

**CITY OF BETHLEHEM 2020 CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

Date of Publication: April 2, 2021

City of Bethlehem
10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-865-7085

On or about April 19, 2021, the City of Bethlehem will submit a request to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds under the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended (P.L. 101-625) to undertake the following projects:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Housing – Housing Rehabilitation: City-wide (Tier 1 Review)

Purpose: To increase the availability of suitable housing for income-eligible households in the City of Bethlehem

Location: Available on a city-wide basis. Specific addresses to be determined

Project/Program Description: This is a Program Year 2020 project where the City of Bethlehem will provide CDBG and HOME funding of \$372,876 (\$230,492 CDBG and \$142,384 HOME) for loans for needed repairs to address code deficiencies in an estimated 34 single-family residential units occupied by income-eligible households. Eligible work includes weatherization improvements, repairs to mechanical systems, roofing repairs and other work to make the home code-compliant. It is anticipated that the project will be completed using FY 2020 funds beginning 5/17/21 and ending 5/31/22. Tier 2 site-specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6

Tier 2 Site-Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Flood Insurance/Floodplain Management, Contaminated and Toxic Substances, Environmental Justice, Historic Preservation, and Noise Abatement and Control.

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): When addresses are determined and Tier 2 site-specific reviews have been conducted, any environmental factors requiring mitigation, conditions or permits will be addressed in a manner consistent with governing regulations and the City's written strategy. Any sites or scopes of work that are confirmed to be beyond the constraints established by the Tier 1 review will receive a separate environmental review.

Estimated Project Cost: \$372,876

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Housing – CACLV Homebuyer (Acquisition/Rehabilitation/Resale Program: Tier 1 Review)

Purpose: To increase the availability of suitable housing for income-eligible households in the City of Bethlehem

Location: Available on a city-wide basis. Specific address to be determined

Project/Program Description: This is a Program Year 2020 project where the City of Bethlehem will provide HOME funding of \$54,000 for the acquisition, rehabilitation and resale of an estimated one blighted and/or vacant housing unit for sale to an income-eligible family. Work to be carried out is dependent upon the specific code needs of the subject property, but may include gut rehabilitation. The CACLV obtains the properties in a variety of ways that include purchase on the open market, transfer from the City involving a

condemnation process, and working directly with banks on repossessed/foreclosed properties. It is anticipated that the project will be completed using FY 2020 funds beginning 5/17/21 and ending 5/31/22. Tier 2 site-specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6

Tier 2 Site-Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover Airport Hazards as well as the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Explosive and Flammable Hazards, Flood Insurance/Floodplain Management, Contaminated and Toxic Substances, Environmental Justice, Historic Preservation, and Noise Abatement and Control.

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): When addresses are determined and Tier 2 site-specific reviews have been conducted, any environmental factors requiring mitigation, conditions or permits will be addressed in a manner consistent with governing regulations and the City's written strategy. Any sites or scopes of work that are confirmed to be beyond the constraints established by the Tier 1 review will receive a separate environmental review.

Estimated Project Cost: \$54,000

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Housing – South Bethlehem Façade and Weatherization (Tier 1 Review)

Purpose: To preserve owner-occupied housing and foster strong, vibrant neighborhoods in the City of Bethlehem

Location: Available in South Bethlehem. Specific addresses to be determined

Project/Program Description: This is a Program Year 2020 project where the City of Bethlehem will provide CDBG funding of \$30,000 for façade and weatherization improvements to an estimated 10 residential units occupied by income eligible households. Eligible work includes weatherization improvements and façade treatments including new porch railings, light fixtures and window trim. It is anticipated that the project will be completed using FY 2020 funds beginning 5/17/21 and ending 5/31/22. Tier 2 site-specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6

Tier 2 Site-Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Flood Insurance/Floodplain Management, Contaminated and Toxic Substances, Environmental Justice, Historic Preservation, and Noise Abatement and Control.

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): When addresses are determined and Tier 2 site-specific reviews have been conducted, any environmental factors requiring mitigation, conditions or permits will be addressed in a manner consistent with governing regulations and the City's written strategy. Any sites or scopes of work that are confirmed to be beyond the constraints established by the Tier 1 review will receive a separate environmental review.

Estimated Project Cost: \$30,000

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the City of Bethlehem Department of Community and Economic Development, Bethlehem City Hall, 10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, PA, and may be examined or copied weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. An electronic copy of the ERR may be accessed online at the following website: [//www.bethlehem-pa.gov/Community-Economic-Development/Community-Development/CDBG-Home](http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/Community-Economic-Development/Community-Development/CDBG-Home).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Bethlehem Department of Community and Economic Development, Bethlehem City Hall, 10 East Church Street,

Bethlehem, PA, 18018, 610-865-7085. All comments received by April 16, 2021, will be considered by the City of Bethlehem prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Additional project information is contained in the ERR. The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by US mail. Please submit your request by US mail to the address noted above or via email to croseberry@bethlehem-pa.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Bethlehem certifies to HUD that Robert J. Donchez, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Bethlehem to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Bethlehem's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

- (a) The certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of Bethlehem.
- (b) The City of Bethlehem has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulation at 24 CFR Part 58.
- (c) The grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs, or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or
- (d) Another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec.58.76) and shall be addressed to the Philadelphia Office of Community Planning and Development at CPD_COVID-100EE-PHI@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD/State to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Robert J. Donchez, Mayor
City of Bethlehem