29, 2012. As a result, the comment periods for the FONSI and NOI-RROF have been combined. Commenters may submit comments to DCA and objections to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ensure they will receive full consideration.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about November 30, 2015, the DCA will submit a request to HUD for the release of Federal funds under the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) pursuant to the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) for the Sandy Special Needs Housing Fund (SSNHF) CDBG-DR. DCA expects to fund the project using approximately \$3,100,912.00 of CDBG-DR funds.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Application ID number: 02660
Project Title: A Better Life
Location: 93-101 Fourteenth Avenue, City of Newark, Essex County, New Jersey 07103
The total estimated project cost is \$8,119,066.00.

The proposed development will be accessed by Camden Street and Fourteenth Avenue and will include a 24,427± square foot two-story elevator building containing twenty-four (24) one bedroom apartments, 4,027± square foot of medical office space and 12,072± square foot of

space for commercial kitchen and recreational activities. Each apartment unit will be 364± square feet and include a handicapped size bathroom, kitchenette, living room and a bedroom. Twenty (20) units will be for single occupants and be occupied by homeless individuals with special needs, who will receive rent subsidies from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA). One (1) unit will be for a superintendent and the three (3) remaining units, along with the medical office space, will be leased to University of Medical and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). All units will be equipped with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and sprinklers. The 12,072± additional square feet of the commercial kitchen and recreational activity area will be for use of both groups. The common amenities within the proposed building include a library, community room, laundry room, dining room, quiet room, landscaped garden and patio area. There will be no on-site parking.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The DCA has determined that this project will have no significant impacts on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 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, Sandy Recovery Division, 101 South Broad Street, 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 can be viewed online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on this project may submit written comments to Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800 or online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/> and to Tennille Smith Parker, DRS, Acting Division Director, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20410. All comments received by November 30, 2015, or fifteen (15) days from the actual date of publication, whichever is later, will be considered by DCA. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

DCA certifies to HUD that Charles A. Richman, in his capacity as Commissioner of DCA 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 the National Environmental Policy Act and related laws and authorities, and allows DCA to use CDBG-DR funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

Template –FONSI and NOI-RROF
For use with an EA

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and DCA's certification for a period of fifteen (15) 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 DCA; (b) DCA has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or 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 Part 58.76) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, DRS, Acting Division Director, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20410. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Commissioner Charles A. Richman
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs