

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOIRROF)

August 19, 2011

Town of Southwick
454 College Highway
Southwick, Massachusetts 01077

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS

On or about September, 2011, the Town of Southwick will submit a request to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, to undertake a project known as **Southwick Community Assistance Program** for the purpose of:

Southwick Housing Rehabilitation Program. Rehabilitation of up to eight (8) housing units within the town of Southwick Massachusetts. Improvements will include repair and/or replacement of basic building systems, lead and hazardous materials abatement, removal of architectural barriers, and corrections to sanitary code and building code violations.

Senior Center Expansion. Construction of an approximately 1,900 square foot addition to the existing Southwick Senior Center, located within the existing municipal building at 454 College Highway.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Office of the Board of Selectmen, Southwick Town Hall, 454 College Highway, where it can be viewed Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00am to 4:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Southwick Board of Selectmen. All comments received by August 31, 2011 will be considered by the Town of Southwick prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Southwick Board of Selectmen certifies to the DHCD that Karl J. Stinehart, in his capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer, 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. The DHCD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Southwick to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The DHCD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Southwick'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 Town of Southwick;
- (b) The Town of Southwick 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 the DHCD; 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 the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development at 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact the DHCD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Karl J. Stinehart, Chief Administrative Officer
Environmental Certifying Officer
Town of Southwick