

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (Tiered Review)

October 16, 2024

City of Monroe
Planning and Urban Development Department
3901 Jackson Street
Monroe, LA 71202

(318) 812-7422

On or about **October 23, 2024** the City of Monroe will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Lead Hazard Reduction funds under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, as amended, to undertake the following multi-year program/project: Safe Housing & Healthy Homes Program, for the purpose of reducing hazards in housing, and protecting families from exposure to lead based paint, dust, and soil. The City of Monroe's Planning and Urban Development department will be using Lead Hazard Control Grant funds as a part of their Safe Housing & Healthy Homes program to make improvements to qualified and selected homes in Ouachita Parish. The City of Monroe is requesting the release of **\$4,496,699; \$512,500 match**.

The proposed lead and healthy home 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. Compliance with other applicable environmental laws and authorities will be met when individual projects are reviewed, i.e., Flood Insurance, Historic Preservation, Contamination/Toxics. 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 is on file at the City of Monroe, Planning and Urban Development Department, 3901 Jackson Street, Monroe, LA 71202 or can be viewed at the following website, <https://monroela.us/government/departments-divisions/planning-urban-development/public-notices>, and may be examined or copied weekdays **8:30** a.m. to **4:30** p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Monroe, Planning and Urban Development Department. All comments received by **October 22, 2024** will be considered by the City of Monroe prior to authorizing submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Environmental Certification to HUD.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Monroe certifies to HUD that Ms. Tisa Dhaliwal, Certifying Officer, in her official capacity as the City of Monroe's Director of Community Development, 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 Monroe 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 Monroe** 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 Monroe**; (b) the **City of Monroe** 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 Monroe** 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: OLHCHHPECOS@hud.gov

Ms. Tisa Dhaliwal, Certifying Officer
City of Monroe's Director of Community Development