

CITY OF BETHLEHEM, PA
HUD FY24 PATHWAYS TO REMOVING OBSTACLES TO HOUSING (PRO HOUSING)

Posting Date: September 20, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby provided that the City of Bethlehem, PA, (“City”) will hold a public hearing on October 3, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in Town Hall Rotunda, 10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018, in connection with the City’s application for a FY24 Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) grant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). On September 30, 2024, the City will publish the application for public comment, made available on the City’s website.

Purpose of HUD PRO Housing Funds. HUD is issuing this second PRO Housing NOFO under the authority of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42) (Appropriations Act), which appropriates \$100 million for competitive grant funding for the identification and removal of barriers to affordable housing production and preservation. Under this NOFO, HUD will provide PRO Housing grants, with a maximum award amount of \$7 million, to identify and remove barriers to affordable housing production and preservation. Grantees may use awards to further develop, evaluate, and implement housing policy plans, improve housing strategies, and facilitate affordable housing production and preservation. Eligible applicants are State and local governments, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and multijurisdictional entities.

City’s Planned Use of PRO Housing Funds. The City seeks PRO Housing funds to assist in realizing the strategies put forth by the City’s housing plan adopted in late 2023, *Opening Doors: Strategies to Build Housing Stability in Bethlehem*. Funding would address the following barriers: costly or prolonged procedures/deteriorating or inadequate infrastructure, lack of available land, displacement pressures, expiration of affordability requirements, and lack of capacity. The barriers will be addressed by way of increasing production and rental preservation through the following activities: move to digital plan review, permit processing, and development approvals and payments; create gap financing revolving loan fund and develop incentives package for affordable housing projects; implement rental rehab program (in which guidelines have been built out); develop market feasibility study to set neighborhood-specific production goals; and develop a strategic plan for the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Bethlehem.

Comments in connection with Public Hearing. Written comments on the public hearing may be emailed to Emily Folenta, Housing Policy Lead, at efolenta@bethlehem-pa.gov, with copy to Robert Vidoni, Housing and Community Development Administrator, at rvidoni@bethlehem-pa.gov, or delivered or mailed to Robert Vidoni, Community Development Bureau, 10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Phone comments may be provided by calling 610-865-7085 and speaking with Emily Folenta, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM through 4:30 PM.

Translation Services; Accessibility/Reasonable Accommodations. If you are in need of translation services, or other reasonable accommodations, related to this public hearing, please contact Emily Folenta at efolenta@bethlehem-pa.gov or 610-865-7085 no later than 4 p.m. on September 30, 2024. City Hall and Council Chambers (Town Hall Rotunda) are wheelchair accessible. Special parking is available at the primary entrance to City Hall at 10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Persons with disabilities, or others, who plan to attend the public hearing on October 3, 2024, and who might need auxiliary aids or services, or accessibility assistance, should contact Emily Folenta, information above, no later than 4 p.m. on September 30, 2024.

Applicable Law. This notice is issued in accordance with CDBG and other applicable laws and regulations. The City does not discriminate based on disability. The public hearing will be held in compliance with applicable fair housing and civil rights laws and requirements.

CITY OF BETHLEHEM, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUREAU. First floor, 10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Phone: (610) 865-7085