

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

October 9th, 12th, & 16th, 2005

Lewis and Clark County
316 North Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59623 – (406) 447-8374

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS

The above-named County proposes to request the State of Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) to release Federal funds under the **HOME Investment Partnerships Program** and the **Community Development Block Grant Program** (Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990) for the following project:

The Friendship Center of Helena, Inc.

The nature of the project is to provide transitional housing and emergency shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

1503 Gallatin Avenue, Helena, Lewis and Clark County, Montana

Estimated Project Costs: \$1.7 Million

This activity will be undertaken over multiple years.

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly effecting the quality of the human environment and, accordingly, the above-named County has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

An Environmental Review Record pertaining to this project has been made by the above-named (Lewis & Clark County) which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, in room 404, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted, prior to the request for release of funds.

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this Finding of No Significant Impact decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by

the County to the Director of Community Development and Planning. All such written comments so received at 316 North Park Avenue, Helena, MT 59620 on or before **October 24, 2005**, will be considered and the County will not request the release of Federal funds or take any administrative action pertaining to this project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

On or about **October 25, 2005**, the County will request the Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) to release Federal funds for the project described above. The County is certifying to the MDOC that Jerry Grebenc in his official capacity as Director of Community Development and Planning, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental review, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied for this project. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, Lewis and Clark County may use the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and Community Development Block Grant funds, and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities.

MDOC will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the Certifying Officer of Lewis and Clark County; or (b) that Lewis and Clark County has omitted a decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part §58), and may be addressed to MDOC – Housing Division at PO Box 200545 – Helena, MT 59620-0545. Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by MDOC. All objections must be received by MDOC within 15 days from the time MDOC receives Lewis and Clark County's request for the release of funds and certification.

**Jerry Grebenc, Director of Community Development and Planning
316 North Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59623**