

**Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact
and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds
for Tiered Projects and Programs**

September 17, 2025

South Carolina Office of Resilience
632 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 832-8004

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR).

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about October 6, 2025, the SCOR will submit a request to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review CDBG-DR: Hurricane Helene Housing Program – Cherokee County (“the Program”)

Purpose: The Program will provide assistance for homeowners whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Helene in 2024 on scattered sites throughout Cherokee County, South Carolina.

Location: Cherokee County, South Carolina. Specific addresses will be assessed in the site-specific reviews.

Project/Program Description: Project activities will include rehabilitation, reconstruction, replacement, elevation, demolition, and buyout of single-family homes and/or mobile home units (MHUs). The proposed projects will be located in multiple locations throughout Cherokee County, with the exact location of site-specific projects determined at a later date. Site-specific project activities will be conducted on previously developed residential properties. 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 58.36

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: *Flood Insurance* (Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]), *Contamination and Toxic Substances* (24 CFR 58.5 [i][2][i] and [iii]), *Endangered Species* (Federal Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 to 1543, 50 CFR 402; Bald

and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 USC 668 et seq.), **Floodplain Management** (Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55), and **Historic Preservation** (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800, Protection of Historic Properties).

Mitigation Measures/Conditions:

1. Acquire all required federal, state, and local permits prior to commencement of demolition activities and comply with all permit conditions.
2. Demolition debris must be properly handled by licensed contractors (if needed) and disposed of in licensed sanitary landfills for each type of debris (household waste, white goods, pesticides/herbicides, etc.) in accordance with local and state requirements, as appropriate. Demolition and construction debris should be recycled to the extent practicable.
3. Use alternatively fueled equipment when possible.
4. Use emission controls applicable to the equipment.
5. Reduce idling time on construction equipment.
6. Minimize dust emissions through good operating practices.
7. If any contaminated soils, solid wastes, chemicals or hazardous materials are encountered during project implementation, these items must be properly handled by licensed contractors and disposed of according to local, state, and federal requirements.
8. Comply with all laws, regulations, and industry standards applicable to aboveground and underground storage tanks.
9. If applicable, structures must be inspected by a SC licensed asbestos building inspector for potential ACM before beginning any demolition activities. If ACM are identified, all project activities must comply with OSHA's Asbestos Standard for Construction (29 CFR 1926.1101) and DES Regulation 61-86.1 (as applicable) for demolition/ disposal involving such materials. Abatement activities will be conducted by a SC licensed abatement contractor. All required permits will be obtained prior to the start of any construction activities. Following construction, all documentation pertaining to testing, removal, disposal, and clearance must be provided and added to the environmental compliance file.
10. If necessary, a lead-based paint inspection should be conducted by a South Carolina certified lead inspector. If lead-based paint is present, the state will ensure compliance with the regulations found at 24 CFR Part 35 (Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention in Certain Residential Structures) and all applicable state and local regulations regarding lead-based paint.
11. If project activities would occur within 660 feet of an active or alternate bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest, work should not take place during nesting season (October 1 through May 15). If that limitation is not possible, consultation with the USFWS will be required.
12. If native birds are found to be using the structure for nesting actions should be taken to avoid disturbing migratory birds or their nests, eggs, or chicks as this could lead to a potential violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If project activities cannot be undertaken without disturbing migratory birds, consultation with the USFWS will be required.
13. All structures in, or partially in, the 100-year floodplain (as shown on the current effective FEMA FIRM) must be covered by flood insurance and the flood insurance must be maintained per program guidelines.
14. All proposed reconstruction, MHU replacement, substantial improvements, and elevation activities in the FFRMS floodplain must adhere to the minimum standard of Base Flood Elevation plus 2 feet or the local floodplain requirements, whichever is more restrictive.
15. Contractor must stop work and contact SCOR if any archaeological materials are discovered during construction. SCOR will in turn contact the SHPO and appropriate Tribal representatives.
16. Comply with applicable local noise ordinance.

17. Implement and maintain erosion and sediment control measures sufficient to prevent deposition of sediment in onsite and offsite wetlands and waters, including buffering and filtering runoff water and using BMPs to control nonpoint source runoff.
18. Soil compaction will be minimized by controlling project activities in vegetated areas, including lawns.
19. Protect existing inlets from debris, soils, and sedimentation.
20. Protect streams, wetlands, woods, and other natural areas from unnecessary activities or disturbance.
21. For docks and piers to be demolished, the Contractor must install sediment and erosion control measures as specified by required permitting, in the demolition plans, and specifications by the project engineer to prevent sediment and debris from discharging into adjacent waters.
22. Project sites located along a Nationwide River Inventory (NRI) segment shall avoid unnecessary clearing of native riparian vegetation, and erosion and sediment control measures (BMPs) shall be implemented.

Estimated Project Cost: SCOR intends to request a release of funds for CDBG-DR funding in the amount of \$2,738,340. The estimated total project cost is \$2,738,340.

The activities proposed are not exempt or categorically excluded from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) under HUD regulations at 24 CFR 58.34 and 58.35, therefore an environmental assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with subpart E.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The SCOR has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the South Carolina Office of Resilience, 632 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201 and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the South Carolina Office of Resilience, 632 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201 (RE: HUD Environmental Review), by email to eric.fosmire@scor.sc.gov, or by phone (803) 832-8004. All comments received by October 3, 2025, will be considered by SCOR prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The SCOR certifies to HUD that Eric Fosmire, Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Chief of Staff and General Counsel 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 SCOR to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and SCOR'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 SCOR; (b) SCOR 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 Mr. Bradley Evatt, CPD Director, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Columbia Field Office, Community Planning and Development Division, Strom Thurmond Federal Building, 1835 Assembly Street, 13th Floor, Columbia, SC 29201-2480 at CPDRROFCSC@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact Mr. Bradley Evatt, CPD Director in the Columbia Field Office, to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Eric Fosmire, Certifying Officer, South Carolina Office of Resilience