

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

DATE OF NOTICE: December 16, 2024
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: City of Pittston
ADDRESS: City Hall
35 Broad Street
Pittston, PA 18640
TELEPHONE: 570-654-4601

On or after December 24, 2024, the City of Pittston will submit a request to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for the release of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93 383) (Act), as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Housing Acquisition for Blight Program, Multi-Year PY2023-2027, City-wide

Purpose: The project will help address the City of Pittston's need to reduce blight and promote homeownership.

Location: City-wide within the City of Pittston, PA.

Project/Program Description: The City of Pittston has several vacant homes that are abandoned and/or blighted but are still suitable for rehabilitation. A list of blighted properties is kept by the Office of the Building Inspector and considered by the Pittston Blighted Property Board for acquisition based on the severity of blight, the effect on the surrounding neighborhood, and the occupancy status as only vacant properties are acquired for the program. Notice will then be given to the property owner, who will have 30 days to begin rehabilitation or appeal the Board's decision before the City begins the process of acquisition. Once the property is acquired, it will be marketed and disposed to developers with preference to buyers who will rehab the property and then sell it, thereby promoting homeownership and reducing blight. Tier 2 Site Specific Reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 Broad Review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(5)

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 Broad Review: Flood Insurance, Historic Preservation, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Floodplain Management, and Environmental Justice.

Estimated CDBG Funding: PY 2023 - \$70,000; PYs 2024-2027 - \$280,000

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$350,000

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR 58.35(a)(6). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at 35 Broad Street, Pittston, PA 18640 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Joseph Chacke, Director, Pittston Redevelopment Authority, 35 Broad St, Pittston, PA 18640, or by email to jchacke@pittstonrda.com. All comments received by December 23, 2024, will be considered by the City of Pittston prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Pittston certifies to DCED that Michael Lombardo, Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Mayor 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. DCED's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Pittston to use program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCED will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Pittston'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 the City of Pittston; (b) the City of Pittston 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 DCED; 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 in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development at chrhowe@pa.gov. Potential objectors should contact DCED to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Michael Lombardo, Mayor
City of Pittston