

\$1.5m in grant money to City organizations: first step tonight

The Bethlehem Gadfly City government, Serious Issues October 28, 2019

(The latest in a series of posts on City government)

Gadfly began operation in September last year and was not attuned to the October awarding of CDBG and HOME grant money to City organizations then.

No lagging this year.

There is approx \$1.5m to be awarded this year. No small amount.

The first step in the grant process will be tonight 6PM Town Hall at City Council's Community Development Committee meeting (members Van Wirt, Reynolds, Colon). Committee decisions will then go to full Council.

Groups apply. The City proposes allocation of the grant money. Council decides.

Find this in the transmittal memo from the City to Council:

Attached please find the FY 2019 CDBG and HOME requests received by the City.

These recommendations will be presented to council at the October 28th Community

Development Committee Meeting. In addition to the quality of the application,

conformance with our Consolidated Plan is evaluated, past compliance history of the

grantee and the number of city residents impacted by the program are all factors

considered. . . . We have used an anticipated CDBG amount of approximately \$1,200,000 and a HOME award of \$350,000. As always, our public service awards are capped at 15%, or approximately \$180,000.

[Gadfly is not sure about the HOME program but finds this info about CDBG on the web: “The Community Development Block Grant, one of the longest-running programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, funds local community development activities with the stated goal of providing affordable housing, anti-poverty programs, and infrastructure development.”]

This is an exciting and nail-biting time for applicants and involves Council responsibility at the highest level. The money could mean life or death in some instances.

Here is the allocation of resources proposed by the City that Council will discuss tonight.

Take a look. Any comments on the recipients and the priorities before the discussion tonight?

Gadfly plans to attend and will report on doin’s tomorrow.

Applicant	Program Title	Funds Requested	Funds Recommended	Source
Program Administration (20%)				
Program Administration	Administration/Planning	\$ 213,791	\$ 213,791	CDBG
CD Consulting	Consulting Services	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	CDBG
North Penn Legal	Fair Housing Project	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	CDBG
Program Administration		\$ 253,791	\$ 253,791	

Public Service (15% Limit)				
CACDB	Neighborhood Housing Organizer	\$ 35,000	\$ 5,000	CDBG
Center for Humanistic Change	Crossroads at Lincoln Elementary	\$ 6,226	\$ 6,000	CDBG
Hispanic Center of the LV	Empowerment Program	\$ 30,760	\$ 10,000	CDBG
Hogar Crea	Operations	\$ 100,000	\$ 30,000	CDBG
LV Center for Independent Living	PLACE - People Living in Accessible Community Envir	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000	CDBG
New Bethany Ministries	Rep Payee	\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000	CDBG
ShareCare Faith in Action	Operations	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,844	CDBG
Embrace Your Dreams	First Tee Golf Project	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	CDBG
YWCA	TechGryls	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,500	CDBG
Police	Community Policing	\$ 60,000	\$ 64,500	CDBG
Southside Recreation	Recreation Activities	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	CDBG
Public Service		\$ 324,486	\$ 190,344	

Other (no limit)				
ArtsQuest	Banana Factory	\$ 75,000	Withdrew Application	CDBG
Bethlehem Food CoOP	Physical Improvements	\$ 189,840	\$ 100,000	CDBG
Bethlehem Public Library	Elevator SS Branch	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	CDBG
CACDB	South Bethlehem Façade & Weatherization	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	CDBG
Catholic Senior Housing dba Grace Mansion	Bathroom Renovations ADA Accessibility	\$ 75,000	\$ 50,000	CDBG
Blight Remediation	Blight	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,000	CDBG
YMCA	Childcare Wing Renovations Phase II	\$ 100,000	\$ 75,000	CDBG
Bethlehem Food CoOP	Operations	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000	CDBG

Program Delivery Costs				
CACLV	CAFS - HOOP Program Delivery	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	CDBG
RDA of Bethlehem	Administration of Blight Program	\$ 70,000	\$ 10,000	CDBG
Housing Rehab	Program Delivery	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000	CDBG
Parks	Park Improvements	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	CDBG
Public Works	Carlton Ave/Engineering	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	CDBG
Housing Rehab	Grants/Loans	\$ 174,822	\$ 174,822	CDBG

Other Expenses		\$ 1,214,662	\$ 874,822	
		2017 allocation	\$ 50,000	
Total:		\$ 2,196,394	\$ 1,268,957	

		CDBG 2020 Projection	\$ 1,268,957
HOME 2019 Award \$400,540		HOME 2020 Projection	\$ 380,513

Applicant	Program Title	Funds Requested	Entitlement Funds Recommended	Source
HOME				
CACLV	Acquisition Rehab/Resale	\$ 223,250	\$ 50,000	HOME
CACLV	CHDO Set Aside	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	HOME
Habitat for Humanity	Home Ownership Program	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	HOME
Moravian Development Corporation	Flooring at Moravian House II	\$ 127,964	\$ 75,000	HOME
YMCA	Single Room Occupancy	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	HOME
Housing Rehab	Rehab	\$ 170,000	\$ 142,462	HOME
Administration	Not to exceed:	\$ 38,051	\$ 34,051	HOME
Total		\$ 713,265	\$ 380,513	

CHDO Allocation (20%)	\$ 80,108
CHDO Set Aside (5% of CHDO Allocation)	\$ 4,005