



CITY OF BETHLEHEM

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www.bethlehem-pa.gov

Memo

To: Adam Waldron, Council President
From: Alicia Miller Karner, Director, DCED
CC: Robert Donchez, Mayor
Date: April 16, 2020
Re: 2019 Substantial Amendment CDBG

The Department of Community and Economic Development is recommending a Substantial Amendment to the 2019 CDBG Action Plan.

In accordance with CDBG program regulations, the City is allowed to make substantial amendments to its Annual Action Plan and Budget in accordance with the City's Citizen Participation Plan.

In response to the COVID-19 disaster, Bethlehem has determined that it is necessary to amend the CDBG program budget and activities for the approved program year FY 2019. The new activity will be implemented in FY 2019 using un-programmed funds from FY 2015-2019. This is considered a substantial amendment in accordance with Bethlehem's Citizen Participation Plan as the following applies: a) Adding or dropping an activity.

The amendment to the FY 2019 CDBG Annual Action Plan is proposed as follows:

Activity	Description	Budget
Economic Development Assistance- Small Business Retention	provide support in the form of working capital and other expenses to maintain businesses and retain jobs that are at risk from the impacts of the COVID-19 disaster.	\$300,000
Un-programmed Funds	un-programmed funds from entitlement years FY 2015-FY2019	-\$300,000

The City is implementing a HUD issued waiver on the duration of the public comment period for the substantial amendment process. This document has been made available to the public for five days, starting on April 16, 2020.

Please consider these proposed changes and the attached resolution at the Tuesday, April 21, 2020, council meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 -

WHEREAS, Federal regulations allow the City of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as a HUD entitlement community, to prepare an Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant Program Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem has prepared a Substantial Amendment to the 2019 Action Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem implemented waivers issued by HUD as they relate to COVID-19 disaster relief activities in the City of Bethlehem. The waivers allow for a modified process for public participation of proposed amendments. The waivers are listed below as they appear in the HUD issued document:

Waiver #8. Consolidated Planning Requirements – HOME, CDBG, HTF, ESG, and HOPWA Programs – Citizen Participation Public Comment Period for Consolidated Plan Amendment

Waiver #9. Consolidated Planning Requirements – HOME, CDBG, HTF, ESG, and HOPWA Programs – Citizen Participation Reasonable Notice and Opportunity to Comment

The draft amendment was available for public display online at www.bethlehem-pa.gov for the required 5 day comment period from April 16, 2020, to April 21, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM:

1. That the Action Plan Amendment for FY 2019 for the City of Bethlehem for the period from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, is hereby approved.
2. That the Mayor of the City of Bethlehem is authorized to provide the necessary assurances and certifications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to submit the FY 2019 Action Plan Amendment for HUD approval.

Sponsored by: /s/ _____

/s/ _____

ADOPTED by Council this day of , 2020.

/s/ _____
President of Council

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
City Clerk