

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CD / CDBG)
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOI-RROF)**

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, COMMUNITY BOARDS, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about June 1, 2022, the City of New York will submit a request to the New York State Office of Community Renewal for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as the NYC Mesh Wi-Fi Expansion Pilot / Get Connected Initiative for the purpose of expanding internet access to underserved, low- and moderate-income communities in Coney Island/Brighton Beach (Brooklyn) and Far Rockaway/Arverne (Queens), particularly to residential properties where at least one unit is supported by a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher through the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Through this initiative, the City will use CDBG funds for mesh internet infrastructure (antennae, fiber leases, etc.) and installation that will enable nearly 1,000 households to receive free internet for between three and five years. Additionally, tens of thousands of low- and moderate-income NYC residents in range of the networks will have access to a low-cost-to-free internet option.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the NYC Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, 255 Greenwich Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10007. The ERR is available to the public for review either electronically or may be examined or copied in person weekdays 10:00AM to 6:00PM. If you wish to view the ERR, please contact Julie Freeman, Director of Community Development, New York City Office of Management and Budget, at freemanj@omb.nyc.gov or (212) 788-6130.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the New York City Office of Management and Budget, Community Development Unit, 255 Greenwich Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10007 or via email at CDBGComments@omb.nyc.gov. All comments received by May 31, 2022 will be considered by the City of New York prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of New York certifies to the Office of Community Renewal that Julie Freeman, in her official capacity as a Certifying Officer for the CD Program, 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. The Office of Community Renewal's acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of New York to use CD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Office of Community Renewal will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of New York'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 New York; b) the City of New York has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; c) the City of New York 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 the Office of Community Renewal, 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 § 58.76), and shall be addressed to Crystal Loffler, President, at Office of Community Renewal, Hampton Plaza, 38-40 State Street, 4th Floor, Albany, NY 12207. Potential objectors should contact the Office of Community Renewal to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

City of New York: Eric Adams, Mayor.
Jacques Jiha, Ph.D., Director, Mayor's Office of Management and Budget
Julie Freeman, Certifying Officer

Date: May 20, 2022