

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

DATE OF NOTICE: February 5, 2026
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: Somerset County
ADDRESS: 300 North Center Ave
Somerset, PA 15501
TELEPHONE: 814-445-1400

On or after February 13, 2026, the Somerset County (County) will submit a request to the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for the release of Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Housing Rehabilitation Program

Purpose: The program will extend the useful life, expand the supply, and improve the conditions of affordable housing for income qualifying households in Somerset County, PA.

Location: County-wide, Somerset County, PA.

Project/Program Description: The project proposes the rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes throughout Somerset County, PA. Generally, rehabilitation will address health, safety, and code violations. Rehabilitation activities may include interior and exterior improvements to components of the existing structure and facilities including roofs, gutters, doors, windows, walls, ceilings, porches, facades, sidewalks, parking areas, driveways, chimneys, building foundations, landscaping, electrical systems, heating systems, HVAC, water and sewer lines, elevators, plumbing, flooring, fixtures, cabinets and appliances, safety and security devices and equipment, other interior elements, asbestos testing and/or mitigation, radon testing and/or mitigation, lead testing and/or mitigation, and ADA improvements. All work will take place at previously disturbed sites with existing structures. Project activities will not involve new construction, conversion, expansion, or increases in residential density.

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 58.35(a)(3)(i)

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, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Floodplain Management, and Historic Preservation.

Estimated HOME Funding: FY 2025 \$250,000.

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$250,000.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Redevelopment Authority of Somerset County, 300 North Center Avenue, Suite 520, Somerset, PA 15501 and may be examined or copied on weekdays 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERRs to the redevelopment authority at the above address. All comments received by February 12, 2026, will be considered by the County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The County certifies to DCED that Brian K. Fochtman, certifying officer, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, 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. DCED's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the County to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCED will accept objections to its release of funds and the County'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 the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the County; (b) the County has omitted a step or failed to make a determination 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 DCED; 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: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development at chrhowe@pa.gov. Potential objectors should contact DCED to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Brian K. Fochtman, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners