

MEMORANDUM

To: HOME or NSP Applicants

From: The Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Office of Affordable Housing

Date: February 18, 2009

Re: Environmental Review Publication Procedure and Relocation Notice

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of an application for HOME or NSP funding for a proposed project known as _____ (name) and located at _____ address of project.

In accordance with US Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) regulations at 24 CFR 58.43, Notifications for Environmental Assessments, DCA is required to give notice to all Applicants applying for HOME or NSP funds regarding the Environmental Review Publication procedure.

Applicants applying for HOME or NSP funds must obtain clearance from their environmental review. Therefore, as an Owner and/or Developer, you **must refrain** from undertaking activities that would have an adverse environmental impact prior to the receipt of an environmental clearance letter from DCA removing the stipulated conditions. Such activities include: acquiring, rehabilitating, converting, leasing, repairing, or constructing property. Nor may an Applicant commit or expend HUD **or** non-federal funds until the environmental review process has been completed. Thus, no project expenditures may be incurred or any funds expended for any activity (other than exempt activities—see 24 CFR 58.34) prior to receipt of an environmental clearance letter removing conditions.

However, activities that generally have no physical impact on the environment are exempt under 24 CFR §58.34(a)(1)-(11). Allowed activities that may be performed during this time include:

- Environmental and other studies;
- Information and financial services;
- Administrative and management activities;
- Inspections and testing of properties for hazards or defects;
- Purchase of insurance;
- Engineering or design costs; or
- Assistance for temporary or permanent improvements that do not alter environmental conditions and limited to protection, repair, restoration activities only necessary to control or arrest the effects from disasters or imminent threats to public safety including those resulting from physical deterioration.

In regard to rehabilitation projects that are occupied, displacement assistance as outlined under the Uniform Relocation Act (URA) is triggered and notice is required to be given to all residents that an application for federal funding assistance has been made and that the obligation to pay relocation benefits accrues upon the submission of an application.

Applicant acknowledges receipt of this letter and notice is hereby given to refrain from undertaking prohibited activities as defined in 24 CFR §58.5. Applicant will adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Uniform Relocation Act as defined in 49 CFR Part 24.

Applicant Name

Date