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Previously known as Policy Notice OHCP 08-04

**SUBJECT:** Environmental Review: Clarification Regarding the Use of the *Certification of Finding of Continued Relevance* to Obtain a Release of Funds

**ISSUED:** August 18, 2008

**DISTRIBUTED TO:** Office of Community Development Award Recipients and their Affiliates

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## POLICY

The following Office of Community Development (OCD) policy provides clarification regarding the use of the *Certification of Finding of Continued Relevance* to obtain a Release of Funds.

### Description

To obtain a Release of Funds for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program or HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program-funded activity, award recipients must conduct an environmental review per 24 CFR Part 58, Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Environmental Responsibilities. Continued Relevance is an environmental finding that references a previously conducted environmental review. Eligible activities are typically components of phased or multi-year projects for which a comprehensive environmental review was conducted at the beginning of the project. When making a finding of Continued Relevance, award recipients must re-evaluate, and, if necessary, update the conclusions of the original environmental review. Award recipients may not use an environmental review conducted by a different responsible entity as a basis for a finding of Continued Relevance.

### Duration

Award recipients may cite Continued Relevance for up to six years from the date of the original Release of Funds.

### Submission Requirements

Award recipients do not need to republish a Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI/RROF) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for activities that qualify for use of a *Certification of Finding of Continued Relevance*. A copy of the original Release of Funds from OCD must accompany the *Certification*. For monitoring purposes, award recipients must maintain a copy of the original environmental review record in the project file. The Continued Relevance forms are available online at [http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs\\_traintech.htm](http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_traintech.htm) - under "Continued Relevance Activity Toolkit."

Questions regarding the Environmental Review: Clarification Regarding the Use of the *Certification of Finding of Continued Relevance* to Obtain a Release of Funds policy should be directed to the OCD Training and Technical Assistance Section Manager at (614) 466-2285.