

**MINUTES OF FINAL PUBLIC HEARING
FY 2021 “On Behalf Of” GIRARD TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
May 24, 2022**

Call to Order

Chair Lindy Platz called for the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Present were: Supervisors Lindy Platz, Clay Brocius and Pete Dion, Erie Co Planning CDBG Program Admin Joe Berdis, Zoning Administrator Tiffany Kramer and Roadmaster Jeff Ferrick.

Notice of this meeting was advertised in the Erie Times News on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. No comments were received.

➤ **Purpose of Hearing**

- Provide a brief overview of the Township’s CDBG program.
- Review the Three Year CDBG Plan.
- Identify community needs which can possibly be addressed with FY 2022 funding.

➤ **Background Information**

- The Township is “entitled” to apply for and receive an annual allocation of CDBG funds from DCED pursuant to PA Act 179 of 1984.
- Since 1985 the Township has received a little over \$3.9 million in CDBG funding.
- CDBG funds are to be used to undertake activities that address housing and community development needs as identified in a municipality’s Three Year CDBG Plan and which principally benefits low-to-moderate income persons.
- The FY 2022 allocation is unknown at this time but we anticipate it will be about as much as last year’s grant of \$105,231. It is also anticipated that the application requesting the allocation will need to be submitted to DCED in late October.
- A portion of the allocation will be set aside for administration to be provided by County Planning.

➤ **Eligible Activities & Ineligible Activities**

- CDBG funds can be used to undertake a wide array of activities.
- Some activities cannot be funded with CDBG funds.
- Activities/projects the Township has funded the last 3 fiscal years.

➤ **National Objectives**

- Each “Eligible” activity must meet one (1) of three (3) “National Objectives”.
- The primary objective is to **Principally Benefit Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) persons.**
- A “LMI person” is an individual whose income is no more than 80% of median income “Principally benefitting” means that at least 51% of the persons to benefit from a project must be LMI.

➤ **Determining Concentrations of LMI Persons**

- As the primary objective is to “principally” benefit low-to-moderate income persons, it is useful to identify concentrations of LMI persons to help decide where best to utilize CDBG funding.
- Concentrations of LMI persons can be determined using HUD Census Information (see Census Map) or Income Surveys.

- The Township is located within Census Tract 0102.02 and divided into four (4) block groups.

2011 - 2015 ACS Low /Moderate Income Summary Data Girard Township, Pennsylvania Census Tract 102.02			
	Low/Mod Universe*	Low/Mod Persons	Low/Mod Percent (%)
Block Group 1	See Note >	Note: Cannot determine as the HUD census data includes all of Platea Borough in the BG.	< See Note
Block Group 2	1,225	415	33.88%
Block Group 3	1,110	300	27.03%
Block Group 4	2,155	1,190	55.22%
Total	5,040	1,970	39.09%

- According to the 2011 - 2015 ACS Low/Moderate Income Summary Data, Girard has a “low/mod universe-population” of **5,040 persons**. Of this total, 1,970 persons or 39.09% are considered low-to-moderate income. *As this percentage is less than 51%, a project benefiting the entire Township would not qualify for CDBG funding.*
 - Block Groups 2 and 3 do not meet this criterion and the LMI population in Block Group 1 cannot be ascertained as it includes the adjacent municipality of Platea Borough.
 - Block Group 4 with an LMI population of 55.22% exceeds the “51%” low/moderate income standard and therefore if a project’s benefit area is conterminous with this block group, the project would qualify for CDBG funding.
 - If HUD ACS census information cannot be used to qualify a project, then an income survey can be undertaken of the potential project beneficiaries to determine whether 51% or more of the residents are LMI (**see EXHIBIT 5 for Income Survey**)
 - **EXAMPLES OF PAST PROJECTS QUALIFYING USING CENSUS INFORMATION OR SUREVEYS**
 - ❖ FY’s 2017 and 2018 Fairplain Road Reconstruction Project - - ACS Survey Data
 - ❖ FY’s 2016 & 2015 Imperial Point MHP Cul-De-Sac Rehabilitation Project -- Income Surveys
 - ❖ FY’s 2013, 2014 & 2015 Honeybrook Circle Road Rehabilitation Project - Income Surveys
 - Some projects can be qualified without having to undertake a survey or use census information. These projects benefit a clientele that are presumed by HUD to be principally persons of low-to-moderate-income. This “presumption” covers abused children, battered spouses, elderly persons, severely disabled adults, homeless persons, illiterate adults, persons living with AIDS and migrant farm workers.
 - Another way to directly “benefit” LMI persons is providing assistance to make home repairs through a housing rehabilitation program. (See FY’s 2019, 2020 and 2021 CDBG projects)
- **Review/Update Three Year Plan and Solicit Input On Possible Projects**
- Update Three Year Plan
 - Discussed repair of the Miller Road tube replacement. Will contact Engineer Ashley Porter.

➤ **Adjournment**

The public hearing was adjourned at approximately 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindy Platz, Secretary