



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MAY 26 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harriet Tregoning, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Community Planning and Development, D

FROM: *Frances W. Bush*  
Frances W. Bush, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Operations, DO

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact under the National Environmental  
Policy Act —Notice of Funding Availability for Fiscal Year 2016: Rural  
Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing  
Grants (FR-6000-N-08)

It is the finding of this office that the attached funding notice (FR-6000-N-08) does not constitute a major Federal action having an individually or cumulatively significant effect on the human environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Grants program and the funding made available through this NOFA are authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113, approved December 18, 2015).

Grants will be available for training, education, support, and advice to enhance the technical and administrative capabilities of rural housing development organizations, community development corporations (CDCs), community housing development organizations (CHDOs), local governments, and Indian tribes. Rural Capacity Building grants can also be used for loans, pass-through grants, development assistance, predevelopment assistance, or other financial assistance to rural housing development organizations, CDCs, CHDOs, local governments, and Indian Tribes to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low- and moderate-income families and persons in rural areas, including the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing for low-income or low- and moderate-income families and persons, and community and economic development activities that create jobs for low-income persons.

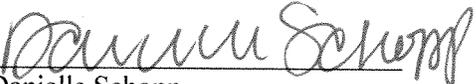
This office finds that the notice does not have a significant impact on the human environment for two reasons. First, most of the activities funded by the program consist of training, education, advice, technical support, financial assistance to carry out economic development activities and operating expenses, which have no significant physical impact on the environment and are categorically excluded from review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related authorities under 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1), (2), (9), (13) and (14).

Second, individual projects to be funded by these grants may not be known at the time the HUD grants are awarded and also may not be known when subgrants are awarded. Selection for funding does not constitute approval of individual project sites. After award, any physical activities funded by the program described in this NOFA will undergo individual HUD environmental review in accordance with 24 CFR Part 50 and their potential impacts will be addressed more accurately and appropriately at the time they are considered. Therefore, in accordance with 24 CFR 50.3(h), the applications and the grant agreements for this program must provide that no commitment or expenditure for physical activities or property acquisition may be made until HUD has completed an environmental review to the extent required under applicable regulations and has given notification of its approval under 24 CFR 50.3(h).

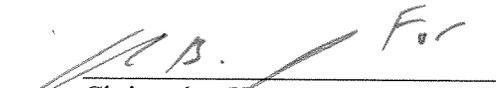
Accordingly, the publication of this notice is deemed not to be a major Federal action having a significant impact on the human environment.

Attachment

Concurrences:

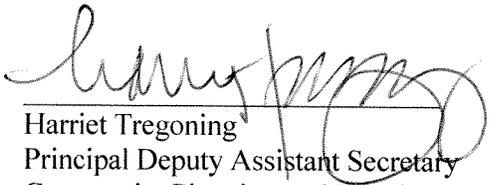
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Danielle Schopp  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of Environment and Energy

5/19/16  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Hartenau  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of General Counsel

5/26/16  
Date

Approval:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harriet Tregoning  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Community Planning and Development

5/26/16  
Date