

# CITY OF BETHLEHEM

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## Department of Community and Economic Development Interoffice Memorandum

**Date:** August 10, 2023  
**To:** Michael G. Colón, President of City Council  
**From:** Laura Collins, Esq., Director, Department of Community and Economic Development  
**Re:** CDBG/HOME Annual Action Plan - Substantial Amendment Approval Resolution

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The Department of Community and Economic Development (“DCED”) wishes to amend the City’s program year 2022 Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program Annual Action Plan (“Action Plan”). Two proposed substantial amendments are described below and we respectfully request Council’s approval to submit them to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”).

### Proposed Substantial Amendment - YMCA Child Care Wing Improvements

DCED proposes to amend the City’s program year (“PY”) 2022 Action Plan to permit the Bethlehem Branch of the Greater Valley YMCA to utilize their PY 2023 CDBG award (\$198,000) to support their ongoing child care wing improvements project, a previously-approved PY 2022 CDBG project.

The YMCA is a key community institution, serving residents of all ages, with a variety of services and life-enhancing opportunities. Moreover, the YMCA sits on the border of the City’s Northside Alive Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area and serves many children from underserved Low- and Moderate-Income families. Main project elements include: installation of air conditioning units, renovations to a pre-K classroom, an infant room, the library, hallways, and the main vestibule area, and security improvements allowing better access control and monitoring of areas hosting children.

Redirecting the funding will allow the YMCA to complete their child care wing work in a cost-efficient manner, without unnecessary rebidding, where the project has been subject to significant increases in construction and labor costs, and delays in construction and equipment delivery. The proposal would not reduce funding to any other organization, but would allow YMCA to move their recent CDBG award into their previously-approved project, funded with \$279,583 of CDBG. Moreover, this proposal aligns with the City’s goals of improving public facilities and infrastructure and assisting marginalized and economically disadvantaged community members.

Please note, due to HUD practices and the timing of the City’s HUD program year, the City has not yet received its PY 2023 CDBG funding from HUD and the “program year” of an activity does not always correspond to the actual calendar year of subrecipient activity completion.

### Proposed Substantial Amendment - Broad Street Corridor Improvements

DCED proposes to amend the City's 2022 Action Plan to include a \$350,000 CDBG public streets activity related to East Broad Street transportation and safety improvements. This project is necessary to satisfy a match requirement for a significantly larger state DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund grant, would utilize program income, and was included in recent City five-year capital plans. Additionally, this project would not reduce funding of any other CDBG award or impact the City's pool of CDBG public service funds. At this stage, the project includes the engineering, bidding, construction, and inspection of right of way improvements and ancillary work along East Broad Street to ease traffic and improve transit, pedestrian, and bicycle safety. Right of way improvements will extend from Guetter Street to Elm Street and include enhanced crosswalks, ADA compliant handicap ramps, center landscaped medians, street trees, and other safety improvements.

This street improvement project arose out of two recent City planning initiatives. First, the 2019 Northside 2027 Neighborhood Plan noted concerns about high-speed traffic and pedestrian safety and recommended traffic calming and pedestrian safety initiatives in this corridor, along with mobility improvements. Second, the 2021 Broad Street Active Transportation Plan specifically recommended development of infrastructure in this project. Additionally, it aligns with the City's consolidated planning priorities of funding and implementing right-of-way improvements, including streets, curbs, sidewalks, street lighting, and landscaping. Also, the project will improve public road infrastructure in and around the City's HUD-designated Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area ("NRSA"). In order to receive certain regulatory incentives from HUD, the City must demonstrate focused investment into the NRSA.

We respectfully request placement of the two (2) attached resolutions on the August 15, 2023 Council agenda for consideration and a vote. Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.



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Laura Collins  
Director of the Department of Community and  
Economic Development

Date: August 10, 2023

Cc: Sara Satullo  
Robert G. Vidoni

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-\_\_\_\_\_**

WHEREAS, Federal regulations allow the City of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) entitlement community, to prepare substantial amendments to its program year (“PY”) 2022 Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program Annual Action Plan (“Action Plan”);

WHEREAS, the City prepared a proposed substantial amendment to its PY 2022 Action Plan, including the following component amendments: “Redirection of PY 2023 YMCA funds into 2022 YMCA Project,” related to improvements to the Bethlehem Branch of the Greater Valley YMCA (“Amendment 1”); and “Addition of new activity to PY 2022 Annual Action Plan: Broad Street Corridor Improvements; Broad Street Active Transportation - Phase 1” (“Amendment 2”) (together, being the “Action Plan Amendments”); and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2023, the City held a public hearing on the Action Plan Amendments, made them available for public display and comment for the required comment period, from July 14, 2023, through August 14, 2023, and also made them available at the City's website ([www.bethlehem-pa.gov](http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov)).

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

1. That the following PY 2022 Action Plan Amendment(s), defined above, and for the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, is/are hereby approved for submission to HUD: Amendment 1 and Amendment 2.
2. That the Mayor of the City of Bethlehem is hereby authorized to submit the following Action Plan Amendment(s) to HUD with any necessary assurances and certifications: Amendment 1 and Amendment 2.

Sponsored by: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_

/s/

ADOPTED by Council this                      day of August, 2023

/s/

President of Council

ATTEST:

/s/

City Clerk