

Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds

Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program

<u>Columbia County</u>	<u>May 28, 2025</u>
Responsible Entity City / County	Date of Notice
<u>230 Strand Street</u>	<u>503)397-4322</u>
Address	Telephone Number
<u>St. Helens</u>	<u>Oregon 97051</u>
City	State Zip

On or about June 26, 2025, Columbia County will submit a Request for Release of Funds (RROF) to the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, for its housing rehabilitation program. The purpose of Columbia County's housing rehabilitation program is to use to perform repair and rehabilitation of existing single-family, owner-occupied units located in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties.

Annually, the program rehabilitates over 23 low- to-moderate-income homes with approximately \$ 500,000 of CDBG funds.

Specific locations of individual units to be rehabilitated cannot be determined prior to the completion of the Area-Wide Environmental Review and the RROF. For the housing rehabilitation activities proposed Columbia County is using a Tiered Environmental Review format and process proposed under HUD Regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act at 24 CFR Part 58.15.

In this first tier, a broad area-wide statutory review of the housing rehabilitation program has identified laws and authorities that we have determined will not be triggered by the location of the rehab program. These laws include: Floodplain Management (24 CFR Part 55 and Executive Order 11988), The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, The Clean Air Act, The Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, The Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898, The Noise Abatement and Control Standard (24 CFR part 51B) and The Explosive and Flammable Operations Standard (24 CFR Part 51C).

In the second tier review, Columbia County identified laws and authorities that must be analyzed with site-specific environmental review checklists for each property location. These laws include: Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 800), Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, Wetland Protection (Executive Order 11990), Sole Source Aquifers (The Safe Drinking Water Act, 40 CFR Part 149), The Endangered Species Act (50 CFR Part 402), Airport Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones (24 CFR Part 51D) and Toxic Chemicals and Radioactive Materials (24 CFR, Part 58.5(i)).

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project, along with a copy of Community Action Team's policies and processes to be followed for site specific reviews, is on file, and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at: 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Columbia County Board of Commissioner's Office. All comments received by June 25, 2025 will be considered by Columbia County prior to submission of a request for release of funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS: OBDD will accept an objections to its approval of the release of funds and the Columbia County certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or actual receipt of the request for release of funds (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

OBDD will accept objections to its Release of Funds only if they are based on one of the following:

- A. The certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of Columbia County.
- B. Columbia County has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58.
- C. Columbia County has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by OBDD.
- 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 procedure (24 CFR Part 58), and shall be addressed to OBDD at 775 Summer Street NE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97301-1280. Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by OBDD.

Potential objectors should contact OBDD to verify the actual last day of the objection period. It is estimated that any objection received after July 13, 2025 will not be considered by OBDD.

Name of Certifying Officer: Kellie Jo Smith

Title: Chair of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners

Address: 230 Strand Street

St. Helens, OR 97051