

Public Notice

HUD NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS HUD Neighborhood Stabilization Program – Hennepin County Tier One Environmental Assessment

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

The purpose of this notice is to identify two separate but related actions to be undertaken by Hennepin County. On or about June 15, 2009, Hennepin County will request the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) release Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 for the following project:

Homebuyer downpayment assistance and the acquisition, demolition, and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties will be coordinated among Hennepin County, municipalities and other partners in making such properties available to low, moderate and middle-income households at affordable prices. Program will target areas with greatest concentration of foreclosures in an effort to stabilize affect neighborhoods. A total of approximately \$3.9 million for NSP funding is expected for these efforts, but additional NSP or other funds are anticipated to be available later and used for similar purposes.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

It has been determined that such a request for release of funds will not constitute an activity significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly Hennepin County has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL91-190). The reasons for the decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows; (a) a Tier One environmental review has been prepared and has determined that mapped data will allow the identification of all known environmental compliance factors in the vicinity of site specific activities, (b) a process has been prepared that will ensure that environmental compliance factors will be carefully reviewed for all activities, (c) no significant environmental effects will result and (d) the proposed program is consistent with all applicable local, state and federal regulations. An Environmental Review Record has been established for this program that documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such Statement is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file and available for public examination and copying, upon request, at Hennepin County Housing, Community Works & Transit Department office, 417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. No further environmental review of this project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDING:

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by Hennepin County to the office of the undersigned. Such written comments will be accepted until June 15, 2009. All such comments so received will be considered and Hennepin County will not request the release of Federal funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

RELEASE OF FUNDS:

Hennepin County, as the eligible grantee, will provide financial assistance to the project described above with HUD funds from the Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act, as amended. Hennepin County is certifying to HUD that Richard P. Johnson, in his official capacity as County Administrator, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making and action; and that these have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that, upon its approval by HUD, Hennepin County may use CDBG funds and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS:

HUD will accept an objection to its approval only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the certifying officer or other officer of the grantee approved by HUD; or (b) the environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to HUD at 920 Second Avenue South, Suite 1300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402. Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD. No objection received after July 3, 2009 will be considered by HUD.

Richard P. Johnson, Hennepin County Administrator
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300 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55487