



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT

December 17, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mark Johnston, Assistant Secretary (Acting), D

*Frances W. Bush*  
FROM: Frances W. Bush, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Operations, DO

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact under the National Environmental Policy Act –  
Notice of Funding Availability for Fiscal Year 2012: Rural Capacity Building for  
Community Development and Affordable Housing Grants (FR-5600-N-36)

It is the finding of this office that the attached funding notice (FR-5600-N-36) does not constitute a major Federal action having an individually or cumulatively 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 the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012, Pub. L. 112-55.

The grants will be available for training, education, support, and advice to enhance the technical and administrative capabilities of rural community development corporations (CDCs) and rural community housing development organizations (CHDOs); loans, grants, development assistance, predevelopment assistance, or other financial assistance to rural CDCs and rural CHDOs to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low-income families and persons; and such other activities as may be determined by the recipient organizations in consultation with HUD.

This office finds that the notice does not have a significant impact on the human environment for two reasons. First, most of the activities funded by the program consist of training, education, advice, technical support, financial assistance to carry out economic development activities and operating expenses and therefore have no significant physical impact on the environment and are categorically excluded from review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related authorities under 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1), (2), (9), (13) and (14). In addition, individual projects to be funded by these grants may not be known at the time the overall grants are awarded and also may not be known when some of the subgrants are made.

Therefore, in accordance with 24 CFR 50.3(h), the applications and the grant agreements for this program must provide that no commitment or expenditure for physical activities or property acquisition may be made until HUD has completed an environmental review to the extent required under applicable regulations and has given notification of its approval under 24 CFR 50.3(h). Any physical activities funded by the program described in this NOFA will undergo individual environmental review at the time they are considered, and their potential impacts will be addressed more accurately and appropriately then.

Accordingly, the publication of this notice is deemed not to be a major Federal action having a significant impact on the human environment.

Attachment

Concurrences:

  
Danielle Schopp  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of Environment and Energy

12/13/12  
Date

  
Christopher Hartenau  
Environmental Clearance Officer  
Office of General Counsel

12/13/12  
Date

Approval:

  
Mark Johnston  
Assistant Secretary for Community  
Planning and Development (Acting)

12/14/12  
Date