

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOIRROF)

March 28, 2022

Town of Ware
126 Main Street - Town Hall
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9648

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS;

On or about **April 15, 2022**, the Town of Ware 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, to undertake a project known as the FY21 Ware River Valley Community Assistance Program, for the purpose of the following project(s):

FY 2021 Ware River Valley Community Assistance Program:

1. **Housing Rehabilitation:** Rehabilitation of up to five (5) total housing units in the towns of Ware and Hardwick. Improvements will include repair and/or replacement of basic building systems, abatement of lead and other hazardous materials, removal of architectural barriers, and/or corrections to sanitary code and building code violations
2. **Downtown Façade Program:** provide financial incentives in the form of grants and loans to downtown property owners and businesses enabling them to undertake needed building façade improvements. It is estimated up to 5 façade improvement projects will be undertaken.

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 Office of Community Development, Ware Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA and may be examined or copied weekdays from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. with prior arrangement by calling 413-967-9648, ext. 118.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Office of Community Development. All comments received by **April 15, 2022** will be considered by Stuart Beckley, Environmental Certifying Officer, prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Town of Ware certifies to the DHCD that Stuart Beckley, in his official capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer, consent 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 Ware to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The DHCD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Ware'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 Ware;
- (b) The Town of Ware 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.

Stuart Beckley
Environmental Certifying Officer
126 Main Street - Town Hall
Ware, MA 01082
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