

**NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED
PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

DATE: January 11, 2023

GRANTEE NAME: City of Farrell

ADDRESS: 500 Roemer Blvd.
Farrell, PA 16121

TELEPHONE: (724) 983-2700

To All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

The purpose of this notice is to identify the following action to be taken by the City of Farrell.

On or after January 31, 2023, the above named grantee will submit a request to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under for the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Clearance/Demolition of Condemned Structures

Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR Part 58.40

Purpose: The City of Farrell is concerned about vacant and dilapidated structures and the activities that often result as structures become vacant (rodent infestation, vandalism, illicit drug use, squatting, structural fires, etc.). The Code Enforcement staff continues to identify structures that are unfit for human habitation, vacant for more than twelve months, and where rehabilitation is not practically feasible.

In order to combat this problem, the city wishes to continue its long-existing demolition program. Year-to-year, the number of structures to be removed will vary based on how much funding is allocated to this activity, but historically between 15 and 30 homes are demolished per fiscal year.

Location: City of Farrell

Estimated Cost and FY: FY 2020 CDBG cost = \$76,390, FY 2021 CDBG cost = \$76,687. Future years' allocations to be determined. This is a multi-year project, with annual allocations toward this activity.

Project/Program Description: Structures will be razed, and the remaining debris will be hauled to an approved landfill. Project sites will be restored (foundations will be filled in and grass will be planted on the project site). Tier two 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.

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 Broad Review: State Historic Preservation Office, Contaminated and Toxic Substances, Endangered Species, Floodplain

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): The City of Farrell will consult with the appropriate regulatory agencies for any required mitigation measures, conditions and permits.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

It has been determined that such Request for Release of Funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named grantee has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190).

The reasons for the decision not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement are:

- 1) Significant adverse impacts either will not result or have been mitigated by project modifications, and
- 2) The project does not trigger size and density thresholds established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) has been made by the City of Farrell, which documents the environmental determinations for this project, and more fully sets forth the reasons why such Statement is not required. This ERR is on file at the Mercer County Regional Planning Commission (2491 Highland Road; Hermitage, PA 16148) and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDINGS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Farrell at the address above. Such written comments should be received on or before January 30, 2023. All such comments so received will be considered by the City of Farrell will not request the release of CDBG funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Farrell will undertake the project described above with the Community Development Block Grant funds from DCED. This notice also certifies to the Commonwealth that Kimberly Doss, Certifying Officer, in their capacity as Mayor—City of Farrell, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to 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 Farrell to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCED will accept objections of its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification for a period of eighteen days following its receipt of the request only if it is on one of the following basis: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the Chief Executive Officer or other Officer of the Grantee approved by DCED; (b) the City of Farrell 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 PA DCED or (d) that another Federal Agency, acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding to DCED that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to the Department of Community and Economic Development, Office of Community Development, 4th Floor, Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

Objections to the release of funds on basis other than those stated above will not be considered by DCED. No objection received after January 31, 2023 will be considered by DCED unless, because of unforeseen delay, the request for release of funds was received after the date at the beginning of this Notice. Since this is possible and would cause a change in the objection period, objectors should contact DCED to verify the date of the last day in the objection period.

Mayor Kimberly Doss
City of Farrell

Mailed on January 11, 2023 to the following agencies:

PA Department of Environmental Protection
Regional Director
230 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335

Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Director, Federal Liaison Division
Office of Federal Activities (104)
Environmental Protection Agency
404 M. Street, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Sent to (on January 31th):

Chris Howe
Center for Community Building
Office of Community Development
4th Floor, Commonwealth Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

Posted on-line and/or physically at the following locations:

City of Farrell Municipal Building—500 Roemer Boulevard, Farrell, PA

Stey-Nevant Library—1000 Roemer Boulevard, Farrell, PA

Shenango Valley Urban League (website)

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission - 2491 Highland Road, Hermitage, PA and website

Mercer County Regional Council of Governments – 2495 Highland Road, Hermitage, PA