

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

Date of Publication: November 17th, 2023

City of Somerville
93 Highland Ave
Somerville MA, 02143
617-625-6600

On or after November 17th, 2023, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Small Business Resiliency

Purpose: Provide technical assistance to small businesses in the East Somerville and Union Square areas.

Location: Income eligible areas including East Somerville, Winter Hill, and Union Square. Specific addresses and locations will be subject to environmental reviews once identified.

Project/Program Description: Businesses may receive things such as: one-on-one consulting, coaching, and mentoring, direct financial assistance to help do things such as acquire property/clear structures/build, expand, or rehab a building/purchase equipment, provide operating capital or lease negotiations, or train new/existing entrepreneurs to understand fundamental business concepts. The assistance will be provided to small businesses that provide direct services to clients of whom a min of 60% reflect the target populations that follow: women/minority owned/operated businesses, immigrant/non-native English speaking, low-moderate income entrepreneurs.

Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2)

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): Once sites are selected, they will be reviewed to ensure that they: are not located in a FEMA designated flood area; are not near or containing hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials; do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions; will not be adversely harmed by the proposed action as well as the surrounding neighborhood; do not adversely affect a Massachusetts historically significant site; do not have an adverse effect on endangered or threatened species, or critical habitats; are not subject to adverse noise levels; are in the proximity of explosive/flammable hazards. If the described Tier 2 review does identify any of these scenarios, HUD guidelines will be followed to best mitigate the concern.

Estimated Project Cost: HUD Funding: \$200,000 Estimated Cost: \$200,000

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)(2). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday -

Wednesday 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to mrubin@somervillema.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. All comments received by November 17th, 2023, will be considered by the City of Somerville prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Somerville certifies to HUD that Alan Inacio, the Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Director of Finance and Community Development, 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 Somerville to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Somerville'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 Somerville; (b) the City 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, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the HUD Office of Community Planning and Development at Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building 10 Causeway Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02222-1092, (617) 994-8350 or via email: ma_webmanager@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Alan Inacio, Director of Finance and Community Development, City of Somerville, Certifying Officer