

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

April 1, 2026

City of Providence
Department of Housing & Human Services
444 Westminister Street, Suite 3A
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-680-8400

On or about April 13, 2026 the City of Providence Department of Housing & Human Services acting as Responsible Entity will submit a request to the Region 1 Office of the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L.93-383), as amended, to undertake the following activities:

Webster Avenue Playground- Webster Avenue Elementary Playground project will use \$149,399 in CDBG funds to design and build a new age-appropriate playground and install play surfacing in their substandard schoolyard. Limited asphalt demolition and replacement will also occur to enable safe access and ADA compliance. Total project cost is estimated at \$229,399.

The property is further designated as Map 104, Lot 50 of the City of Providence Tax Assessor's plat maps. The goal of the investigation was to determine the extent to which any historical activities at the property may have resulted in any exceedances of the RIDEM's promulgated soil criteria and groundwater objectives. The investigation involved sampling and analysis of surface soil. The results of the investigation indicate that semi-volatile organic compounds in limited portions of the Site soil exceed the Department's Method 1 Residential Direct Exposure Criteria and Industrial/Commercial Direct Exposure Criteria. The proposed remedial alternative for the property is limited excavation of impacted soils. Excavated jurisdictional material will be disposed of properly at a licensed disposal facility. The future use of the property will continue to be a public school. RIDEM has approved removal under the Dig & Haul policy performed in accordance with the Remediation Regulation.

The activity proposed is categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the City of Providence Department of Housing & Human Services, 444 Westminister Street, Third Floor, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:30AM to 4:30PM.

Public Comments

Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Providence, Department of Housing & Human Services, 444 Westminister Street, Third Floor, Providence, Rhode Island 02903. All comments received by April 12, 2026 will be considered by the City of Providence prior to authorization of submission of a request for release of funds.

Environment Certification

The City of Providence certifies to HUD-Region 1 that Alyssa McDermott in her capacity as 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. HUD-Region 1 approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Providence to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Providence'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 Providence; (b) the City of Providence 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) and shall be addressed to HUD-Boston Regional Office at Thomas P. O'Neill Building, Room 535, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222. Objections to release of funds can also be emailed to CPDRROFBOS@HUD.GOV. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Alyssa McDermott, Housing and Community Development Division Director