

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

September 23, 2022

City of Lancaster
Community Development Department
104 East Main Street
Lancaster, OH 43130
740.687.6663

Lynda Berge Disser
Project Director

To all Interested Persons, Agencies, and Groups:

On or about October 4, 2022, the **City of Lancaster, Community Development Department**, will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of **The Healthy Homes Production Grant Program**, which is authorized under Section 501 and Section 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. § 1701z-1 and z-2), and funding is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260, and prior year appropriations, for the following multi-year program/project: **Healthy Homes Production Program**. The target population for the Healthy Homes Production Program is households in privately-owned, low-income rental and/or owner-occupied housing, especially where families with children (0-18 years old), older adults sixty-two (62) and older, and/or families with person with disabilities reside. Units assisted will be the residence of families/individuals with income at or below eighty percent (80%) of the area median income level, or at income levels defined in OLHCHH's policy guidance 2014-01. Fairfield County covers 13 zip codes. The primary target will be 42 housing units within the 43130-zip code, and 18 housing units in the remaining 12 zip codes. The goal of the program is to identify and remediate housing-related health and safety hazards to protect children and other vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to damp and mold growth, excess heat and excess cold, carbon monoxide, lead, radon, domestic hygiene, pests, refuse, and trip and fall hazards. An assessment of the condition of the hazards in the housing units will be conducted. We will integrate this program with current housing rehabilitation, property maintenance, weatherization, healthy homes initiatives, lead-based paint hazard control efforts, health and safety activities, and energy efficiency improvement activities and programs. We will be performing remediation work only, so there will be no ground disturbance.

The Community Development Department is requesting the release of \$1,000,000.00 with grant matching funds of \$100,000.00 for grant period, May 01, 2022, through November 01, 2025.

The proposed hazard control activities to be funded under this/these program(s) is/are categorically excluded from the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, but subject to compliance with some of the environmental laws and authorities listed at § 58.5 of 24 CFR Part 58. In accordance with §58.15, a tiered review process has been structured, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed and studied for the intended target area(s) listed above. Other applicable environmental laws and authorities will be complied with when individual projects are ripe for review. Specifically, the target area(s) has/have been studied and compliance with the following laws and authorities have been established in this Tier 1 review: Airport Hazards, Coastal Barriers Resources Act, Air Quality, Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species, Explosive and Flammable Hazards, Farmlands Protection, Sole Source Aquifers, Wetlands Protection, Wild and Scenic Rivers and Environmental Justice. In the Tiered 2 review, compliance with the following environmental laws and authorities will take place for proposed projects funded under

the program(s) listed above: Flood Insurance, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Floodplain Management, Historic Preservation and Noise Abatement and Control. Should individual aggregate projects exceed the threshold for categorical exclusion detailed at §58.35(a), an Environmental Assessment will be completed and a separate Finding of No Significant Impact and Request for Release of Funds published. Copies of the compliance documentation worksheets are available at the address below.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project, and more fully describes the tiered review process cited above, is on file at the City of Lancaster, Community Development Department, Second Floor, 104 East Main Street, Lancaster, Ohio and may be examined online at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/environmental-review-records/>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Lancaster, Community Development Department, 104 E Main Street, Second Floor, Lancaster, OH 43130 or email cdd@ci.lancaster.oh.us. All comments received by October 2, 2022, will be considered by Community Development Department prior to authorizing submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Environmental Certification to HUD.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Lancaster, Community Development Department certifies to HUD that David L. Scheffer in his official capacity as Mayor 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 NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Lancaster, Community Development Department to utilize federal funds and implement the Program.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Lancaster, Community Development Department certification for a period of fifteen days following either the anticipated submission date (cited above) or HUD's actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if the objections are on one of the following bases: (a) that the Certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Lancaster, Community Development Department; (b) the City of Lancaster, Community Development Department 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 Lancaster, Community Development Department has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; (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 may be addressed to HUD as follows: Karen M. Griego, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, Program Environmental Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: LeadRegulations@HUD.GOV Potential objectors may contact HUD directly to verify the actual last day of the objection/comment period.

Certifying Officer:

**David L Scheffer, Mayor
City of Lancaster
104 East Main Street
Lancaster, OH 43130**