

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Notice: July 23, 2021
Name of Responsible Entity: County of Fayette, Pennsylvania
Contact Agency: Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, Pennsylvania (RACF)
Address: 86 West Main Street
Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401
Telephone: 724-437-1547

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about **August 4, 2021** the County of Fayette will authorize RACF to submit a request to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following projects:

**2019-T-ER-CEST-02a/b
(multi-year FY2019-2023)**

Commercial & Residential Demolition - Fayette County-wide, Pennsylvania.

This multi-year project involves individual actions on a) single family homes (1 to 4 family dwellings or 5 or more dwellings on scattered sites more than 2,000 feet apart) and b) blighted commercial buildings throughout the county. This activity will eliminate slums and blight in Fayette County through spot demolition when the house/building cannot be rehabilitated due to the condition. These blighted structures are vacant and typically extremely dilapidated. In most cases, their blighted appearance negatively impacts the value of nearby buildings and homes. Structures targeted for demolition will meet the definition of blight as contained in local and state law, including the Pennsylvania Urban Redevelopment Law and Eminent Domain Code. Activities will occur on scattered sites throughout Fayette County yet to be identified. There is no planned reuse for the properties targeted. Any sites that have a known reuse will require a separate Environmental Review. Before demolishing a home/building, the Redevelopment Authority will conduct a site-specific Tier II review, addressing factors such as Floodplains, Historic Preservation, Wetlands, Endangered Species, and Hazardous Facilities. This review includes all Non-entitlement communities and the County's 9 Entitlement townships: Bullskin, Dunbar, German, Georges, Luzerne, Menallen, North Union, Redstone, and South Union Townships.

FY2019 CDBG Program - \$0

FY2020 CDBG Program - \$208,887 (Non-Entitlements)

- \$ 73,346 (Menallen Township)

FY2021-2023 Programs - TBD

The above activity/ies proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for these projects are on file at Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, Pennsylvania located at 86 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA where the ERR may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:30am to 4:00pm. This location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Every effort will be made to provide the information to all residents, including LEP persons, as needed upon prior request.

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Public Comments

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the RACF (86 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401). All comments received by the end of the day on **August 2, 2021** will be considered by RACF on behalf of Fayette County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which activity they are addressing.

Environmental Certification / Request for Release of Funds

RACF on behalf of Fayette County, PA certifies to DCED that Andrew P. French, in his official capacity as Executive Director 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. DCED's approval of this certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the County of Fayette and RACF to use Program funds.

Objections to Release of Funds

DCED will accept objections to its release of fund and RACF's certification for a period of fifteen 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 the RACF; (b) RACF 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 or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DCED; 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, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Department of Community and Economic Development, Center for Community Building, 4th Floor, Commonwealth Keystone Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0225. Objections may also be submitted electronically to chrhowe@pa.gov. Potential objectors should contact DCED to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Andrew P. French, Certifying Officer / Executive Director
Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette