

Ohio Department of Development
Community Development Division
Office of Housing and Community Partnerships
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NOTICE: OHCP 08-04

SUBJECT: Environmental Review: Clarification Regarding the Use of the *Certification of Finding of Continued Relevance* to Obtain a Release of Funds

ISSUED: August 18, 2008

DISTRIBUTED TO: Office of Housing and Community Partnerships Award Recipients and Their Affiliates

POLICY

The following Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP) policy provides clarification regarding the use of the *Certification of Finding of Continued Relevance* to obtain a Release of Funds.

Description

To obtain a Release of Funds for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program or HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program-funded activity, award recipients must conduct an environmental review per 24 CFR Part 58, Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Environmental Responsibilities. Continued Relevance is an environmental finding that references a previously conducted environmental review. Eligible activities are typically components of phased or multi-year projects for which a comprehensive environmental review was conducted at the beginning of the project. When making a finding of Continued Relevance, award recipients must re-evaluate, and, if necessary, update the conclusions of the original environmental review. Award recipients may not use an environmental review conducted by a different responsible entity as a basis for a finding of Continued Relevance.

Duration

Award recipients may cite Continued Relevance for up to six years from the date of the original Release of Funds.

Submission Requirements

Award recipients do not need to republish a Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI/RROF) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for activities that qualify for use of a *Certification of Finding of Continued Relevance*. A copy of the original Release of Funds from OHCP must accompany the *Certification*. For monitoring purposes, award recipients must maintain a copy of the original environmental review record in the project file.

Questions regarding the Environmental Review: Clarification Regarding the Use of the *Certification of Finding of Continued Relevance* to Obtain a Release of Funds policy should be directed to the OHCP Training and Technical Assistance Section Manager at (614) 466-2285.