

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Notice: September 5, 2023
Name of Responsible Entity: City of El Paso
Address: 300 N. Campbell St
City, State, Zip Code: El Paso, TX 79901
Telephone Number of RE: 915.212.0038

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

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about September 25, 2023 the City of El Paso will authorize the Department of Community and Human Development on behalf of sub-recipient, Opportunity Center for the Homeless submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Ft. Worth, Texas for the release of 49th Year 2023-2024 CDBG Entitlement Grant funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended; 42 U.S.C.-530.1, to undertake a project known as Opportunity Center for the Homeless Renovations for the purpose of defined as new construction on a vacant lot located at 1208 Myrtle Ave., El Paso, TX 79901. The proposed work consists of interior renovations and second-story addition to the Opportunity Center for the Homeless (OCH) facilities at 1208 Myrtle Avenue in central El Paso, Texas. The OCH facility includes two buildings totaling 29,000 square feet with parking lots on a 1.3-acre lot. The proposed scope includes the following renovation work: Kitchen, Laundry Room, Pantry and Baggage Area, Restroom/ ADA accessible Rest Room, Dining Room, and Shelter area. Additionally, a 2400 sq. ft expansion of the men's shelter into 3 rooms will be used for additional shelter space equipped with restrooms. It should be noted that most of the areas were originally rehabilitated in 1994-1999 and need complete renovations. We will also be addressing life safety issues for the Women's Shelter by installing a sprinkler system and replacing the existing ceilings. The upgrade to the parking area, by expanding its current capacity, will also be done. District 8.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of El Paso 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 City of El Paso, Department of Community and Human Development, 801 Texas Ave., 3rd Floor (CITY 3), El Paso, Texas 79901 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M. and is available online at City of El Paso, Department of Community and Human Development website: <https://www.elpasotexas.gov/community-and-human-development/nofa-forms-and-notices/>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of El Paso, Department of Community and Human Development. All comments received by September 25, 2023 will be considered by the City of El Paso prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of El Paso certifies to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Ft. Worth, Texas that Elda Rodriguez-Hefner in her capacity as Grants Administrator for the City of El Paso 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. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City Of El Paso to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of El Paso 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 El Paso; (b) the City of El Paso 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 Department of Housing and Urban Development (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, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development, Fort Worth Regional Office, Region VI at 307 W. 7th Street, Suite 1000, Ft. Worth, Texas 76102 or via email to: CPDRROFFTW@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at Ft. Worth, Texas to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

**Elda Rodriguez-Hefner, Grants Administrator for Certifying Officer
Office of the Comptroller
City of El Paso
Cary Westin, Interim City Manager
300 N. Campbell (CITY 1)
El Paso, Texas 79901
915.212.1170**