

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain**

TO: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

DATE: March 5, 2020

This is to give notice that The County of Cumberland has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 C.F.R. §55.20 Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, to determine the potential affect that its activities in the floodplain and wetlands will have on the human environment. Community Development Block Grant funds B-20-UC-42-0010 through B-24-UC-42-0010 will be used for these proposed activities on a site or sites which may be within the floodplain of one or more of the 100-year floodplains of the Susquehanna River drainage areas of Cumberland County. In a departure from previous program years, The County of Cumberland will not fund Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation projects and Acquisition and Rehabilitation for Sale to First-Time Homebuyers projects if they are located in the 100-year floodplain. As part of HUD's required 8-Step Process and public review period for proposed actions that may be taken in the 100-year floodplain, The County of Cumberland requests public input on the following projects that may be undertaken in the 100-year floodplain:

1. Multi-year Non-Site Specific, County Wide Public/Community Facilities Improvements- This program will be used for the rehabilitation or replacement of existing facilities in the County of Cumberland, except in the Borough of Carlisle. This work may include parking areas, landscaping, signage, installation of equipment, rehabilitation of existing structures used by the general public, etc. Likewise, the program will be used to make improvements and upgrades to infrastructure throughout the County of Cumberland, except in the Borough of Carlisle. Such activities may include water line, sewer line, and storm sewer repairs or replacement, sidewalk and curb work, street paving and reconstruction, etc. Projects may not change capacity more than 20%. Projects occurring in the 100-year floodplain will involve only necessary activity to minimize impact.

2. Multi-year, Non-Site Specific Cumberland Streetview, Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program- This program will be used to assist businesses to renovate the visible exterior of commercial buildings, thereby bringing structures into code compliance and eliminating blight. The eligible area includes designated historic districts or overlay districts as defined in a zoning ordinance or property listed on the National Register of Historic Places and property that is Register-eligible or property included on the Cumberland County/Cumberland County Historical Society's historic sites inventory. These areas in The County of Cumberland do not include the Borough of Carlisle. If the property is within a historic district, all work performed must meet the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation and be approved by that municipality's Historical and Architectural Review Board (HARB) receiving a Certificate of Appropriateness. Projects are subject to approval by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). Applicants whose project occurs in the 100-year floodplain are required to maintain flood insurance for the life of the project loan.

3. Multi-year, Non-Site Specific County Commercial Revitalization and Shopsteading Loan Program- This project activity provides small business loans to businesses located in downtown areas. This program will be used for the acquisition and rehabilitation of property; new construction as defined as building additions; site improvements; acquisition or rehabilitation of fixtures, furnishing or equipment; and working capital in the County except in the Borough of Carlisle, for the establishment of commercial business. Projects are subject to approval by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

(PHMC). Applicants whose project occurs in the 100-year floodplain are required to maintain flood insurance for the life of the project loan. A condition of the loan is to create jobs to be made available to low-mod-income persons.

4. Multi-year, Non-Site Specific, County Wide Removal of Architectural Barriers- This program will fund ADA compliant improvements to public/community facilities in the County of Cumberland, except in the Borough of Carlisle. Such activities may include curb cuts, textured warning strips, entrance ramps, installation of elevators, audible pedestrian traffic signals, textured crosswalks, installation of visual smoke detection systems for visually-impaired persons, ADA-compliant restrooms, etc. Projects occurring in the 100-year floodplain will involve only necessary activity to minimize impact.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the County of Cumberland at the following address on or before **March 20, 2020**: Chris Rafferty, Community Development Director, Cumberland County Housing & Redevelopment Authorities (CCHRA), 114 N. Hanover St., Carlisle, PA 17013, or via email at cr Rafferty@cchra.com. A full description of the projects may also be reviewed from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at CCHRA and at www.cchra.com.

Gary Eichelberger, Chairman
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners