

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Publications dates October 28-Novemebr 4, 2024

*City of New Orleans
Office of Community Development
1340 Poydras Street, 10th floor
New Orleans, LA, 70112
504-658-4200*

On or about November 5, 2024, the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development on behalf of the Housing Authority of New Orleans will submit a request to the U S Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Public Housing Capital funds under Section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (the 1937 Act), which created the CFP as part of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (title V, Pub. L. 105–276, approved October 21, 1998) as amended, to undertake a project known as “Guste public housing development maintenance activities”. The project will consist of updating the fire alarm system, addressing the stairwell pressurization system, as well as the continued replacement of HVAC components in approximately 385 units at the High Rise. Other work includes electrical, plumbing, and mechanical replacement work including water heaters, chiller work, gate repair/replacement, and cooling towers repairs. Exterior improvements include painting and landscaping, structural repairs, and playground equipment replacement around the entire Guste site. Guste III work includes replacement of all the water heaters with added vent risers. Additionally, HANO is undertaking correction work to comply with the DOJ consent decree including interior plumbing and electrical corrections of existing systems, site repairs including sidewalk section and parking areas and other required ADA/UFAS corrections. Additional maintenance activities may include cleaning, protective or preventative measures to keep the building, its systems, and its grounds in working order. Periodic replacement of a limited number of component parts of the building's feature or system that are subject to normal wear and tear. Replacement of a damaged or malfunctioning component part of the building. Prep for annual HUD inspections and address any deferred maintenance. The approximate cost of these maintenance repairs is \$7,033,000.00 utilizing grant numbers LA48P001501-19 (\$1,300,000.00); LA48P001501-21 (\$1,000,000.00); LA48P001501-23 (\$2,200,000.00); LA48P001501-24 (\$1,500,000.00); LA48P001501-25 (\$1,033,000.00). The activities proposed *are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)*. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at City of New Orleans Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th floor, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112. The ERR can be examined by contacting the Environmental Compliance Office, Craig Foundas, Director of Environmental Compliance, Room 917 in the same building weekdays from 9A.M to 4P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development, Environmental Compliance Unit, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112. All comments received by November 4, 2024, will be considered by the City of New Orleans prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of New Orleans Office of Community Development certifies to the U S Department of Housing and Urban Development that Tyra Johnson Brown in *her* capacity as Director of Housing

Policy and Community Development 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 the City of New Orleans to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

***HUD* will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of New Orleans 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 New Orleans; (b) the City of New Orleans 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 in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to:**

**U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
New Orleans Field Office
Office of Public Housing
Attention: Elvetra Gibbs, Director
501 Magazine Street, 9th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70130**

Potential objectors should contact U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period regarding the federal funds.

**LaToya Cantrell,
Mayor**

**Tyra Johnson Brown
Director of Housing Policy and Community Development/Environmental Certifying Officer**