

Combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds

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

Date of Publication: *February 1, 2023*

*City of Scranton
PO Box 457
Scranton, AR 72863
479-938-7718*

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the *City of Scranton*.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after *February 21, 2023*, the City of Scranton will submit a request to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the release of ACEDP funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Project Title: *Scranton Food Pantry*

Purpose: *Helping Our Kids was established in 2006 as a local non-profit organization dedicated to providing needy children in the Scranton area with food and clothing. In 2019 they began operating a food pantry program. They are currently using a former tavern for their weekly food giveaways. The tavern provides them with very little space as they only have access to a small back room and one cooler. They receive food from the River Valley Food Bank the same day as the giveaway and are unable to store any additional perishable or even non-perishable food items. Between April 2021 and January 2022, Helping Our Kids had a total of 45 food giveaways, an average of 4-5 per month serving an average of 257 households and 686 people each giveaway. Without its own building and equipment, Helping Our Kids is unable to expand its food pantry program beyond the once-a-week giveaway dependent upon the River Valley Food Bank delivery. Helping Our Kids cannot accept additional food donations from the community because they have not where to store them. They also can't assist someone in need who has missed the scheduled weekly giveaway.*

Location: *S. Park Avenue, Scranton, AR 35.35910486278732, -93.53627910152933*

Project Description: *Activities proposed in this application include a new building approximately 25 ft. wide by 50 ft. long, or 1,250 square feet. Equipment to be purchased includes a walk-in freezer and a walk-in cooler.*

Project Issues: *None*

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): *None*

Estimated Project Cost: *\$330,160.00*

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The *city of Scranton* 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 City of Scranton, 206 Park Avenue, Scranton, AR 72863 and WAPDD, 1109 S. 16th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9A.M to 3P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Scranton. All comments received by *February 20th* will be considered by the *City of Scranton* prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Scranton certifies to Arkansas Economic Development Commission that *David Corbitt*, Certifying Officer, 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. Arkansas Economic Development Commission's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the *city of Scranton* to use ACEDP program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

Arkansas Economic Development Commission will accept objections to its release of fund and the RE'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 the *city of Scranton*.
 - (b) The *RE* 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 Arkansas Economic Development Commission; 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 Grants Management Division, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, 1 Commerce Way, Suite 601, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202. Potential objectors should contact Arkansas Economic Development Commission to verify the actual last day of the objection period.
- David Corbitt/Mayor, Certifying Officer*