



TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Development Division, RIHousing

DATE: September 20, 2021

RE: Environmental Legal Notice

For your information, the enclosed Legal Notice will notify all interested parties of Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation's intent to request the release of Federal HOME Investment Partnership funds. This is being done in compliance with HUD's Environmental Review process in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58.

Please post this Notice for eighteen (18) days in an area readily accessible to the public. Any comments may be sent to the address contained in the Notice.



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

September 20, 2021

Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation  
44 Washington Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 457-1129

This Notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for an activity to be undertaken by Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”).

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about October 12, 2021, RIHousing will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 for the following project:

**NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley  
Millrace District Apartments**  
68 South Main Street and 15 Island Place  
Woonsocket, RI 02895

The developer, NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley, proposes the acquisition and rehabilitation of three adjacent, vacant historic mill buildings to create the Millrace District Apartments that will provide seventy (70) affordable rental apartments, along with commercial space. The 68 South Main Street two interconnected buildings, are built between 1850-1880 and sit on 1.24 acres. The rehabilitation of this site will provide forty-seven (47) one-bedroom units, four (4) studio apartments and five (5) two-bedroom units. The second property, at 15 Island Place, has a lot size of 0.44 acres. The original building was constructed in 1851. This building will be used to provide a total of fourteen (14) one-bedroom units. To provide accessible housing for everyone, the Millrace District Apartments is developed to incorporate fifty-five (55) affordable housing units for households earning 30%, 50% and 60% AMI, and will have fifteen (15) market rate designated rental apartments. All units are ADA compliant and the development features both handicap accessible and adaptable apartments.

Proposed HOME/HTF Award: \$3,745,430

Proposed: Eleven (11) residential rental units will be HOME Program assisted

Proposed: Eleven (11) residential rental units will be 30% AMI & HTF Program assisted



#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

RIHousing has determined that this project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, Environmental Impact Statements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) are not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at RIHousing, 44 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903. The Environmental Review Record may be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U. S. mail.

Please submit your request by U.S. mail to Lauren Farley, Senior Program Manager at RIHousing, 44 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903 or via email at [lfarley@rihousing.com](mailto:lfarley@rihousing.com)

The Environmental Review Record may be viewed at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/environmental-review-records>

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to Lauren Farley, Senior Program Manager at RIHousing, 44 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903 or via email at [lfarley@rihousing.com](mailto:lfarley@rihousing.com)

All comments received by October 8, 2021, will be considered by RIHousing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify the Notice they are addressing.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

RIHousing certifies to HUD that Carol A. Ventura, in her capacity as Executive Director 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 RIHousing to use Program funds.

#### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and RIHousing'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 RIHousing (b) RIHousing 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 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 via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and



shall be addressed to HUD at Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, at: [CPD\\_COVID-19OEE-BOS@hud.gov](mailto:CPD_COVID-19OEE-BOS@hud.gov).

Potential objectors should contact HUD at Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

DocuSigned by:

*Carol Ventura*

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Carol A. Ventura  
Executive Director

September 20, 2021

Date