

HUD Mandated Environmental Reviews

Please note: VHCB will not allow a project closing or commencement of construction prior to receipt of a release of funds from HUD. This process takes a minimum of 45 days, and should be started as early as possible after a commitment of HOME funds.

One requirement for HOME awards is the completion of an Environmental Review prior to project closing or beginning any rehabilitation, construction or sitework or the disbursement of funds. Most HOME projects however are covered by a “blanket” review performed annually by the HOME staff at the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

Projects covered by this blanket review are labeled “Categorically Excluded”. Categorical Exclusion is determined by the effect of the proposed work on the human environment. If a project involves a building already in place, which will maintain its use, requires no or minimal change in size, capacity or character, then the project will most likely be considered “Categorically Excluded”. If your project is not “categorically excluded” a Special Condition regarding Environmental Review requirements will be included in your HOME Grant Agreement.

In multi-family rental or mobile home park projects involving new construction, significant additions, change in use, or an increase in the number of units or lots by more than 20%, an individual Environmental Assessment must be completed by the Grantee.

The Environmental Review materials which must be prepared in order to complete the environmental assessment are attached and include forms ENV-1, ENV-3, ENV-6, ENV-7 and ENV-8. All back-up documentation and required permits must be submitted as well. A draft Combined Notice of No Significant Impact and of Intent to Request Release of Funds must also be prepared.

A component of the Environmental Assessment includes the Section 106 Historic Review. This is performed by a VHCB consultant, and is completed as part of the HOME Program underwriting process. A sign-off letter from VHCB’s consultant must be attached to the Environmental Review. Additional sign-off from the Division of Historic Preservation concerning archeological impact is necessary , if applicable.

The HOME staff at VHCB must review all materials and approve the combined notice before publication. No materials should be forwarded directly to HUD. The HOME staff is required to forward all materials through the Department of Housing and Community Affairs. This process typically takes at least 45 days from the date of the notice until HUD approves the release of funds. To ensure that a project is not delayed, HOME staff advise that a Grantee begin the process as soon as possible after receiving a commitment for HOME funding. VHCB will not allow a project closing or commencement of construction without receipt of a release of funds for the HOME program.

A flow chart of the environmental assessment process is on the following page. An outline of this process and the forms required for an environmental assessment are also included in this section

Flow Chart for Environmental Assessment Process

