

City of Bethlehem

PY 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications

2025 CDBG APPLICATION PERIOD

The City of Bethlehem will open program year 2025 CDBG applications on **Friday, December 13th, 2024**, and close applications on **Friday, January 24th, 2025**. All applications must be received in the City's NEIGHBORLY portal no later than 11:59 p.m. on the Close Date.

If you intend to apply for City CDBG funding, please email Robert Vidoni (rvidoni@bethlehem-pa.gov), Housing and Community Development Administrator. Please include a sentence or two about your proposed project and any questions. We are happy to work with potential applicants to prepare CDBG applications

Program Background

The CDBG program (Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 197, as amended) requires that each CDBG funded activity must either principally *benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or meet a community development need having a particular urgency.*

City activities funded by the CDBG program are designed to benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons. This benefit may take the form of housing, jobs, and services. Additionally, activities may qualify for CDBG assistance if the activity will benefit all the residents of a primarily residential area where at least 51 percent of the residents are low- and moderate-income persons, i.e. area-benefit (LMA). Additional rules and exceptions apply.

Eligible projects may include infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitation, public facility upgrades, public services, economic development initiatives, and other activities. For more information, see the HUD resource links below.

CDBG Resources

HUD has a library of CDBG resources available on their [Explore CDBG page](#), to help community development professionals leverage the funding source.

See also HUD's [CDBG Entitlement Program Eligibility Requirements](#) page with links to applicable laws and regulations.

For more information on CDBG reporting obligations and other administrative duties, see: [Playing By the Rules - a Handbook for CDBG Subrecipients On Administrative Systems.pdf](#)

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

Generally, City CDBG applicants are established nonprofit entities operating in low- and moderate-income (LMI) areas of the City and/or serving LMI populations residing in the City. CDBG funding requires extensive reporting and compliance obligations. If you have questions about applications, eligibility, or

reporting, the Community Development Bureau is available to provide technical assistance to potential applicants.

LMI Area Data:

Per HUD CPD Notice 20-24, effective August 1, 2024, the American Community Survey Data must be used by the City to determine project eligibility under the National Objective of Low/Mod Area (LMA). This data will help applicants determine if their project is located in a census tract and/or block group that is 51% or above LMI.

- See this link for City of Bethlehem high LMI (51%-plus) areas: [City of Bethlehem LMI Area Map](#)

Income Limits:

Current Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metro area income limits obtained from following source:
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>

Eligibility Questions:

If you have questions on your CDBG eligibility, please contact Robert G. Vidoni, Housing and Community Development Administrator, (rvidoni@bethlehem-pa.gov; 610-997-5731).

Application Portal

CDBG applications will be accepted through the City's online Neighborly portal.

- Portal Link: <https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/BETHLEHEMPA/Participant>.
- A guide to the application process can be found here: [Neighborly Software Application Guide](#)

Neighborly Questions: If you have questions on Neighborly, please contact Craig Updegrove, Grants Specialist, at 610-419-1447 or cupdegrove@bethlehem-pa.gov and rvidoni@bethlehem-pa.gov.

Additional Notes

1. **Public Service Cap.** The City is limited by law to allocating no more than 15% of its annual CDBG allocation for public service activities during a program year. Thus, public service applications are extremely competitive and we are unable to fund many public service applications due to the cap. The City received \$1,415,213 in PY 2024 CDBG funding. However, we are unable to predict our PY 2025 funding.
2. **HOME Applications.** HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funding applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. HOME provides grants that fund a range of affordable housing activities such as building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership. If you plan to apply for HOME funds, please contact Robert G. Vidoni, (rvidoni@bethlehem-pa.gov ; 610-997-5731).

The City of Bethlehem provides services without regard to race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, age, or national origin.

