

COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
CAPE MAY COUNTY

March 6, 2015

New Jersey Economic Development Authority
36 West State Street
PO Box 990
Trenton, NJ 08625-0990
609-858-6700

This notice shall satisfy the procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Per 24 CFR 58.33, the Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI-RROF) will be published simultaneously with the submission of the Request of Release of Funds (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 NOI-RROF and RROF have been combined.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about March 16, 2015, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on behalf of EDA will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Federal funds under the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) pursuant to the Disaster Relief (DR) Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) for the Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) program. EDA expects to fund the project using approximately \$1,500,000 of NCR funds.

The following information pertains to this project:

Project Title: NCR39811, Lafayette Street Park Development

Location: 801 Lafayette Street, Cape May, NJ

Estimated Cost: \$6,400,000

Project Description: The proposed project consists of renovations and enhancements to Lafayette Street Park in the City of Cape May, New Jersey. Lafayette Street Park acquired its present configuration between 1963 and 1970 based on historical aerial photographs. In addition, the tax card indicates that 1.69 acres of the park property was built in 1967. Proposed improvements have been broadly identified in a conceptual plan prepared by a Temple University architectural design studio class, dated 2010. The undertaking is regarded as the full range of potential alterations, though at present only a portion of these improvements would be funded.

The Lafayette Street Park Development is an NCR Recreation, Cultural and Park Land Amenities Project located in the heart of Cape May City, Cape May County. Conceptual design for the park has been completed for the 38-acre, full-purpose park and includes active and passive recreation, while planned project activities will take place within an approximately 7.5-acre footprint along Lafayette Street (this “Phase 1” area is the subject of the current application for funding). The park design will incorporate green concepts and construction materials. The trails and facilities will be constructed with sustainable construction techniques and materials in mind.

Improvements under Phase 1 are planned for the northern portion of the park adjacent to Cape May City Elementary School. Proposed work comprises renovation of the practice baseball field and the multi-purpose field; development of a picnic area and a bocce court; and improvements to irrigation, site lighting, and landscaping.

Future planned improvements include renovations to Dellas Field (the principal baseball field) and multiuse areas; construction of vehicle entrances, ring road and parking area; drainage and irrigation improvements, including detention basin; and development, replacement, or improvement of various park facilities, such as restroom, concession, administration, and storage structures and dog park. The Dellas Little League Baseball/Softball Field will be redesigned to accommodate both youth and adult baseball/softball activities with the provision of updated dugouts, refreshment stand, bleacher seating, lighting system, water fountain, and a grassy incline beyond the outfield which will accommodate relaxing fans and disguise the entire park’s storage areas underneath the incline. The multi-purpose athletic field will be designed and built to regulations for soccer play, will have the potential to host lacrosse and field hockey games/camps/clinics as well as general outdoor community events. The practice baseball field lighting and irrigation systems will heighten the availability, use, and flexibility of these fields throughout the calendar year. Future improvements are contingent upon receipt of additional funding, likely from non-NCR Program sources, and the completion of additional brownfield remediation by Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) at the former Cape May Manufactured Gas Plant Facility, which is located at the southern end of the park. Brownfield remediation conducted by JCP&L pursuant to a pre-existing agreement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) at the southern end of the park is not considered part of this project.

The NCR Program supports the long-term recovery of small businesses and communities by funding projects that contribute to the economic revitalization throughout New Jersey, but focusing on the nine most impacted counties. NCR supports projects that retain or hire new employees, contribute to the State's economy, serve Low or Moderate Income (LMI) areas, create or maintain LMI jobs, remove slum or blight, or address an urgent need related to Superstorm Sandy. These projects are commercial or mixed use projects, typically development and public improvement or streetscape revitalization.

EDA has determined that the proposed project is Categorically Excluded SUBJECT to §58.5 authorities per 24 CFR 58.35(a)(4)(i). As such, a Statutory Checklist has been completed in order to determine whether the project is in compliance with the authorities cited at 24 CFR§50.4 and 58.5.

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, 36 West State Street, PO Box 990, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. by contacting Erin B. Gold at 609-858-6718 or may 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 Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, 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 March 16, 2015 will be considered by DCA and EDA. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCA certifies (on or about March 16, 2015) to HUD that Richard E. Constable, III, 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 Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and DCA's certification for a period of seven (7) 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 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 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 Richard E. Constable, III
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs