

TOWN OF ROCKLAND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST THE RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOIRROF)

October 26, 2023

Town of Rockland
242 Union Street
Rockland, MA 02370

This notice shall satisfy the procedural requirement for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Rockland.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS (RROF)

To all interested agencies, groups and persons:

On or about November 9, 2023, the Town of Rockland will submit a request to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the release of FY2022/2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake projects known as:

Rockland Center Slum and Blight Study

This study will review the conditions of public and private buildings in the Rockland Center area to determine if the area meets the standards of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) to qualify as a blighted area. Funding: \$125,000 from CDBG funds.

This activity is exempt from the environmental review requirements of NEPA and the environmental review requirements of related federal authorities because the activity is defined as exempt in 24 CFR Section 58.34.

Rockland Housing Rehabilitation Program

Financial and technical assistance for the moderate rehabilitation of single- and multi-family residential properties that are occupied by lower income persons. The housing rehabilitation program provides deferred payment loans to low- and moderate-income residents to finance repairs to address substandard conditions, code deficiencies and energy conservation needs. Funding: \$ 905,000 from CDBG funds. *This activity is "categorically excluded" from environmental review.*

Estimated Grant Funding: up to \$1,200,000 (CDBG funds)

Locations: Rockland, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

The second activity named above is categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA PL 91-190) requirements. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file in the Board of Selectmen's Office in the Town Hall, 242 Union Street, Rockland, MA 02370 and may be examined or copied Monday – Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and Town Hall is open until 8:00 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Community Development Office at 242 Union Street, Rockland, MA 02370 on or before November 6, 2023. All comments received by November 6, 2023, will be considered by the Town of Rockland prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Town of Rockland will undertake the projects described above with Block Grant Funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Town of Rockland certifies to the State that the Town of Rockland and Douglas Lapp, in his official capacity as the 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, decision making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The State's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Rockland to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The State will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Rockland'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 Rockland,
- (b) The grant recipient 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 State, or
- (d) Another federal agency, acting pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1504, has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

The only bases upon which the State will disapprove the RROF and certification are set forth above. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 Code of Federal Regulations Part 58, Sec. 58.76), and shall be addressed to the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant, Department of Housing and Community Development, Division of Community Services, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300 Boston, MA 02124. Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the State. Potential objectors should contact the State to verify the actual last day of the objection period. No objections received after fifteen days from receipt of the community's Request for Release of Funds and Certification will be considered by the State.

Douglas Lapp
As Environmental Certifying Officer