U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000



MEMORANDUM FOR: Heidi Frechette, General Deputy Assistant Secretary

for Public and Indian Housing, P

FROM: Marianne Nazzaro, Deputy Assistant Secretary

Office of Public Housing Investments, PI



SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the FY 2025 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant NOFO

(FR-6900-N-34)

It is the finding of this Office that the subject Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) does not constitute a major Federal action having an individually or cumulatively significant effect on the physical/human environment and, therefore, does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The NOFO announces the availability of FY 2025 funds and provides program information and application instructions for the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant program. The purpose of Choice Neighborhoods grants is to support locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. The program aims to transform neighborhoods of poverty into viable mixed-income neighborhoods with access to economic opportunities by revitalizing severely distressed public housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood, including vacant property, housing, businesses, services, and schools.

The funding authority for Choice Neighborhoods grants under this NOFO is provided by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Public Law 119-4, approved March 15, 2025). The program authority for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative is Section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v) (1937 Act), as applied by the fiscal year 2025 appropriations.

The NOFO provides for environmental review of Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant projects and activities by the state or unit of general local government (Responsible Entity) under 24 CFR Part 58 for all grantees, unless HUD determines to perform the environmental review under 24 CFR Part 50 in a particular case. Under this NOFO and applicable law, an applicant is prohibited from undertaking any actions that are choice-limiting or could have environmentally adverse effects, including demolishing, acquiring, rehabilitating, converting, leasing, repairing, or constructing property proposed to be assisted under this NOFO or committing or expending HUD or non-HUD funds for such activities, until HUD has approved a Responsible Entity's Request for Release of Funds/Certification after an environmental review has been completed in

accordance with 24 CFR Part 58 or HUD has completed an environmental review and given approval for the action under 24 CFR Part 50. The environmental review may result in requirements for mitigation or remedial measures, or a change in the project site.

This Office finds that issuance of this NOFO will not have a significant effect on the human environment because before actions that could have a physical impact or limit the choice of alternatives may be taken, there will be an environmental review done under 24 CFR Part 50 (by HUD) or 24 CFR Part 58 (by a responsible entity) that will assess the potential environmental impacts in the local setting before the impacts or any choice limiting activities may take place.

Concurrences:

Justin Gray PIH Environmental Clearance Officer Office of Public Housing Investments JUSTIN

Digitally signed by JUSTIN GRAY Date: 2025.08.28 09:27:11 -04'00'

Sign:

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Peter Huber Departmental Environmental Clearance Officer

PETER Sign:

Digitally signed by PETER HUBER Date: 2025.09.03 06:42:53

Christopher Hartenau **Environmental Clearance Officer** Office of General Counsel

CHRISTOPHE Digitally signed by CHRISTOPHER HARTENAU R HARTENAU Date: 2025.09.02 16:46:45 Sign:

Approval:

Heidi Frechette General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing

Heidi J. **Frechette** Digitally signed by: Heidi J. Frechett DN: CN = Heidi J. Frechette email : neidi.j.frechette@hud.gov C = AD O HUD OU = PIH Date: 2025.09.10 13:13:51 -04'00'