

Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds Small Cities Development Program State of Minnesota

January 31, 2023

Responsibility Entity:
City of Ortonville
315 Madison Ave
Ortonville MN 56278
Phone: 320-839-3428

Preparer:
Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission
323 West Schlieman Avenue
Appleton, MN 56208
Phone: 320-289-1981

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about February 13, 2023, the City of Ortonville will request the Business and Community Development Division (BCD), Small Cities Development Program, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), to release federal funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 98-181) for the following project:

The Small Cities Development Comprehensive Rehabilitation grant will be assisting in the rehabilitation of 16 owner occupied homes within the city limits of Ortonville and rehabilitation of 7 commercial properties. The owner-occupied housing rehabilitation will be geared to correct and address lead-based hazards, code violations, energy efficiency, health and safety issues and structural repairs such as new windows, doors, siding, basement repairs, insulation, etc. The rehabbed commercial units within their designated slum and blight area will be used for exterior repairs/improvements, code violations, handicapped accessibility, health and safety, and energy improvements.

The total of SCDP funds awarded will be \$782,000.00. The total project cost is \$902,800.00. A portion of funding will be used towards administrative functions such as, but not limited to, application review and processing and project management.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act Requirements because the target area has been studied and compliance with the following laws and authorities has been established: wetland protection, sole source aquifers, wild and scenic rivers, coastal zone management, air quality, explosives and flammable hazards, farmlands protection, airport runway clear zone requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) respecting this project has been made by the City of Ortonville that documents the environmental review of the project. This ERR is on file at 323 W Schlieman Ave, Appleton MN 56208 between the hours of 8 am and 4:30 pm.

In addition, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, comments on the identification and treatment of historic properties in the project area are welcome.

Compliance with the following laws and authorities will take place once properties within the target area have been identified, but prior to the commitment of funds: historic properties, noise control, endangered species, floodplain management/Flood Disaster Protection Act requirements and HUD environmental standards for hazards. Compliance documentation on the aforementioned laws and authorities will be in each individual property file, and copies will be available, once established, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission office in Appleton.

Public Comments on Request to Release Funds

Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Bernice Robinson at the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, 323 W Schlieman Ave, Appleton MN 56208, bernice@umvrdc.org. All comments received by February 10, 2023 will be considered by the City of Ortonville prior to submission of a Request for Release of Funds.

The City of Ortonville will undertake the project described above with Block Grant funds from DEED, under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The City of Ortonville is certifying to DEED that the City of Ortonville and Gene Hausauer in his official capacity as Mayor, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that with approval, the City of Ortonville may use the Block Grant funds, and DEED and HUD will have satisfied their responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to Release of Funds

DEED Business and Community Development (BCD) will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification for a period of eighteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only for one of the following reasons: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the Chief Executive Officer or other officer of the grantee approved by BCD; (b) that the grantee's ERR for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process; (c) the grant recipient has incurred costs not authorized at 24 CFR Part 58.22 before approval of a release of funds by BCD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 24 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 at 24 CFR 58.76, and may be addressed to Director, Small Cities Development Program, MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development, Business and Community Development Division, 1st National Bank Building, 332 Minnesota Street, Attn: Basement Mail Room, St. Paul, MN 55101-1351. Potential objectors should contact DEED at 651-259-7449 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Gene Hausauer, Mayor
Certifying Officer for the City of Ortonville
c/o The City of Ortonville
315 Madison Ave
Ortonville, MN 56278