

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF
PREPARATION OF PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Released: November 26, 2014

To: All interested Agencies, Groups & Individuals

The State of Connecticut Department of Housing hereby invites interested persons to participate in the development of a Programmatic Agreement designed to expedite the review of undertakings directly funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (hereinafter, HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program. This programmatic agreement relates to projects subject to environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act and its HUD implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 50, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality, as well as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470f, and its implementing regulations at 36 C.F.R. Part 800, Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties.

The State of Connecticut has been allocated \$ 159,279,000 to meet the recovery needs of individuals and families for housing and business assistance affected by Superstorm Sandy as well as assisting local governments in repairing, rebuilding and resiliency of infrastructure, public facilities and planning activities. The State received over 900 applications for different forms of financial assistance as a result of Superstorm Sandy. All of these requests for funding assistance are subject to environmental review and constitute undertakings under 36 CFR Part 800. Although not all applications will receive funding approval, all applications are subject to environmental review.

This enclosed draft Programmatic Agreement between Department of Housing (DOH) Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is designed to differentiate undertakings whose effects on historic properties may be negligible from those which have greater potential to affect historic properties. By differentiating between these types of activities, DOH and SHPO will be able to focus more attention and preservation efforts on the projects which have the potential to affect historic properties and to expedite more efficiently those undertakings with negligible impacts.

DOH welcomes the consultation of interested parties and organizations as we strive for more effective public participation in NEPA and Section 106 analyses, in our efforts to achieve more informed decision making and to promote cultural heritage and identity.

Written comments must be received by DOH on or before December 15, 2014. DOH encourages electronic submittal of comments at 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 15, 2014 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>