

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOIRROF)

March 12, 2021

Marc Strange
Planning and Community Development Office
Agawam Town Hall
36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001
(413) 786-0400 x8200

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS;

On or about March 23, 2021, the Town of Agawam will submit a request to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, for the purpose of the following project:

Aging in Place Program: Minor safety improvements and repairs up to \$5,000 per unit to improve the safety and functionality of approximately 7 homes occupied by seniors in Agawam, Massachusetts. Improvements will include, but are not limited to grab bars, handrails, non-slip stair treads, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, door and window locks, and similar work. Approx. \$30,000 activity.

The activities 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 this project is on file at the Agawam Planning and Community Development Office located at Agawam Town Hall – 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA, 01001 and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. with prior arrangement by calling 413-786-0400.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Marc Strange, Agawam Planning and Community Development Office. All comments received by March 22, 2021 will be considered by the Town of Agawam prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Town of Agawam certifies to the DHCD that Marc Strange, in his official capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer, 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. The DHCD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Agawam to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The DHCD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Agawam'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 Town of Agawam;
- (b) The Town of Agawam 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 the DHCD; 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. 55.76) and shall be addressed to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development at 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact the DHCD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Marc Strange
Environmental Certifying Officer
Town of Agawam
36 Main Street – Town Hall
Agawam, MA 01001