

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

DATE OF NOTICE: July 17, 2025
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: County of Allegheny
ADDRESS: 436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 500
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
TELEPHONE: 412-350-1000

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the County of Allegheny (County).

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about August 4, 2025, the County will submit a request to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 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), to be used for a project known as Garden Dreams Urban Agricultural Hub. Grow Pittsburgh seeks to expand urban agriculture in Allegheny County by building a new headquarters at Garden Dreams Urban Farm & Nursery in Wilkinsburg that will increase food security in underserved communities, support the strong network of gardeners and urban farms throughout our region, and improve quality of life for residents in Wilkinsburg and beyond. This urban agricultural hub will serve as Grow Pittsburgh's main teaching space for our public workshop series, youth Urban Farmers in Training program, and training for emerging urban farmers. It will also result in a workspace for preparing produce for farmstand distribution, additional green space, flexible workspace for our staff, and a gathering space for community events, fundraisers, and private rentals. The property will also feature sustainability measures including comprehensive stormwater management, native perennial plantings, and solar arrays to power the facility. This renovation and construction project will result in a new facility as well as outdoor spaces that will serve as an urban agriculture hub for the region and a community resource for generations to come. The total site development will include accessible pathways, stormwater management, renovation of an existing building, located at 406 Center Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15221, and new construction to provide educational space, indoor produce packing and food production area, a teaching kitchen, restrooms, meeting space, and community gathering space. Estimated 2024 CDBG Funding: \$500,000. Estimated Total Project Cost: \$2,815,490.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

The County has determined that the above project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the <https://cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Allegheny County Economic Development, Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 500 Pittsburgh, PA 15219, Attention: Jim Johnston, Assistant Director of Operations or by email at jim.johnston@alleghenycounty.us. All comments received by August 1, 2025, will be considered by the County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The County of Allegheny certifies to HUD that Simone L. McMeans, Certifying Officer, in her capacity as Deputy Director of the Allegheny County Department of Economic 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 County to use CDBG Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the County of Allegheny'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 County of Allegheny; (b) the County of Allegheny 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 via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Director of the Pittsburgh Field Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), PGHCPDObjections@hud.gov, or by mail at: 1000 Liberty Avenue, Suite 1000, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Potential objectors should contact HUD Pittsburgh via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Simone L. McMeans, Certifying Officer