

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 104 - 2024

NOVEMBER 6, 2024

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2024 Grant Fund budget to accept Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant.

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

SECTION ONE: That page 469 of the Grant Fund budget be amended by adding the position of Senior Planner (13N) with a total annual salary of Seventy-Five Thousand, Three Hundred Fouty-Four Dollars (\$75,344); and adding the position of Planner (10N) with a total annual salary in the amount of Sixty-Six Thousand, Sixty-Three Dollars (\$66,063); and adding the position of Violence Prevention Coordinator (11N) with a total annual salary budgeted in the amount of Sixty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$68,987).

SECTION TWO: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) to the below revenue account.

Grant Fund, Federal Funds	
005-6212	\$ 20,000,000.00

SECTION THREE: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) to the following accounts:

Grant Fund, Community Development Department		
Planning & Development Bureau, Recompete Grant Program		
005-09-5902-0082-02	Permanent Wages	\$ 950,376.53
005-09-5902-0082-08	Longevity	\$ 447.56
005-09-5902-0082-12	FICA	\$ 72,738.04
005-09-5902-0082-14	Pension	\$ 125,476.12
005-09-5902-0082-15	Insurance Opt Out	\$ 9,360.00
005-09-5902-0082-16	Insurance	\$ 348,612.08
005-09-5902-0082-22	Telephone	\$ 2,997.00
005-09-5902-0082-34	Training & Prof Development	\$ 50,500.00
005-09-5902-0082-46	Other Contract Services	\$ 17,834,077.00
005-09-5902-0082-68	Operating Mat. & Supplies	\$ 2,000.00
005-09-5902-0082-72	Equipment	\$ 4,500.00
005-09-5908-0082-02	Permanent Wages	\$ 366,261.35
005-09-5908-0082-12	FICA	\$ 28,018.99
005-09-5908-0082-14	Pension	\$ 55,767.16
005-09-5908-0082-16	Insurance	\$ 148,868.17
	TOTAL	\$ 20,000,000.00

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SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

SECTION FIVE: That pursuant to SECTION 218 of the Home Rule and upon affirmative vote of six of its seven council members this ordinance the fourteen-day period between introduction and passage of this ordinance is waived.

Amendment adding Section Five was passed by City Council, 7-0.

Legislative Template

Please upload this form to the Legislative Team when ready to submit.

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

Department of Community and Economic Development. This Bill is the result of the successful application and award of the Recompete grant.

- **Summary and facts of the bill.**

The Recompete grant address the prime age employment gap in the City of Allentown by creating urban walk-to-work sites, eliminating barriers to childcare and transportation, and offering job skills training to individuals between the ages of 25 and 54 who reside in the Recompete project area. This federal award provides for the creation of three positions: a Violence Prevention Coordinator, a Senior Planner, and a Planner whose costs will be offset covered by the grant revenue. The bill also allocates funds to be used for the delivery of program requirements.

- **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?**

This Bill distributes funds as specified within the Recompete grant application to reduce the prime age employment gap. These are federal funds used for a pilot program to address the barriers to employment and upscale training primarily in the areas of the trades, manufacturing and healthcare.

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

The benefits are that citizens benefit and there are no drawbacks to this work. The benefits are that individuals will be given opportunity to train for and obtain good paying jobs which can lift families earned income. There are no drawbacks as this is a pilot program funded for 5 years and will receive support from the federal government and a wide variety of community partners.

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

Everything about the Recompete grant addresses a priority area for the city. Unemployment, lack of good paying jobs, lack of trained staff for industry and the trades, lack of transportation and sub-standard childcare are all priority issues for the city. This opportunity addresses many of the factors that keep individuals from increasing stability and economic growth.

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

This is a federally funded project, and all costs are covered by this grant. The total grant award is Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) to be allocated to the Grant Fund beginning in 2024. The revenue is drawn down in advance at the frequency & amount requested by the city. This is a 5-year budget allocation; unrealized budgeted revenue & expenses will roll to the following budget year. All grant revenue will be appropriated to 005-6212 Grant Fund, Federal Grants. The expenses will be appropriated to the Grant Fund, Community Development Department, Planning & Development (5902) and Health (5908) Bureaus, Recompete Grant Phase 2 programs (0082). Preliminary expenses are as follows.

005-09-5902-0082-02 16, 005-09-5908-0082-02 16 Salary & Benefits	\$ 2,105,926
005-09-5902-0082-22 Telephone	\$ 2,997
005-09-5902-0082-34 Training & Professional Development	\$ 50,500
005-09-5902-0082-46 Other Contract Services	\$ 17,834,077
005-09-5902-0082-68 Operating Materials & Supplies	\$ 2,000
005-09-5902-0082-72 Equipment	\$ 4,500

b. Benefits (initial and ongoing)

Residents will receive much needed services, the general fund will see some relief and jobs will be created within a reasonable distance to those who need them.

- **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.**

This funding comes from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). For the city it funds costs associated with three positions and distributes funds to the Allentown Economic Development Corporation for programmatic use.

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

Yes, ideally the recruitment of qualified personnel needs to start immediately.

- **Why should Council unanimously support this bill?**

Council should support this Bill because the city was chosen as one of only six areas in the nation to receive this opportunity. The benefits of creating higher quality childcare and transportation that is responsive to workforce needs will better the entire city. Converting vacant, blighted or under- utilized space to urban worksites brings jobs and opportunity. This award brings many community partners together and offers resources to address long standing employment issues for a targeted population who can pull entire families out of poverty.