

# CITY OF BETHLEHEM

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## Department of Community and Economic Development Interoffice Memorandum

**Date:** March 16, 2023  
**To:** Michael G. Colón, President of City Council  
**From:** Laura Collins, Director of Community and Economic Development  
**Re:** 2023 CDBG/HOME Allocations - Public Hearing Request

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The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced the City's federal 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) allocations. In 2023, the City will receive \$1,416,201 in CDBG funds and \$455,213 in HOME funds. For comparison, in 2022, the City received \$1,391,666 in CDBG and \$430,794 in HOME funding.

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) convened an internal committee to review 2023 CDBG/HOME funding applications and recommended funding for specific projects. The committee made funding recommendations after reviewing, evaluating, and scoring all external applications using a standardized matrix. The Mayor reviewed and approved the committee's funding recommendations shown in the attached spreadsheet.

CDBG/HOME funding applications are competitive and it is impossible to fund every applicant. DCED actively encourages unfunded applicants to apply during the next funding cycle. In addition to application quality, the committee considered the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan goals, prior funding, compliance history, beneficiary numbers, and other factors.

We respectfully request that City Council schedule a public hearing during the April 4, 2023 City Council meeting to allow DCED staff to present the funding recommendations to Council. Following the hearing, DCED will submit a proposed resolution for Council consideration that would approve the funding recommendations and submission of the City's 2023 Annual Action Plan to HUD.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions or desire additional information.

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Laura Collins, Esq.  
Director of the Department of Community and  
Economic Development