

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

June 1, 2022

Cherry County, Nebraska
365 N. Main Street
Valentine, NE 69201
402-376-2771

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by Cherry County, Nebraska.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about June 21, 2022, Cherry County, Nebraska, will consider any public comments received, prior to submitting a request to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Tourism Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA), as amended, to undertake a project known as the Cherry County Tourism Grant, with \$385,039 in CDBG grant funds to be invested into the project, whose total project cost is estimated to be \$736,089. The remaining \$351,050 will be provided with private funds. This project, which will benefit Cherry County's economy through increased tourism opportunities, will provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility and will also benefit those persons with mobility issues, specifically to construct approximately 2,000 ft of walking paths, four resting seats, one camping site, one set of bathrooms, handicap parking, and will provide workforce opportunities for low- to moderate-income persons and the creation of two new jobs at the Niobrara Valley Vineyards at Nenzel, Nebraska, located 1-mile south of Nenzel, Nebraska.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Cherry County, Nebraska, 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 the Cherry County Clerk's Office, 365 N. Main Street, Valentine, Nebraska, where the Environmental Review Record can be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. & 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. 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 Brittny Petersen, Cherry County Clerk, clerk@cherrycountyne.gov. 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 Cherry County Clerk. All comments received by June 16, 2022, will be considered by Cherry County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Cherry County, Nebraska certifies to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development that Tanya Storer, in her capacity as Chairperson, 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 Nebraska Department of Economic Development's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Cherry County, Nebraska, to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development will accept objections to its release of fund and the Cherry County Chairperson'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 one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of Cherry County, Nebraska; (b) Cherry County, Nebraska, 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 via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Housing and Urban Development at CPD_COVID-19OEE-OMA@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the Housing and Urban Development via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Tanya Storer, Chairperson, Board of Commissioners, Cherry County, Nebraska