



Town of Westerly

Town Hall • 45 Broad Street • Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

Public Notice

Pare Corporation (Pare), at the direction of the Town of Westerly, is in the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 40 CFR § 1500, *et seq.*) for the former Tower Street School/Community Center located at 83 Tower Street in Westerly, Rhode Island.

A copy of the entire draft EA can be found at the following website:

<https://westerlyri.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14229/2024-10-01-Draft-Part-58-EA---Tower-Street-School>

A hard copy of the entire draft EA can be reviewed in the Town of Westerly planning department, located in the town hall at 45 Broad Street, Westerly.

This report will be available for public review starting on 10/04/2024.



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

The sample language below is HUD's recommended wording of the combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds. This Notice is used for projects requiring an Environmental Assessment (24 CFR Part 58, Section 58.36). Words in **bold type** are required language. Words in *italics* are to be replaced by language appropriate to the particular project and Responsible Entity.

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

November 15, 2024

*Town of Westerly
45 Broad Street
Westerly, RI 02891
401-348-2500*

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about November 15, 2024 the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner will submit a request to the HUD for the release of FY 2023 Community Project Funding funds under 117-328 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, as amended, to undertake a project known as Expansion of Westerly Education Center for the purpose of Education Center expansion. Funding from HUD totals \$1.5 million and the total project is estimated to cost \$30 million.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Town of Westerly, RI 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 Westerly Town Hall, 45 Broad St, Westerly, RI office where ERR can be examined and name and address of other locations where the record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the *Town of Westerly* responsible for receiving and responding to comments. All comments received by if notice is published: publication date plus fifteen days; if notice is mailed and posted: mailing and posting date plus eighteen days will be considered by the *Town of Westerly* prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The *Town of Westerly* certifies to HUD that *Shawn M. Lacey* in his capacity as *Town Manager* 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. HUD's State's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the *Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner* to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the *Town of Westerly'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 *Town of Westerly*; (b) the *Town of Westerly* 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 HUD; 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 emailed to HUD at atcpdrrofbos@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD/State to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Shawn M. Lacey, Town Manager, Town of Westerly

Note: The fifteen or eighteen-day public comment periods are the minimum time periods required by regulation prior to submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Certification (form HUD-7015.15) to HUD/State. The Responsible Entity may choose to allow a longer comment period. 24 CFR Part 58 requires, at Section 58.46, "Time delays for exceptional circumstances," a 30-day comment period for controversial or unique projects or those similar to projects normally requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The fifteen-day objection period is a statutory requirement. The objection period follows the submission date specified in the Notice or the actual date of receipt by HUD/State, whichever is later.

Following completion of the comment period recipients may FAX the form HUD-7015.15 to HUD/State together with a copy of the public notice and a cover letter stating whether comments were received and, if so, how the recipient responded to the