

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 12 - 2024

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2024 Grant Fund budget to accept Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) from the FY 2023 Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program Phase 1 strategy development grant.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000).

Grant Fund		
Federal Funds		
005-6212		\$ 500,000.00

SECTION TWO: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) to the following accounts:

Grant Fund		
Community Development		
Planning & Development		
005-09-0502-xxxx-46	Other Contract Services	\$ 450,000.00
005-09-5902-xxxx-68	Operating Materials & Supplies	\$ 50,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 500,000.00

SECTION THREE: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?

This is originating from the department of Community and Economic Development – Planning. The City of Allentown applied for and received a grant from the federal government.

- Summary and facts of the bill.

This bill allocated Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ((\$500,000) from the FY2023 Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program Phase One award. This award is a planning grant designed to return individuals aged 25 years to 54 years to the workforce by removing employment barriers.

- Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. What does the bill do? What are the specific goals or tasks the bill seeks to accomplish?

The bill funds the planning and development of a strategy to address workforce barriers, lack of workforce readiness and transportation issues to encourage a stronger, more engaged workforce. It also enhances Urban work site availability. Allentown Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) has been identified as the principal agent for the pass-thru funding.

- b. What are the benefits of doing this? What are the drawbacks?

The benefits are vast as many more can enter the workforce and the planning grant leads to the submission of Phase Two funding which could be as much as a Twenty Million Dollar award (\$20,000,000). There are no drawbacks to this award.

- c. How does this bill relate to the City’s vision/mission/priorities?

Vision 2030 clearly identifies supporting local employment, increasing manufacturing, and reducing transportation barriers as goals. This award will facilitate the development of a strategy that has far-reaching benefits and will enhance services provided by the city as well as partner agencies.

- Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?

The application for Phase 2 is April 25,2024 however this initial award must be spent in the next two years.

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

This is a highly coveted award which positions the city to address impediments to employment. It is beneficial to our citizens and will target census tracts 4, 5, 9, 10,18 and 20 where unemployment is highest among those aged 25 to 54 years.