

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

February 20, 2025

City of Reading
815 Washington Street
Reading, PA 19601
610-655-8929

On or about **February 28, 2025** the City of Reading will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of the Healthy Homes Production Grant Program (HHP) is authorized under Section 501 and Section 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. §§ 1701z-1 and 1701z-2), and funding is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103, approved March 15, 2022). This program is administered under HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) for the following multi-year program/project: Healthy Home Program, the purpose of the program is to address Healthy Home Hazards in owner and tenant occupied units. The program will target households that meet the income limits of less than 80% of median income and located within the city limits of Reading, PA. The Healthy Homes Program will consist of units undergoing healthy homes checklist assessment, lead and radon testing, community education and outreach. The funding will be used for 75 units within the City of Reading to mitigate any identified Health Home hazards. The City of Reading is requesting the release of \$1,296,998.00 of HUD awarded funding. The City of Reading will match \$170,452.28.

The proposed hazard control activities to be funded under this/these program(s) is/are categorically excluded from the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, but subject to compliance with some of the environmental laws and authorities listed at § 58.5 of 24 CFR Part 58. In accordance with §58.15, a tiered review process has been structured, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed and studied for the intended target area(s) listed above. Other applicable environmental laws and authorities will be complied with when individual projects are ripe for review. Specifically, the target area has been studied and compliance with the following laws and authorities has been achieved in this Tier 1 review: Airport Hazards, Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Air Quality, Coastal Zone Management Act, Explosive and Flammable Hazards, Farmlands Protection, Floodplain Management, Noise Abatement and Control, Sole Source Aquifers, Wetlands Protection, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Environmental Justice. Site-specific environmental reviews will include compliance with the following environmental laws and authorities for proposed projects funded under the program(s) listed above Historic Preservation, Endangered Species, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Flood Insurance. Should individual aggregate projects exceed the threshold for categorical exclusion detailed at §58.35(a), an Environmental Assessment will be completed and a separate Finding of No Significant Impact and Request for Release of Funds published. Copies of the compliance documentation worksheets are available at the address below.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project, and more fully describes the tiered review process cited above, is on file at the City of Reading, Community Development Department, 815 Washington Street, Reading, PA, and may be examined or copied weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Reading, Community Development Department, 815 Washington Street, Reading, PA 19601, (610) 655-8929. All comments received by February 27, 2025, will be considered by the City of Reading prior to authorizing submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Environmental Certification to HUD.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Reading certifies to HUD that Jamar Kelly, in his official capacity as Finance Director 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. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Reading to utilize federal funds and implement the program.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Reading certification for a period of fifteen days following either the anticipated submission date (cited above) or HUD's actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if the objections are on one of the following bases: (a) that the Certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Reading; (b) the City of Reading has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the City of Reading has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; (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), and may be addressed to HUD and sent to the email address as follows: David Nuccio or David Robbins, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, Program Environmental Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development LeadRegulations@HUD.GOV. Potential objectors may contact HUD directly to verify the actual last day of the objection/comment period.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamar Kelly', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jamar Kelly, Finance Director