

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Notice	April 2, 2014
Name of Responsible Entity [RE]	City of Easton
Address (e.g., Street No. or P.O. Box)	One S. 3rd St.
City, State, Zip Code	Easton, PA 18042
Telephone Number of RE	610-250-6719

On or about April 16, 2014 the City of Easton will submit a request to the DCED for the release of Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program funds under Section 228 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, to undertake the following project:

**Project Title:** HOME Housing Rehabilitation

**Purpose/Description:** This HOME project will be carried out in the years 2014 to 2016 and involves the minor rehabilitation of single family homes (1 to 4 family dwellings) in two target areas. The activity includes rehabilitation of single family homes owned by homeowners who apply to the Program. It is estimated that 15 single family occupied units will be rehabilitated over the life of the program. The city received \$500,000 in HOME funds for this activity.

**Location:** Target areas include sections of the West Ward and South Side neighborhoods. The West Ward section includes areas between Lehigh Street and Northampton Street from 13th to 10th St. and between Butler St./Wolf Ave and Wood Ave/Pearl Street from 10th to 6th St. The South Side section includes areas between the Lehigh River and Berwick St from Glendon Ave to Folk St.

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 in the Department of Community and Economic Development, 4th Floor, at the address above and may be examined or copied weekdays 9A.M to 4P.M.

An environmental review strategy has been prepared for the above rehabilitation activity and it has been determined that the only applicable site-specific 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6 requirements for the subject program are: historic preservation and toxic substances (i.e. lead-based paint), noise, endangered species, and airport hazards. Each site shall be reviewed against these factors, with compliance fully documented, before approving any specific loans or grants. Site specific rehabilitation projects determined to exceed one or more of the environmental constraints established for the program will require a separate environmental review.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Easton, Department of Community and Economic Development, attn: Gretchen Longenbach. All comments received by April 15, 2014 will be considered by the City of Easton prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City of Easton certifies to DCED that Salvatore J. Panto, Jr. in his capacity as Mayor 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 State's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the name of grant recipient to use Program funds.

## **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

PA DCED will accept objections to its release of fund and the City'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 City of Easton; (b) the City of Easton 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 DCED at 400 North Street, Harrisburg PA 17120. Potential objectors should contact HUD/State to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Hon. Salvatore J. Panto, Jr., Mayor