

**NOTICE of FINDING of NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
and NOTICE of INTENT to REQUEST RELEASE of FUNDS**

September 22, 2021

City of Lewiston, Responsible Entity
27 Pine Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
207-513-3126

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Lewiston.

REQUEST for RELEASE of FUNDS

On or about one day after the end of the comment period, October 7, 2021, the City of Lewiston will submit a request to HUD for the release of Community Development Block Grant program funds under Title CFR 24, Section 58.43 of the Housing & Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following projects:

Economic Development Programs

The City funds several programs relating to economic development including Façade Improvement for Commercial Buildings, Façade Improvement for Historic Properties, Microenterprise Loan, Economic Development Loan, and Rehabilitation for Mixed-use Properties. The City requires a match commitment of 50% from all private developers/investors except affordable housing and micro-enterprise programs. Economic development activities are carried out in the CDBG target area of Census Tract 201-204 and in the NRSA. Activities include the following: improvements made to the exterior of building facades showing blight and decay including repointing brick; addressing structural deterioration; lighting; improving signage; improving egress; addressing decay and efficiency in windows and doors; rehabilitation work in support of the restoration of historic structures in accordance with the design specifications under Section 106, and interior work as correction of code violations. The total amount identified in the Annual Action Plan to carry out these activities is \$176,429 in CDBG entitlement funding and \$380,775 in Revolving Loan Funding and the City intends to fund up to 10 projects this year.

Housing Rehabilitation Programs

The City funds several programs relating to housing rehabilitation including Homeowner Rehabilitation Program, Homeowner Emergency Loan Program, Housing Rental Rehabilitation Program, and Choice Neighborhood Program. The City makes all attempts to maximize housing rehabilitation funding by leveraging other federal programs such as Department of Energy LIHEAP program, or lead and healthy homes work, which is funded by HUD through the OLHCHH and requires an investor match. The majority of the properties rehabilitated contain 1-4 housing units. While all programs are offered city-wide, most of the multifamily residential housing is concentrated in the downtown census tracts of 201, 202, 203 and 204. In 2017, the City received a Choice Planning and Action Grant which identified CT 201, 203, and 204 as the Choice Neighborhood. HUD designated the Choice Neighborhood as a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area

(NRSA) in 2018. Eligible activities include the following: housing rehabilitation activities such as repairs and kitchen and bath improvements; weatherization; energy efficiency and conservation; replacement of building components such as roofs, heating, plumbing, electrical systems, and septic beds; correction of code violations; health and safety concerns such as proper ventilation, tripping hazards, lead hazards, minor interior demolition in correction of code, and egress issues; rehabilitation work for the restoration of historic residential properties in accordance with the design specifications under Section 106; and acquisition of housing. Substantial rehabilitation projects generally require a higher level of review. The total amount identified in the Annual Action Plan to carry out these activities is \$222,607 in CDBG entitlement funding and \$285,550 in Revolving Loan Funding and the City intends to fund up to 50 projects this year.

Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements

The priority target area for infrastructure improvements is the Choice Neighborhood as defined by the Choice Neighborhood Planning and Action Grant Funding may support the following activities reclaiming and recycling vacant property into community gardens, pocket parks, farmers markets, or land banking (with maintenance); beautification, place making, creative signage to enhance neighborhood branding, murals and sculptures, specialty street scaping, and garden tool lending library; neighborhood broadband or WiFi infrastructure and installation; and other costs including design plans, architectural drawings, developer fees, and other soft costs relating to projects. The total amount identified in the Annual Action Plan to carry out these activities is \$539,226 in CDBG entitlement funding and the city intends to fund up to 10 projects this year.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Lewiston has conducted a tiered environmental review and has determined that the projects 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 City of Lewiston, 27 Pine Street, Lewiston, ME 04240 where the ERR can be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about October 8, 2021, the City of Lewiston will submit a Request for Release of Funds & Certification to the Department of Housing & Urban Development under Title I to provide funding for these programs. The City of Lewiston certifies to HUD that Heather Hunter, Interim City Administrator, in her capacity 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 Lewiston to use Program funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on any of the projects may submit written comments to the City of Lewiston, Economic & Community Development Office, 27 Pine Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. All comments should be received by October 7, 2021. These combined notices are intended to meet two separate procedural requirements: 1) Notice of Finding of No Significant

Impact, and 2) Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds. Persons submitting written comments should specify to which notice their comments are addressed.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE TO FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Lewiston'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 Lewiston; (b) the City of Lewiston 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 has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; 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) and shall be addressed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Attention: Robert D. Shumeyko, Director, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Massachusetts State Office, NE Area, Office of Community Planning & Development, Thomas P. O'Neil Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02222-1092. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Heather Hunter
Interim City Administrator
City of Lewiston
27 Pine Street
Lewiston, ME 04240