

6A CITY OF BETHLEHEM

Department of Community and Economic Development Interoffice Memorandum

Date: October 12, 2023
To: Michael G. Colón, President of City Council
From: Sara Satullo, Deputy Director of Community Development
Laura Collins, Director of Community and Economic Development
Re: PRO Housing Grant Application Resolution

In September, Bethlehem City Council authorized the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to apply for a federal Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing program (PRO Housing) grant for up to \$10,000,000. This funding would support the Administration's implementation of the City's Comprehensive Housing Strategy.

PRO Housing grants are administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are designed to help communities identify and remove barriers to affordable housing production and preservation. Eligible uses include activities that further develop, evaluate, and implement housing policy plans, improve housing strategies, and facilitate affordable housing production and preservation. This grant opportunity comes with a tight timeline and the application must be submitted to HUD by October 30, 2023.

We plan to use this grant to support design and implementation of affordable housing incentive programs and a related revolving loan fund. Moreover, the grant would augment DCED's capacity to prepare and evaluate zoning update recommendations from the Administration's Opening Doors plan. In addition to other potential uses, the grant would enable the City to provide additional financial support to several homelessness/eviction prevention programs operated by our nonprofit community partners.

The grant requires the City make its application available for public comment for at least 15 days and incorporate any feedback into our application. We also must conduct a public hearing and obtain Council approval of the plan detailed in the application. The application was posted for comment on October 10, 2023 and the public comment period will end October 25, 2023. The required public input process is similar to our CBDG/HOME Annual Action plan process.

We respectfully request City Council schedule a public hearing at the start of its October 17, 2023 meeting and place a resolution approving the grant application and plan on that evening's agenda for consideration and a vote. We apologize that the grant's tight timeline did not allow for us to submit this request prior to Council's last meeting on October 3, 2023.

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

Sara K Satullo

Sara Satullo
Deputy Director of Community Development



Laura Collins
Director of the Department of Community and
Economic Development

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-_____

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem of Lehigh and Northampton Counties hereby requests a Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) grant for approximately \$10,000,000.00 (10 million dollars) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Planning and Development, for the implementation of key strategies from the City's newly developed plan: Opening Doors: Strategies for Building Housing Stability in Bethlehem.

WHEREAS, that as part of the application process, the City must conduct public participation in accordance with the requirements of the Notice of Funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, PRO Housing grant which includes at least one public hearing and at least 15 days for public comment, this resolution is for the approval of the application on behalf of the City of Bethlehem. The PRO Housing application is attached to this resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bethlehem that the City does hereby authorize and designate J. William Reynolds, Mayor, Laura Collins, Director of Department of Community and Economic Development, and George Yasso, City Controller, as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Bethlehem and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, the duly qualified Clerk of Council of the City of Bethlehem of Lehigh and Northampton Counties, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Council of the City of Bethlehem at a regular meeting held on October 17, 2023, and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Council of the City of Bethlehem and remains in effect as of this date.

Sponsored by _____

ADOPTED by Council this day of , 2023.

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk

ATTACHMENT TO RESOLUTION

(October 17, 2023)

PRO Housing Grant Application