

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO  
REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS  
STATE OF VERMONT**

February 23, 2022

Stuart Hurd, Town Manager  
Town of Bennington  
205 South Street  
Bennington, VT 05201  
Phone: 802-442-1037

The purpose of this notice is to satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Bennington and the State of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (the Agency).

**Request for Release of Funds**

On or about March 11, 2022, the Town of Bennington will submit a request to the Agency to release funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL93-383), the National Affordable Housing Act as amended, to undertake a project known as Squire House for the purpose of providing 3 units of recovery housing with 6 bedrooms for women and women with dependent children. The property is located at 185 North Street in Bennington, Bennington County, Vermont. The estimated total cost of the project is approximately \$1,060,830, including what is anticipated to be approximately \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Funds.

Mitigating factors to reduce human exposure to existing site hazards includes maintaining flood insurance on the building, providing site occupants with a flood evacuation plan, inspection and abatement / management of asbestos containing materials and lead based paints where required, use of porous concrete on a new walkway, where possible, and adhering to the conditions of a memorandum of agreement between the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer and the Town of Bennington, Vermont.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

The Town of Bennington has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental 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 municipal offices of the Town of Bennington, 205 South Street, Bennington, Vermont and may be examined or copied on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

## **Public Comments**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Town of Bennington attn. Stuart Hurd, Town Manager, 205 South Street, Bennington, VT 05201. All comments received by March 10, 2022 will be considered by the Town of Bennington prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments must specify which Notice they are addressing—the Finding of No Significant Impact or the Request for the Release of Funds.

## **Environmental Certification**

The Town of Bennington is certifying to the Agency that the Town of Bennington and Stuart Hurd, in his official capacity as Town Manager 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 Agency's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Bennington to use CDBG funds.

## **Objections to Release of Funds**

The Agency will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the Town of Bennington'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 Stuart Hurd; (b) the Town 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 Agency; 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 the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Housing and Community Development, Attn: Environmental Officer, One National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-0501. Potential objectors should contact the Agency to verify the last day of the objection period.