



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. _____

RESOLUTION

R176 - 2025

Introduced by the Administration on November 19, 2025

Approves the submission of the formal application for the local share account grant on behalf of the Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania (VOAPA) to support the repairs needed to their children's center.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, the City of Allentown is desirous of submitting a formal application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development for a grant of two hundred ninety-two thousand dollars (\$292,000.00).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Allentown, Lehigh County hereby requests a local share account grant on behalf of the Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania to support the repairs of their children's center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the City of Allentown hereby designates Matthew Tuerk Mayor, and Bina Patel, Finance Director, as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Allentown and the Commonwealth.

Legislative Template

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from?

This bill originates from the Department of Community and Economic Development Grants Department on behalf of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania (VOAPA)

- Summary and facts of the bill.

The City of Allentown is submitting a formal application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for \$292,000 awarded from the Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) grant that will support the repairs needed for VOAPA's Children's Center, located at 730 W. Union Street, Allentown. The LSA funding will be utilized to repair external concrete columns, dryvit siding, pointing, and repairing cornice, chimney, stucco, and corbels on the building.

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

The Resolution is a requirement of the application to demonstrate the City's support for the project and to designate Mayor Matthew Tuerk as the signatory of the contract with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- b. What are the benefits of doing this?

The facility at 730 W. Union Street has the capacity to serve more than 300 families a year, including through early childhood care, before and after care, summer camp, affordable housing, and community and maternal health programming. As the building ages, continued and ongoing investments in the building are required to maintain its structural integrity and meet critical safety standards.

The Children's Center meets the needs of some of the most vulnerable residents of Allentown and Lehigh County. Located in the heart of the Jordan Heights community, hundreds of families can easily access the affordable, quality early childhood education offered at the Center—alongside essential services like a food pantry and maternal health programming.

Investing in building repairs protects the continuity of services that help stabilize families, prevent hunger, and support healthy pregnancies and child development.

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

This project aligns with several of the City's priorities, most relevant being:

(1)-Priorities outlined in the Community Health Needs Assessment: Support for building restorations, would allow for continued and expanded community and maternal health services in Allentown.

(2)- The City's Housing Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan: This project would allow VOAPA to perform necessary upkeep on the property without having to put any of those costs on tenants by increasing rents. It would allow VOAPA to maintain stable levels of affordability amidst a shortage of affordable housing options for Allentown residents. Moreover, this project would prioritize affordability in a walkable, centrally located neighborhood that has become increasingly cost-prohibitive.

(3) The City's Recompete Plan, notably strategy II to expand access to responsive childcare; VOAPA is committed to keeping costs as affordable as possible by privately fundraising to provide additional scholarships to children and families that do not qualify for childcare work subsidies or need additional assistance. VOAPA's mission to maintain and expand access to quality and affordable childcare directly aligns with the city's mission and vision laid out in the recompetete plan.

- Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. Cost (initial and ongoing)

The grant application is for \$292,000. All funding commitments are the responsibility of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania and there is no financial impact or risk to the City.

- b. Benefits (initial and ongoing)

The project supports the City's priorities by increasing resources available to Allentown residents, specifically low-to-moderate income individuals and families.

- Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. If transferring funds, please make sure to give specific account names and numbers. If appropriating funds from a grant, please list the agency awarding the grant.

The funding comes from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

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

The resolution is a requirement of the formal application. The grant application submission due date is November 30, 2025.

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

The resolution will allow the City to make a formal application for these funds to support this capital project.