

## **NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

***January 28, 2025***

*George J.J. Beckby, Mayor*

*City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska*

*2727 W. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Suite #424*

*Hastings, NE 68901*

*402.461.2309*

On or after February 5, 2025, the Mayor of the City of Hastings, Nebraska, George J.J. Beckby will submit a request to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), or its State administering agency, Nebraska Department of Economic Development (State), for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), as amended, to undertake a project known as the Hastings Downtown Revitalization Project.

The City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska (City) is preparing to implement a downtown revitalization (commercial rehabilitation activities) project within an area of the municipal limits of the City. The area, more specifically described as the Business Improvement District (BID), is identified as the specific area location in which downtown revitalization improvement efforts will be completed. The Business Improvement District is identified as such: Bordered by the Burlington Northern tracks on the south, 4<sup>th</sup> Street is the north border, Lexington Avenue on the west, and Kansas Avenue on the East. Approximately 150 properties, over 100 business property owners, and a growing number of upper-story residential units occupy the area of the BID within the downtown of Hastings.

Project activities include the rehabilitation of privately Owned Commercial/Industrial Properties (exterior façade improvement) at yet-to-be-identified locations within the BID. Commercial rehabilitation project activities may include but are not limited to: façade improvements with restoration/renovation/replacement of permanent lighting, awnings, windows, doors, siding and signage; repair of architectural features; brick and masonry cleaning and repair, and correction of municipal code violations. Specific improvements will be determined by the applicant at the time of an application and plans being submitted to the City's Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)/Business Improvement District Director and committee for consideration. Approved activities will be completed in conjunction with program guidelines established by the City, CRA, and BID and are made available to potential applicants.

It is anticipated that there are currently three potential applicants for the commercial rehabilitation activities. Business owners who wish to participate in the commercial rehabilitation project will be required to fill out a façade improvement application form. Program guidelines and application forms may be obtained by contacting Randy Chick, Community Redevelopment Authority Director at 301 S. Burlington in Hastings or by calling 402.461.8415. Upon satisfactory completion and submission of the application, submissions will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility by the Downtown Revitalization committee and other agencies as required. A site-specific environmental review (Tier II) will also be completed on the property site. Applicants awarded grant funding will be required to provide a minimum 25% match.

Project impacts may include temporary sidewalk closures, noise, and dust. Businesses, residents, and emergency services will be notified of all sidewalk closures (as needed) and will be routed to alleyways or other streets during construction. Project activities will take place during normal business hours.

Total project costs are estimated at \$560,000, including \$25,000 for general administration and \$10,000 for construction management. Funding sources include a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for \$435,000 and a match from the City/CRA of \$125,000. The project will address the prevention or elimination of slum/blight within the Business Improvement District. Construction will be completed within thirty months from the award of the CDBG funds. No persons, businesses, or farms will be displaced as a result of the project activities.

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: A rehabilitation improvement program of commercial buildings as identified in 24 CFR 58.35(a)(3.iii.a)

Tier 2 site specific review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Historic Preservation (36 CFR 800); Contamination and Toxic Substances (24 CFR 58.5(i)(2)).

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): Upon identification of proposed sites, a site-specific review of the applicant site will be conducted by administrative personnel, city staff and/or personnel with direct agency review oversight. Responses will be documented and made a part of the site-specific review file. Any comments concerning mitigation, conditions and/or required permits will be completed in accordance with applicable law.

The activities proposed are Categorically Excluded Subject To (CEST) under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the offices of the City of Hastings, Office of the City Clerk, 2727 W. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Suite 424, Hastings, NE and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to the address above or by email to City Clerk, Tyler Ficken (tficken@cityofhastings.org). If the RE chooses to send the ERR to the public for review via U.S. mail, the RE will establish a timeframe for accepting comments with the person requesting the ERR.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mayor's office, % Tyler Ficken, City Clerk, 2727 W. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Suite 424, Hastings, NE 68901. All comments received by end of day on February 4, 2025, will be considered by the City of Hastings (George J.J. Beckby, Mayor) prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Hastings certifies to the State that George J.J. Beckby in his capacity as Mayor 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 State's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Hastings to use Program funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Hastings' 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 Hastings; (b) grant recipient 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 the Nebraska Department of Economic 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 (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) in writing to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, 245 Fallbrook Blvd, Suite 002, Lincoln, NE 68521. Potential objectors should contact the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

*George J.J. Beckby, Mayor  
City of Hastings*

Publish: Hastings Tribune – January 28, 2025 (1X)