

State of Connecticut Department of Housing

EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND

November 27, 2013:

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups & Individuals

This is to give notice that the State of Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain and wetland will have on the human environment for Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) State of Connecticut Disaster Recovery Program activities under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383).

The State has prioritized that its first allocation of the CDBG-DR funds, as specified in the State of Connecticut Disaster Recovery Program Action Plan (\$71,820,000 in total) will be directed to meet unmet needs of individuals and families for housing and business assistance affected by Superstorm Sandy as well as assisting local governments in repairing, rebuilding, and making more resilient their infrastructure and public facilities and planning for rebuilding and resiliency of infrastructure and public facilities at the State and local level. As most of the damage caused by Superstorm Sandy was to residential structures, getting individuals and families back into their homes is a top priority for the State. The best available data suggests that 7,400 homes, 1,298 multifamily low and moderate income (LMI) units, 34 infrastructure projects, 88 public facilities, 12 business structural repair projects, and repair and replacement of business equipment remains with unmet needs as a result of the damage caused by Superstorm Sandy in Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex, and New London Counties and the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Reservation.

Though the confirmation of site locations is currently in progress, the proposed projects will be located in the following four counties or the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Reservation: Fairfield County, New Haven County, Middlesex County and New London County. There are approximately 47,680.87 acres in Fairfield County; 59,200.98 acres New Haven County; 34,628.95 acres in Middlesex County; and 44,664.12 acres in New London County which is inclusive of the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Reservation of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapped special flood hazard areas (SFHAs). Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) may be viewed at www.msc.fema.gov.

Owner Occupied and Scattered Site Rehabilitation and Rebuilding Programs

These programs will serve 1-4 unit residences predominately within the floodplain, in Special Flood Hazard Areas.

Multifamily Programs

The State has developed multifamily programs to restore quality, affordable rental housing through rehabilitation, rebuilding and mitigation within the floodplain, and rehabilitation, relocation and new construction outside the floodplain.

Infrastructure and Public Facilities Programs

The State will assist rehabilitation or reconstruction of infrastructure and/or public facilities particularly in areas primarily serving primarily LMI persons and in a manner that supports energy conservation/efficiency objectives and responsible growth as well as transit-oriented development.

Economic Revitalization Programs

The State will provide business assistance through acquisition, relocation, new training, working capital, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or installation of commercial or industrial buildings, structures, and other real property equipment and improvements, including railroad spurs or similar extensions to Superstorm Sandy Storm affected businesses.

Acquisition and Acquisition of Real Property

Acquisition (including leasing) or disposition of, or equity loans on an existing structure, or acquisition (including leasing) of vacant land provided that the structure or land acquired, financed, or disposed of will be retained for the same use.

American Disability Act Improvements

Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility of and accessibility to elderly and handicapped persons. These activities may be incorporated into other State of Connecticut Disaster Recovery Program activities.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public education tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by DOH on or before December 13, 2013. DOH encourages electronic submittal of comments to CT.Housing.Plans@ct.gov. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to: Hermia Delaire, Program Manager, Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program, Department of Housing, 505 Hudson Street, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06106 by December 13, 2013 during the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Further information can be found on the Department's web site at <http://www.ct.gov/doh>

Evonne M. Klein, Commissioner, DOH