

CITY OF BETHLEHEM

Department of Community and Economic Development Interoffice Memorandum

Date: June 12, 2024
To: Michael G. Colón, President of City Council
From: Laura Collins, Director of Community and Economic Development
Re: June 18, 2024 CDBG/HOME **Hearing 2:** Proposed Substantial Amendments

The Administration submits the attached materials to Council for the June 18, 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) substantial amendment hearing.

DCED wishes to reallocate prior-year CDBG and HOME funds to newly-proposed CDBG and HOME projects, and take other actions, by substantial amendment to prior program year City annual action plans. The proposed substantial amendments are summarized in Attachment A (Hearing 2 Documents) and would shift funds from prior-year City activities to new activities to accelerate CDBG program spending and create affordable single-family housing on the City's south side. The proposed amendments would not reduce funding of any outside organization projects. At the July 2, 2024 Council Meeting, the Administration will submit a resolution for Council consideration requesting authorization to submit the proposed substantial amendment actions to HUD.

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



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

ATTACHMENT A

HEARING 2 - PUBLIC HEARING DOCUMENTS

June 18, 2024 City Council Meeting

Summary of Proposed Substantial Amendment to Reallocate Prior-year CDBG/HOME Funds to New projects and Other Actions

Hearing 2 is requested by the City Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) on the Administration's recommended substantial amendments to certain City CDBG and HOME annual action plans and submission of such substantial amendments the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Proposed Substantial Amendments:

1. Proposed New CDBG Activity: Senior Living Facility Improvements

The Administration proposes to amend its 2023 or other program year Annual Action Plans (AAPs) to create a new CDBG public facilities activity titled Holy Family Senior Living Facility Improvements. *Scope; Funding:* The activity will involve funding the replacement of approximately 81 packaged terminal air conditioner (PTAC) units primarily in resident rooms of a senior housing and nursing home facility located in West Bethlehem. The project will include the purchase of the PTAC units and ancillary work. This activity aligns with the Consolidated Plan goal(s) of supporting high quality public services and improving public facilities & infrastructure that serve low- and moderate-income clientele. Funding this activity would not reduce existing allocations to any outside organization. The City proposes to fund the activity by reallocating \$250,000 of existing City CDBG from program administration and/or other City activities to accelerate spending to comply with HUD requirements.

2. Proposed New CDBG Activity: ADA Curb Ramp Installations (City wide)

The Administration proposes to amend its 2023 or other program year AAPs to create a new disability accessibility activity titled ADA Curb Ramp Installations. The City will manage the activity. *Scope; Funding:* Replacement of up to approximately 54 existing curb ramps throughout the City with new ramps incorporating bump pads and otherwise meeting all specifications for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Ancillary work may also be necessary to portions of streets, sidewalks, and ramp sites related to trees and other site variables applicable to each ramp. Ramps will be replaced across various areas of the City including south Bethlehem and in the Northside Alive Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA). This project aligns with the Consolidated Plan priority goal of improving public spaces, facilities, and infrastructure and will increase sidewalk accessibility for physically disabled individuals. Additionally, it supports the goal of enhancing public safety by helping people access sidewalks and avoid vehicular danger from roadways. The project would be funded by reallocating \$350,000 of existing CDBG funds from prior-year City activities and program income/revolving loan funds and would not reduce existing allocations to any outside organization.

3. Proposed Deletion of City CDBG activity: Broad St. Corridor Improvements

The City proposes to amend its 2022 AAP to delete an existing City activity titled Broad Street Corridor Improvements funded with \$350,000 of CDBG. The City will utilize alternative, non-CDBG sources for this activity, which will allow the CDBG funds to be reallocated to the new ADA Ramp installation activity and spent on a much faster timeline to assist in compliance with HUD regulations related to timeliness of spending. The Broad Street project funding will be replaced from other sources and the project will not be negatively affected.

4. Proposed New HOME Activity: Habitat for Humanity Philip Street - Unit 1 (New Construction)

Proposed New HOME Activity: Habitat for Humanity Philip Street - Unit 2 (New Construction)

The Administration proposes to amend its 2023 or other program year AAPs to create two (2) new HOME homebuyer housing activities titled Habitat for Humanity Philip Street Unit 1 and Unit 2.

Scope; Funding: Each activity will be funded with up to \$99,000 of reallocated HOME funds and will include the new construction of two (2) attached single-family homes for transfer to income-qualified families at or below 80% of area median income. These activities support the Consolidated Plan goal of enhancing home ownership opportunities and the homes will be subject to minimum fifteen (15) year periods of affordability during which the homes must be owned and occupied by income-eligible families. Funding these proposed activities will not result in the reduction of any other organization's allocation.