

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Sunday, December 25, 2011

Name of Responsible Entity: Montana Department of Commerce – Housing
Division

Complete Address of Responsible Entity: 301 S. Park Ave. Room 240
PO Box 200545
Helena, Montana 59620-0545

Telephone Number: 406-841-2820

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Missoula Housing Authority.

REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about Tuesday, January 10, 2012 the Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on behalf of the Missoula Housing Authority for the release of HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds) under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, to undertake a project known as The Palace Apartments Rehabilitation for the purpose of rehabilitation of The Palace Apartments, so that this building can continue to safely serve the low-income population of Missoula. The Palace is a historic 60-unit apartment building located at 149 West Broadway in the heart of downtown Missoula. All 60 units are now, and will continue to be, Low Income Housing Tax Credit Unit. This \$4.5 million project, utilizing \$500,000 in HOME funding, will restore and remodel interior and exterior to produce a high-functioning, quality multi-family residence.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Montana Department of Commerce 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 Montana Department of Commerce, 301 S. Park Ave. Room 240, Helena, Montana 59620-0545 and the Missoula Office of Planning & Grants, 435 Ryman, Missoula, MT 59802. The ERR may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM at the Montana Department of Commerce Housing Division office, or from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the Missoula Office of Planning & Grants offices.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Montana Department of Commerce – Housing Division. All comments received by 5:00 P.M. Monday, January 9, 2012 will be considered by the Montana Department of Commerce prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Montana Department of Commerce certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that Bruce Brensdal in his capacity as Housing Division Administrator 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 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Missoula Housing Authority to use HOME Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO THE RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the Montana Department of Commerce'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 made on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Certifying Officer of the Montana Department of Commerce; (b) the Montana Department of Commerce has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before the approval of a release of funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; 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 of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region VIII Office, 8ADE, 1670 Broadway Street, Colorado 80202-4801. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Bruce Brensdal, Administrator
Housing Division, Montana Department of Commerce