

**CITY OF ALTOONA, PA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND  
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS**

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (FONSI-RROF)**

PUBLICATION DATE: November 11, 2015

GRANTEE NAME: City of Altoona, PA

GRANTEE ADDRESS: 1301 Twelfth Street  
Altoona, PA 16601

TELEPHONE: (814) 949-2481

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS: The purpose of this notice is to satisfy two (2) separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Altoona, PA.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about November 27, 2015, the City of Altoona will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-383), and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds under the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended (P.L. 101-625), to undertake projects funded by the FY 2015-2019 CDBG and HOME Programs for the purpose of infrastructure improvement, housing rehabilitation, and demolition in the City of Altoona, PA.

**ASSESSED PROJECTS**

**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.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

The City of Altoona has determined that the above-identified project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environment Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of Altoona, Department of Planning and Community Development, 1301 Twelfth Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA 16601, and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, during normal business hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

The activity listed above is assessed under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Additional project information is contained in the respective project ERR on file and is available for review or copying at the same location and time specified in the preceding FONSI statement.

### **REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

In addition to the projects listed above, on or about November 27, 2015, the City of Altoona will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds for the following projects, which are categorically excluded from the NEPA requirements (24 CFR 58.35) and for which there is no requirement for an environmental assessment. An ERR, which more fully sets forth the reasons why no such assessment is required, is on file and may be consulted at the City of Altoona, Department of Planning and Community Development, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the address above. An environmental review strategy has been prepared and it has been determined that the only applicable site specific 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 requirements for the subject projects listed below are: historic preservation, explosive/flammable operations, toxic substances, noise abatement and control, and floodplain management. Each site shall be reviewed in accordance with these factors, with compliance fully documented, before approving any specific loans or grants. Site specific projects determined to exceed one or more of the environmental constraints established for the program will require a separate environmental review.

### **CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED PROJECTS**

**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 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.

**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.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Altoona, Department of Planning and Community Development, 1301 Twelfth Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA 16601. All comments received by November 26, 2015 will be considered by the City of Altoona prior to authorizing submittal of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City of Altoona certifies to HUD that Ms. Marla P. Marcinko, in her capacity as City Manager, 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 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 Altoona to use CDBG and HOME funds.

### **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Altoona's certification received by December 14, 2015, or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following basis: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Altoona; (b) the City of Altoona has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations are 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the City of Altoona 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 HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the projects are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Section 58.76), and shall be addressed to the Director of Community Planning, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Pittsburgh Office, William Moorhead Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Suite 1000, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

**Marla P. Marcinko, City Manager**  
City of Altoona  
1301 Twelfth Street  
Altoona, PA 16601

Date Published: November 11, 2015