

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 37 - 2024

APRIL 17, 2024

AN ORDINANCE

An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of certain monies received by the City of Allentown under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1976, as amended; The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009; and Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; for the purpose of undertaking programs of housing and community development within the city.

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

SECTION ONE: That the Mayor is authorized to expend Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000.00) dollars in DCED Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) funds for the Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board, as appropriate by Federal Law and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.

SECTION TWO: That the Mayor is directed to establish and maintain any and all accounts and records as are necessary and to make such transfers as may be required to expend and account for said DCED ESG Funds in accordance with the approved Consolidated Plan, appropriate Federal law, and HUD regulations.

SECTION THREE: That this act of the Council of the City of Allentown is undertaken pursuant to Act 292 of 1976 in accordance with the opinion of the Pennsylvania Attorney General (Opinion 72-76) which holds that CDBG, HOME, and ESG Funds are General Municipal Funds for the purpose of Act 292 of 1976.

SECTION FOUR: That, in accordance with the contract, the Council of the City of Allentown authorizes the appropriation of Three Hundred Thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) in the following manner:

DCED - EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS

700-01-9923-0400	Administration.....	\$ 5,000.00
700-01-9923-0401	New Bethany Ministries – Rapid Rehousing.....	\$ 97,753.00
700-01-9923-0402	Valley Youth House – Street Outreach.....	\$ 32,917.33
700-01-9923-0403	Lehigh Conference of Churches – Street Outreach.....	\$ 36,159.34
700-01-9923-0404	Sixth Street Shelter- Rapid Rehousing.....	\$ 39,401.10
700-01-9923-0405	Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley.....	\$ 20,192.31
700-01-9923-0406	Third Street Alliance.....	\$ 68,576.92
TOTAL		\$300,000.00

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

SECTION SIX: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

Legislative Template

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

Under the provisions of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-22) (42 U.S.C.S. §11371 et. seq.) (the "Act"), which amended and reauthorized the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (P.L. 100-77); and in accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Parts 91 and 576; the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to make grants to states and units of local governments.

- Summary and facts of the bill.

The City's budgeting system. It aims to delineate all activities and programs slated for funding during the 2023-2025 Consolidated Grants Program year.

- 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 ordinance provides the City with the second step needed to allow the City to receive and then access \$300,000.00 in grant funds for the 2023-2025 program year. All activities funded comply with the ESG regulations as promulgated by HUD and allow the City to further its homeless services.

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

This ordinance grants the City the authority to allocate \$300,000.00 in federal funds towards Homeless Prevention, Rapid Rehousing, Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter. It is important to note that this legislation poses no negative financial repercussions for the City or its General Fund as it is a reimbursable grant.

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

This bill represents the second stage in the procedural framework necessary to finalize the strategies outlined in the City of Allentown's Consolidated Plan for the period spanning January 26, 2024, to July 26, 2025.

- Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:

- a. Cost (initial and ongoing)

This ordinance authorizes the City to utilize \$300,000.00 in DCED funds to undertake various activities, encompassing Street Outreach, Homelessness initiatives, Rapid Rehousing efforts, Emergency Shelters, and administrative support for city staff.

b. Benefits (initial and ongoing)

This grant supports the Regional Homeless Advisory Board to further serve unsheltered individuals and families. This legislation has no adverse financial impact on the City and the General Fund.

- 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 sources for this ordinance is the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funds. Revenue String: 700-0431 700-01-9923-0400 Administration \$5,000.00 700-01-9923-0401 New Bethany Ministries \$97,753.00 700-01-9923-0402 Valley Youth House \$32,917.58 700-01-9923-0403 Lehigh Conference of Churches \$36,159.34 700-01-9923-0404 Sixth Street Shelter \$ 39,401.10 700-01-9923-0405 Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley \$20,192.31 700-01-9923-0406 Third Street Alliance \$ 68,576.92

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

This bill holds a high-priority status.

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

Full endorsement of this bill is imperative for the advancement and prosperity of Allentown. The allocated funds are crucial for addressing urgent issues related to homelessness, spanning critical areas such as Homeless Street Outreach, Rapid Rehousing, Emergency Shelters, and essential administrative support for our dedicated City staff engaged in this vital undertaking.