




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-3000

OFFICE OF HEALTHY HOMES AND
LEAD HAZARD CONTROL

November 30, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jon L. Gant, Director, Office of Healthy Homes
and Lead Hazard Control, L

FROM:  Peter Ashley, Director, Policy and Standards Division, LP

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact under the National Environmental
Policy Act – Notice of Funding Availability for Fiscal Year 2012:
Healthy Homes Technical Studies Program (FR-5600-N-07)

It is the finding of this office that the publication of the attached Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Healthy Homes Technical Studies Program (FR-5600-N-07), does not constitute a major federal action having an individual or cumulative significant effect on the human environment, and therefore does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The notice sets out the guidance to govern grants authorized for Fiscal Year 2012 under Sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. §§ 1701z-1 and 1701z-2) for the Healthy Homes Technical Studies program. Fiscal Year 2012 funds for this program is pending passage of a Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act. Prior-year funds for this program are authorized under the respective appropriation acts.

This grant will involve cooperative agreements with academic, not-for-profit and for-profit institutions located in the U.S., state and units of general local government, and federally recognized Native American tribes. The purpose of the NOFA is to gain knowledge to improve the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of methods for evaluation and control of housing related health and safety hazards. This also supports HUD's Strategic Goal to utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life and health outcomes for those living in HUD-assisted and HUD-regulated housing, and the associated policy priority to build inclusive and sustainable communities by improving the health of community residents while reducing the impact of communities on the environment.

Specifically, the notice will provide funding for several categories of eligible activities. A limited amount of hazard control activities, which may involve construction rather than research,

may be conducted as part of this program. No more than 20% of the total award may be used for construction activities. The construction activities are limited to repair or minor rehabilitation of existing housing structures. No funds under the grant may be used for new construction, substantial rehabilitation, or changes in land use or unit density. The categories of eligible Healthy Homes Technical Studies grant program activities include:

1. Development and evaluation of low-cost test methods and protocols for identification and assessment of housing-related hazards;
2. Development and assessment of cost-effective methods for reducing or eliminating housing-related hazards;
3. Evaluation of the effectiveness of housing interventions including educational interventions, and barriers and incentives affecting future use of the most cost-effective strategies;
4. Investigation of the epidemiology of housing-related hazards and illness and injuries associated with these hazards, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations;
5. Analysis of existing data or generation of new data to improve knowledge regarding the prevalence and severity of specific hazards in various classes of housing, with a focus on low-income housing;
6. Improved understanding of the relationship between a residential exposure and illness or injury of children or other vulnerable populations;
7. Development of low-cost analytical techniques and instruments for the rapid, on- and off-site determination of environmental contaminants of concern;
8. The effect of green construction, building renovation, rehabilitation, or maintenance on measures of indoor environmental quality.

Grant awards under this NOFA do not constitute approval of specific sites or projects where activities that are subject to environmental review may be carried out. The notice sets forth Environmental Review requirements for grant recipients. Upon award, each recipient will execute a cooperative agreement with HUD. The terms and conditions of the cooperative agreement for this program will incorporate the Environmental Review requirements including the provision that no commitment or expenditure for physical or choice-limiting activities may be made until HUD has either approved the Request for Release of Funds and related Certification from the Responsible Entity under 24 CFR 58, or completed its own environmental review under 24 CFR 50, as applicable.

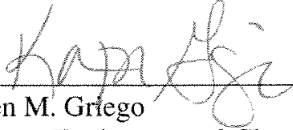
The Office has considered the potential environmental impacts of the (above) listed eligible activities of the notice and determines that they generally fall into one of two categories,

either categorically excluded and subject to the related federal laws at 24 CFR part 50.4, per §50.20(a)(2), or categorically excluded and not subject to the related federal laws, per §50.19(a), (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(5), and (b)(9). The notice does not permit new construction, substantial rehabilitation, changes in (land) use or unit density; thus the determination of categorical exclusion at §50.20(a)(2)(i)-(ii).

The Office included in its analysis the provision of exposure to and disposal of hazardous materials. Waste disposal must be carried out according to the requirements of the appropriate local, state, and federal regulatory agencies. Worker protection shall be accommodated through adherence of the more stringent of the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) (i.e., 29 CFR part 1910, as applicable) or the state or local occupational safety and health regulations.

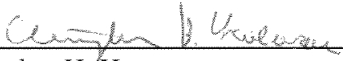
Publication of the notice does not provide approval of a major Federal action having a significant impact on the human environment and sets forth the Environmental Requirements under applicable HUD environmental review regulations for individual projects. Accordingly, it is the determination of this Office that a Finding of No Significant Impact may be made.

Concurrences:



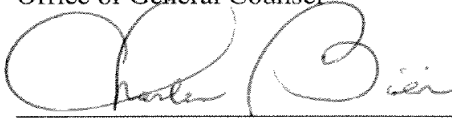
Karen M. Griego
Program Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control

Date 11/21/11



Christopher H. Hartenau
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of General Counsel

Date 11/20/11



Charles Bien
Acting Director
Office of Environment and Energy

Date 11/30/11

Approval:



Jon L. Gant
Director, Office of Healthy Homes
and Lead Hazard Control

Date 11/30/11