

**CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA  
FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY  
IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN**

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**To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals**

This is to give notice that the City of Altoona's Department of Planning and Community Development has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The activities are funded under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for FY 2015-2019, #B-15-MC-42-0100 through #B-19-MC-42-0100 and the HOME Investment Partnerships Grant (HOME) for FY 2015-2019, #M-15-MC-42-0507 through #M-19-MC-42-0507. While the locations of the projects have not been determined at this time, some of these projects may be located in the 100-year floodplain.

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS:**

The following projects for FY 2015-2019 are subject to the eight step decision making process in 24 CFR 55.20:

- **Blighted Property Program** - Prevention or elimination of spot blight through property acquisition, relocation, safeguarding, demolition, and disposition activities. The City plans to demolish approximately seventy-five (75) structures city-wide over the five year period. Project budget for the five year period is approximately \$1,140,000, utilizing all CDBG funds.
- **Street Reconstruction** - Revitalize existing public roadways in low to moderate income areas within the City of Altoona. The project will benefit residents to the immediate area improved by providing safer and easier access to their place of residence and also provide a means to the City of Altoona to keep public roadways from deterioration. The project does not involve construction or disturbance of previously undisturbed ground, and the infrastructure will be retained in the same use without change in size or capacity of more than twenty (20) percent. Project will be administered by the City's Department of Engineering. Actual locations will be advertised for public review prior to project initiation. Non-site specific, city-wide, and multi-year. Project budget for the five year period is approximately \$1,002,500, utilizing all CDBG funds.
- **Broad Avenue Curb and Sidewalk Project Phase II** - New concrete curb, sidewalk and roadway restoration, along with tree improvements, topsoil and seeding. Project administered by the Department of Engineering. The City of Altoona will budget \$250,500 in FY 2015 CDBG funds for the project.

Although the following housing rehabilitation projects for FY 2015-2019 are exempt from the eight step decision making process if they do not meet the threshold for "substantial improvement" under 24 CFR 55.2(b)(10), some of the rehabilitations may exceed the

substantial improvement threshold, which states: “Any repair, reconstruction, modernization or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either (1) before the improvement or repair is started; or (2) if the structure has been damaged, and is being restored, before the damage occurred”. The following projects for FY 2015-2019 may be subject to the eight step decision making process in 24 CFR 55.20:

- **Single Family Homeowner Rehabilitation** - The continued funding of citywide rehabilitation loans to low and moderate income homeowners. Funding for lead-based paint remediation to assist low/moderate income homeowners as part of the City's rehabilitation program. Locations to be determined for this multi-year project. Project budget for the five year period is approximately \$1,251,880, utilizing all CDBG funds.
- **HOME Rental Rehabilitation** - This rehab program consists of a 50/50 financial match. Units will be made available to income eligible tenants and comply with HOME affordable period requirements. Structures located within the City's limits which contain substandard rental units are eligible. This is a multi-year activity. Project budget for the five year period is approximately \$249,070, utilizing all HOME funds.

The proposed projects are located in the City of Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania.

#### **COMMENTS ON FLOODPLAIN ACTIVITIES:**

The City of Altoona Department of Planning and Community Development considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

These proposed projects are all related to the existing built environment. Existing streets, curbs, sidewalks, and lighting need to be reconstructed. Existing vacant dilapidated houses need to be removed. Lastly, existing housing units needs to be rehabilitated. Even though portions of the City of Altoona are located in the 100-year floodplain, the City must address the need to revitalize its existing neighborhoods. The City cannot neglect these areas, even though they are located in the 100-year floodplain. All mitigation measures will be taken and none of these activities will affect the floodplain, change its water flow, or obstruct the water course. The City of Altoona acknowledges compliance with state and local floodplain protection procedures.

The City of Altoona has re-evaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural

environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Altoona's Department of Planning and Community Development, 1301 Twelfth Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA 16601; Attn: Mr. Carl Fischer, Deputy Director, Department of Planning & Community Development; (814) 949-2481, by November 9, 2015, or seven (7) days from the date of the publication of this notice. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday at 1301 Twelfth Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA 16601.

**Marla P. Marcinko, City Manager**

City of Altoona  
1301 Twelfth Street  
Altoona, PA 16601

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