

Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds

September 11, 2026

City of Providence
Department Housing & Human Services
444 Westminster Street, Suite 3A
Providence, RI 02903
401-680-8400

On or about **September 21, 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 Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake the projects known as:

Rhode Island Hospitality Innovation & Workforce Center Project: CDBG funds (\$600,000). Rhode Island Hospitality Education Foundation (RIHEF) is seeking a CDBG-funded loan from the Providence Business Loan Fund (PBLF) for a multi-phase economic development project at 91 Friendship Street in Downtown Providence, Rhode Island, featuring the acquisition and subsequent adaptive reuse of an approximately 12,000-square-foot commercial building to establish the Rhode Island Hospitality Innovation & Workforce Center. PBLF assistance will be utilized for the real estate acquisition phase of the project. Following acquisition, RIHEF will redevelop the building into an active learning campus that includes administrative offices, a food safety training center, a commercial kitchen incubator space (the Hospitality Launch Lab) for culinary entrepreneurs, and an 18-room boutique teaching hotel (The Remington Hotel) to support statewide workforce development, vocational training, and permanent job creation. 91 Friendship Street (Horace Remington & Sons Bldg., 1888) is a historic resource, being potentially eligible for the Downtown Providence National Register Historic District and/or eligible for individual listing on the National Register. Proposed improvements will be conducted in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Total project cost (federal and private funds) is anticipated to be \$1.85M.

The activity proposed is categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. 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 Westminster Street, Suite 3A, Providence, RI 02903, where the record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

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 Westminster Street, Suite 3A, Providence, RI 02903. Comments may also be emailed to Jonathan Hernandez, Senior Compliance Officer, City of Providence Department of Housing & Human Services at jhernandez@providenceri.gov. All comments received by **September 20, 2026** will be considered by the City of Providence prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Providence certifies to HUD-Boston Regional Office that Emily Freedman, Certifying Officer, in her capacity as Director of Housing & Human Services, 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 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.

Emily Freedman, Director of Housing and Human Services